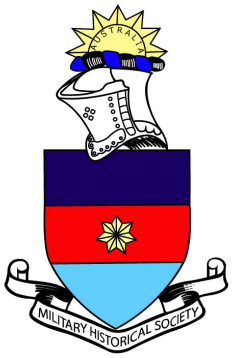
Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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Journal and Proceedings of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

SABRETACHE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1988 VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 3

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SABRETACHE

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

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1988
VOLUME XXIX-NUMBER 3

Contributions in the form of articles, book reviews, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note. The annual subscription to *Sabretache* is $26.

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

SABRETACHE

Apologies to all *Sabretache* readers for the late distribution of the April-June issue. Production delays were compounded when myself and the Federal Secretary took turns at sampling various strains of the flu. I hope that the wait was justified by the content and length of the issue.

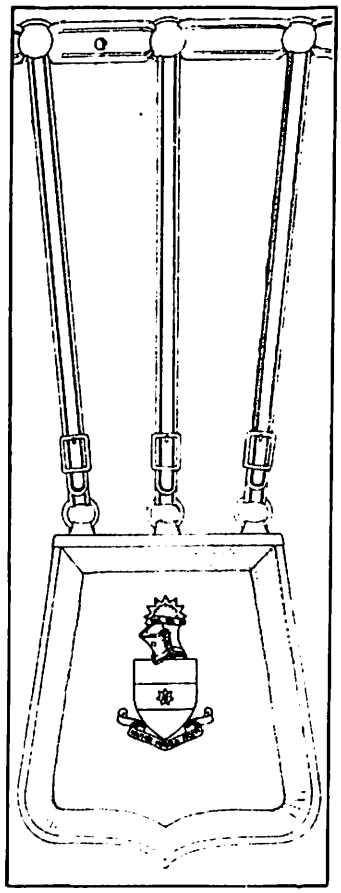
As promised, this issue contains a detailed photo-report on the MHSA Symposium held in Canberra over the Queen's Birthday weekend. The quality of the papers presented can be judged by the representative texts reprinted here. The ACT branch is to be congratulated on the organisation of this event, which was greatly enjoyed by all attending.

The Federal President's report to the Society for the year 1987–88 and the financial report for the year ending June 1988 are incorporated in this issue. I would also draw the reader's attention to the short report prepared by Peter Stanley, convenor of the British Army in Australia Research Group. The success of this pioneering effort should encourage the formation by MHSA members of other study groups on a variety of topics. The research group has not only contributed to the furthering of study in its own particular area, it has also generated favourable publicity for the society's aims and activities in general. More sectional groups of this type will undoubtedly help the MHSA in the same way, raising our profile amongst groups with similar interests and increasing our active membership.

Medal Collector Dies Alfred 'Paddy' Boyle was born at Springsure in Queensland on 10 August 1914 and on enlistment was a machine man in the mining industry from Westwood in Queensland.

'Paddy' Boyle joined the RAAF in 1940 and served in 51, 35, 460, 467 and 511 Squadrons in the UK. He completed 2 tours of operations and finished the war with a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar.

In the past-war years be continued in the RAAF and was awarded the Air Force Cross after a mercy flight in appalling conditions to bring a sick child to Perth for treatment.



After leaving the RAAF in the late 1950s 'Paddy' Boyle worked as a supervisor at Riverbank, a reform school for boys in WA, until retiring in the late 1970s.

'Paddy' died in Perth, Western Australia in late May 1988, aged 74 years.

(MHSA Western Australia)

Monday Openings As a result of the reorganisation described in the last issue of *Sabretache*, the Research Centre at the Australian War Memorial is now open on Mondays. Opening hours, Monday or Friday, are 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Army to patch up its uniforms The Army has decided to patch up its uniforms — and needs help from old Diggers to do it.

But is not a case of calling up the Old Guard to teach the youngsters how to sew.

The Army has reintroduced colour patches, traditionally worn by Australian units from 1915 until 1950 as distinguishing insignia.

Present day units which can trace their lineage to World War I or World War II are now entitled to apply for permission for soldiers to wear their historic colour patches on the puggarees (hat bands) of their slouch hats.

More than 20 units throughout the country are now displaying their colourful link with history.

There are, however, a couple of gaps in Army's records. Of the more than 800 colour patches approved during the 1915–1950 period, the Army has records of all but the authorities and colour plates (small poster-sized colour illustrations) details of AIF divisional colour patches issued about the period April-May and September-October, 1940.

Colonel David Chinn, of the Reserve Studies Group (Army Reserve), assisted by Army staff, has been carrying out research for the past three months to try to fill these gaps.

"We have almost exhausted every avenue," Colonel Chinn said. "We have checked Australian War Memorial records; Australian Archives resources; Army Office records; and all Orders and Instructions on the subject that we can find.

"There is simply no trace, but we know they are out there somewhere," he added.

"We believe what we are seeking may be Director of Ordnance Services Instructions issued in 1940 detailing colour patches for 6th, 7th, 8th and possibly 9th Divisions," Colonel Chinn said.

"Soldiers are well known for their bowerbird traits and it's quite possible that an old Digger has among his memorabilia the colour patch information we are seeking."

If any reader can assist, contact officer is Mr Lindsay Mackey, Materiel Branch, Army Office, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT 2600. Telephone (062) 65 5690.

Further information: Major Pat Green (062) 65 5754 (bh); (062) 31 3880 (ah).

The following list of units represents a selection only of those authorised to wear colour patches.

Queensland: 1st Division, Enogerra; 6th Brigade, Enogerra; 7th Brigade, Kelvin Grove; 49th Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment, Wacol; 25th

Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment, Toowoomba; HQ 11th Brigade, Townsville; 4th Field Regiment, RAA, Townsville.

New South Wales: 1st Transport Squadron, Holsworth. Army Public Relations Officer, Sydney: Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Palk, (02) 339 3176.

Victoria: HQ 3rd Division, Melbourne; HQ 4th Brigade, Kensington; 5/6th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, Hawthorn. Army Public Relations Officer, Melbourne: Lieutenant-Colonel Kevan Wolfe (03) 697 6226.

South Australia: 10/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment, Adelaide. Army Public Relations Officer, Adelaide: Major Klaus Boehme (08) 293 9427

Western Australia: HQ 5th Military District, Perth; 7th Field Battery, RAA, Karrakatta; 11/28th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment, Karrakatta; 7th Field Ambulance, Fremantle. Army Public Relations Officer: Captain Steve Delaney (09) 328 0650.

Cultural Heritage Export Controls New controls apply to the export of significant cultural heritage objects, including military heritage.

On 1 August 1988 the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Regulations (Amendment) same into effect. The Regulations set out the National Cultural Heritage Control List which contains 13 categories of objects divided into 2 classes.

Class A Aboriginal objects cannot be exported. Significant Class B objects from the following categories require an export permite (or a certificate of exemption for temporary import and re-export): archaeology; Aboriginal heritage; non-Australian archaeology and ethnography; natural science; applied science or technology; military history; decorate arts; fine arts; books, records, documents, graphic material and recordings; numimatics; philately; and social history.

The military category protects objects of heraldry, historical material and weaponry made not later than 1920 which are associated with a notable Australian or an event of significance in Australian military history or which are outstanding examples of Australian technological development, invention or industry capability in the military field.

The category includes medals and decorations awarded to Australian residents, battlefield relics, flags and colours, documents, photographs and diaries, uniforms and personal equipment, memorials and material relating to prisoners of war. The definition of 'weaponry' includes aircraft, barrage balloons, rockets, ships, military vehicles and guns and related components and equipment.

Collectors should note, however, that some military material may also be covered by another category in the Regulations, if its significance to Australia's cultural heritage extends beyond its purely military significance. Different criteria apply in each category. For example, air transport vehicles are included in the applied science or technology category if they were built in Australia before 1950 or in use in Australia before 1945. In the fine arts category a minimum market value applies to works ore than 30 years old.

Applications for export permits will be considered by the National Cultural Heritage Committee and the Minister for the Arts and Territories.

Copies of the Regulations, and the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*, may be obtained from Commonwealth Government bookshops in each capital city. Enquiries should be directed to the Cultural Heritage and Information Section of the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601. Tel. (062) 74 1111.

Somebody, please help . . . The Army is looking for assistance in locating records for colour patches applicable to current-day units.

Military History Symposium — Canberra 11-13 June 1988

The Canberra cold did not chill the enthusiasm of MHSA members attending the Military History Symposium, held on the Queen's Birthday Weekend. Researchers and collectors combined to produce an entertaining combination of presentations and displays.

While the ACT branch was well-represented, the success of the symposium was ensured by the active combination of MHSA members from across Australia.

The display area bore witness to the diverse interests of society members. Collections ranged from uniforms to firearms, through to medals and other examples of militaria.

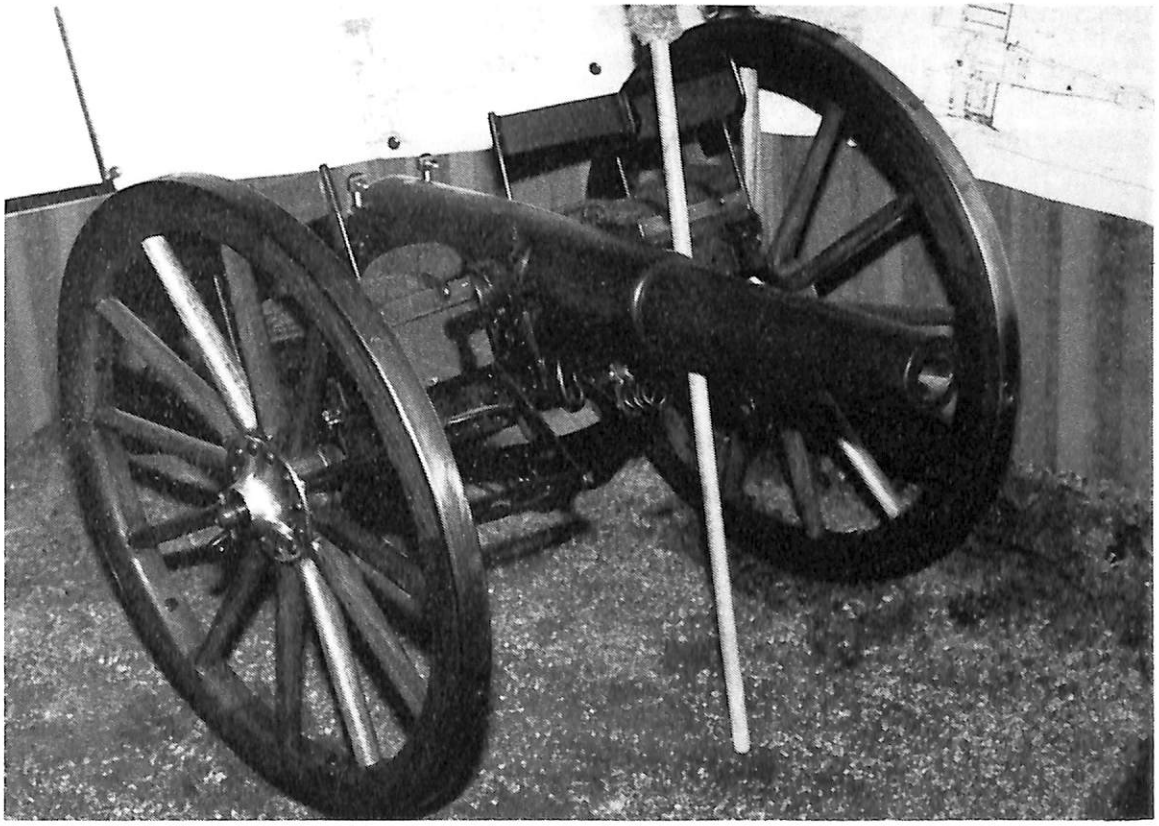
The symposium brought together the two major 'interest groups' in the MHSA, collectors and researchers.

The opportunity, for each group, to view or hear the other's area of interest, was a highlight of the event and the underlying theme of the weekend. The historical presentations, many of which are reprinted here, were of a uniformly high standard; information and entertaining, well attended by symposium participants. All taking part were appreciative of the Federal Council meeting on Sunday at which various issues were able to be raised and discussed in open session (a report of the meeting is printed elsewhere in this edition).

Before beginning this pictorial record of the symposium it is appropriate to congratulate those whose contributions made the symposium possible. Thanks are due to the convenor Anthony Staunton, without whose central organising role and sturdy advocacy the symposium would not have taken place; Federal Council for their financial and general support; the ACT Branch and particularly its President, Pat Hall, for providing bodies to do the work; the 3rd Battalion, New South Wales Regiment, for the venue and assistance with the transportation of display cases; the Australian War Memorial for providing the display cases and not least, the members who attended, especially those, such as Rhonda Grande, who travelled from Western Australia to speak and participate or Fred Allen, who enlivened the display area considerably by transporting his quarter-scale muzzle-loading cannon from South Australia!

June Bauer, speaker at the symposium, discussed her research into Australian army farms in the Northern Territory during the 1939–45 war. (Photo courtesy Tan Roberts)

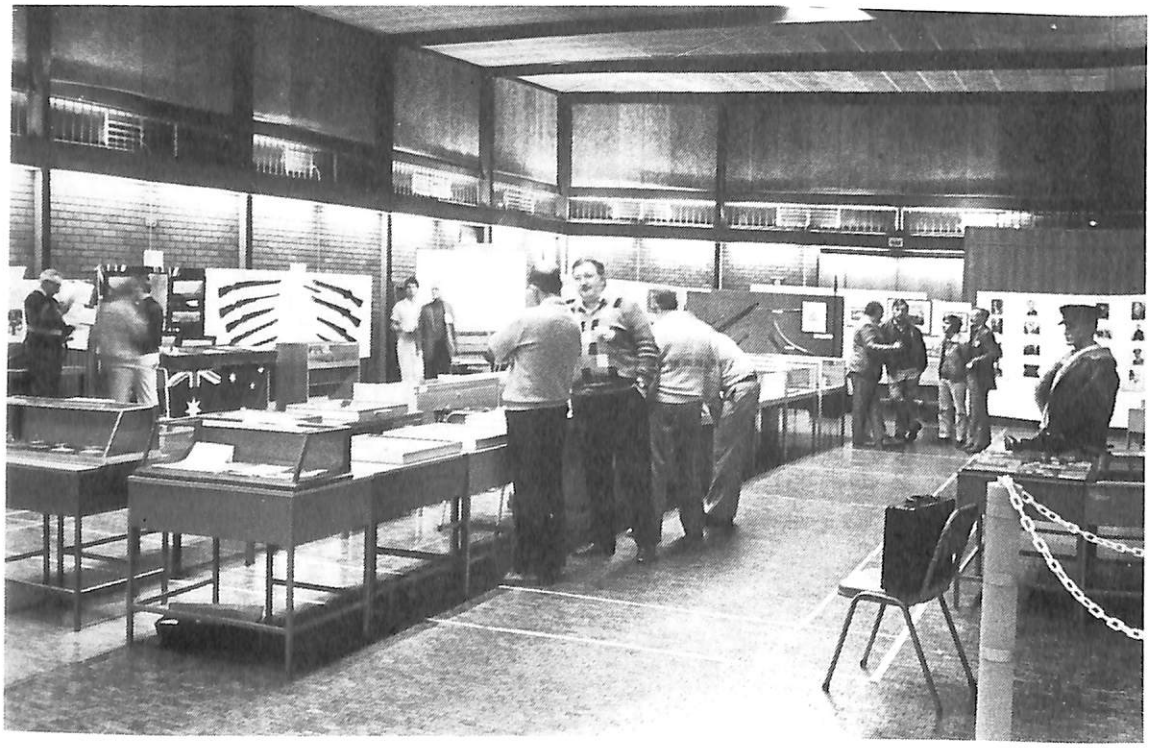
Rhonda Grande (MHSA Western Australia) presented a paper on the Western Australian Light Horse. (Photo courtesy Tan Roberts)



Quarter-scale muzzle-loading cannon built by Fred Allen, MHSA Western Australia.
(Photo courtesy David Simpson)

Part of Pat Hall's impressive collection of RAAF uniforms, badges and memorabilia, displayed at the 1988 Symposium. (Courtesy D. Simpson)

Patron of the MHSA, Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, with MHSA members Rhonda Grande (MHSA WA) and Don Wright (MHSA QLD). (Courtesy D. Simpson)



The main display area for the 1988 Symposium. Centre, facing the camera is the Symposium organiser Mr Anthony Staunton (MHSA ACT). (Courtesy D. Simpson)

Military Historical Society of Australia Symposium held in Canberra—11 June 1988

Opening Address by the Patron of the MHSA, Admi-ral Sir Anthony Synnot.

President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here tonight for the formal opening of the Symposium being organised by the ACT Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia. As it is not unusual on these occasions we have already had some talks, some quite excellent talks I may say. The Symposium itself runs until Monday morning. Monday of course is a holiday and that will allow people to get home on Monday afternoon, those who don't live too far away.

Perhaps we should take a few minutes to look at the Military Historical Society. To those who have long been members perhaps I can refresh their memories.

The Society was formed in Melbourne in 1957. It was formed originally as a Military Research and Collectors Society. In 1960 the NSW Branch was formed, followed by the ACT Branch in 1963, South Australia in 1967 and Western Australia in 1968. In 1968 the NSW Branch broke away and formed its own Society and unfortunately it has not yet come back to the fold. Many members from NSW of course are members of the Society. A branch was formed in Geelong in 1969, in Brisbane in 1971 and at Albury in 1977 so we will allow Albury at the moment to carry the NSW flag. The Federal Council moved from Melbourne to Australia's capital in 1972 and here it remains.

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.

The aims are detailed but broad. They particularly, but not exclusively, relate to the Armed Forces of Australia. I suppose it would be reasonable to consider World Wars I and II as of central importance. Much research has been done by members, nevertheless, concerning military forces operating in and sent from Australia before the Commonwealth was formed in 1901.

This year, 1988, is Australia's bicentennial year of European settlement. It is right and fitting for a Society such as this to hold a Symposium in the nation's capital to mark 200 years of military history. What better way to involve everyone interested and available than to hold a wide-reaching gathering of its members. We have, for instance, each mainland State represented including one person from Western Australia and one person, who I think must be a Victorian member, from Tasmania. I should add that the Federal Council will be issuing a special publication to mark the Bicentenary.

Since 1958 the Society has published its Journal, *Sabretache*, and this journal has given its readers much of interest and joy. We can but be grateful to the contributors and to the Editors over the years for their great efforts. Perhaps later someone could tell me who suggested the name for the journal.

The Society has also run Workshops on the last day of some of the Australian War Memorial's history conferences. These Workshops have proved very worthwhile and useful for up-and-coming collectors and researchers. I hope the Society will continue to run them from time to time.

The members of this Society have an important and interesting task ahead of them. The pride we all show in their work will encourage them in their endeavours. It is great to see such a wide-ranging and interesting list of talks at this Symposium and to see so many people here with us tonight.

After this opening there will be a chance for you all to talk to one another in a congenial atmosphere. I can see that that has already been happening! Much of the value of symposia such as this are the contacts one makes or renews, and the opportunity one gets to discuss mutual problems. Make the best of it.

President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hereby declare this Symposium open. Thank you.

Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot opens the Symposium.

Admiral Synnot is greeted by Brigadier Tan Roberts, president of MHSA Federal Council, and Squadron Leader Pat Hall, president of MHSA ACT.

(Both photos courtesy David Simpson)

Syd Tregellis-Smith

Writing the history of the 2/5th Battalion

A paper presented at the 1988 MHSA Symposium, Canberra, 11-13 June.

While my talk today has been listed as the history of the 2/5th Battalion and it is true that I wrote the history, I should make it clear that I am not a writer, nor a professional of any kind. The fact that I have written a unit history is more by accident than design and stems from the problem I have not being able to keep my mouth shut. I am an amateur collector of Australian military history in its written form with a belief that all units should write their history, if for no other reason than for me to have a copy on my shelves. I was always putting pressure on a very good friend of mine, who was a company commander in the 2/5th, to get a history written. Apparently this pressure was a little too much for my friend because, one day, I got a phone call from the association secretary who said, quite bluntly, 'You want a battalion history, you write it!' In a moment of aberration I said, 'OK'. So, three years later, here I am, speaking about a project that has finally been completed and suggesting to you that it is still not too late to write up the stories of those units which have not yet put pen to paper.

Soon after that phone call I was beset by doubts. What actually is a unit history? What did the 2/5th do? Where do I go for my information? Who was my audience? Out of talking to many friends came three basic sources, the ex-members of the battalion, Central Army Records for the list of personnel and their movements and the War Memorial for the war diaries and reports. Discussion with a very co-operative group from the unit association got the wheels in motion to extract stories, reminiscences and personal outlooks from ex-members. In the course of doing this, I found that a history had been started twice since the war. Captain Lin Cameron, one of only fifteen Australian officers to win the MC and Bar during world war two, had started to map out a history in 1948 until the job of making a living in post-war years caused him to give up. Lin was a tower of strength to met in the early stages until his untimely death before I had started to write. The second member of the unit, Doug Robertson, who had started to carry on from Lin's early notes had died before I came on the scene. The papers left by these two provided a good start with primary source material while waiting for the response from other members.

I decided that the first task was to compile a nominal roll to get the picture of all the men who went through the unit, to follow the casualties, the promotions and transfers in and out. Close to three thousand names and six months later, I began to have a feeling for the men who made up the unit. The names became familiar and the battalion began to take on a human face. I had learned that the 2/5th was one of the four original infantry battalions raised in Victoria in 1939 to form the 17th Brigade, part of the first AIF division formed in the second world war —the 6th. I had learned that it took part in Australia's first action at Bardia in January, 1941 and it had taken part in the debacle that was Greece and Crete. Out of that action it had contributed 112 prisoners-of-war to the Germans, most of whom spent the rest of the war in POW camps in Germany, Austria and Poland. Following its return to the Middle-East as a more or less complete unit it was sent to Syria and fought the campaign there in June and July 1941. The only two battalions of the sixth division to fight in this campaign were the 2/3rd and 2/5th.

These three campaigns ended its sojourn in the Middle-East and early in 1942 the division was recalled to Australia but, on the way, the battalion was diverted to help garrison Ceylon where it spent about four months. Fortunately the Japanese did not attack Ceylon so its stay was relatively peaceful. Soon after the return to Australia the battalion was sent to Milne bay and in January 1943 it went to Wau where it took part in the debilitating seven-month campaign from Wau to Salamaua. After its return to Australia and twelve months on the Atherton Tableland it again went to New Guinea as part of the sixth division's operations from Aitape to Wewak, fighting in the inland sector from Tong to Kaboibus. The battalion suffered 600 battle casualties in its six years of war and this would be an average figure for a front-line unit, but the interesting thing is that 83% of these casualties occured in two campaigns and two single days in another two. On the first day of Bardia — January 3rd, 1941 — the unit had 58 members killed or wounded. Black Saturday, April 19th 1941 saw 39 casualties all from air attacks. The jungle campaigns were very costly, particularly the seven months in Wau-Salamaua, where 259 casualties were inflicted on the

battalion. It has been acknowledged that the final campaigns in New Guinea and Bougainville were a waste of young Australians. It should therefore be recorded that the 2/5th Battalion contributed 152 men, either killed or wounded in that unnecessary war.

From this record came the title for its history, *All the King's Enemies*. Only two Australian infantry battalions, the 2/3rd and 2/5th had fought against each of the Italians, the Germans, the Vichy French and the Japanese. No more service could be asked of any formation fighting its country's war.

By this time I was ready for the war diaries and these I found to be most interesting. Having now formed something of an emotional attachment to this unit it was difficult to understand why these diaries could be written without any feeling for history. Generally they were a sparse monosyllabic recording of facts. They did not deal much with people and simply shovelled bodies of men around the country as with chess pieces on a chessboard. Occasionally there was an illuminating comment which gave some insight into how the men were feeling, but these were few and far between. I believe that writing a unit history from the war diaries alone would be a soul-destroying experience. However, these diaries did at least position the unit at a given point at a given time and helped to pinpoint the accuracy of the stories that were starting to come in from other sources.

The approach to members was starting to bear fruit as they had realised that something was being done. Initially there were many reservations from the men when the history was mooted, mainly on the basis that they had heard all this before, but gradually this reservation was broken down and the personal stories were coming through. The NSW branch was very helpful as their membership largely comprised the influx of reinforcements that came in for the last two campaigns. By the time the jungle campaigns were to start the parochial attitude of the Victorians had been broken down when reinforcements in significant numbers came from Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales. New South Wales alone provided over 500 reinforcements in 1942 and 1944. In the stories coming through I found very little sign of conflict between the old diggers and the new, which was a unity brought about by a tolerance men gained as a sign of the developing sense of a long association with each other under difficult circumstances. It was interesting to note that the group of reinforcements which joined on October 31, 1940, before the battalion went into its first action at Bardia, were greeted with the cry, 'what took you so long to get here'. These men, the third reinforcements, were also able to fight in all five campaigns, just the same as the originals. This did not seem to be the same reaction when large numbers of new men joined in 1942 and again in 1944 for the last campaign.

I had asked for the stories to be written down rather than undertaking a series of interviews because I felt that the problems with oral history were that, either the narrator tended to clam up in front of the microphone, or the stories became too embellished. This may have cut down the number of stories, but I felt that the incidents would be more accurate if the party was thinking and writing.

Finally, I had a mass of material spread throughout the house, all sorted up into campaigns and the periods in between. My very tolerant and encouraging wife let me keep the house in a state of chaos for twelve months, which preserved the continuity of what I was doing. The major problem was then to decide on my target audience. Was I to write the story for the members of the unit, or for their families? From my own experience, I felt that the children of the old diggers, now with families of their own, were not really interested in what father did in the war, but my association with the battalion had shown me that the grand children were very interested in what grandpa did in the war, therefore my target audience would be grand children everywhere, along with those interested in family history. But, how does one write about a war in a way which will make the reader want to turn the page? There would be nothing more boring than long descriptions of life in standing camps, of the training, the route marches, the weapon drill, the local leave. I decided to keep these chapters to a minimum, cover the essentials and use the odd humourous incident to illustrate the sort of life they led.

A more daunting task was in the recording of the battle chapters which involved small bodies of men doing different things at the same time. I felt that these chapters would be as confusing as the events themselves. In 1986 I attended the Military History Conference in Melbourne because I saw that one of the workshops dealt with the subject 'How to write about the battalion in battle'. Here, I thought, was the answer to my problem, and I did come away from that session much comforted — it was impossible to write about a battalion in battle — so just write as it comes to you. By this time I had decided to let the men tell the story as far as possible, that if I had the stories relative to the theme, then quote them, as long as I could be reasonably sure that the descriptions could be supported by other evidence such as war diaries, parallel accounts and casualty lists for that day. My method was to write up the event, including the quotation, and send that bit of writing to the informant for comment. This proved to be a valuable way to verify the event in question and I recall one instance when I wrote up the battle for Perembil in the Aitape-Wewak campaign and had assumed that all the casualties for that period were members of C company, which carried out the attack. After sending out that account, one of those wounded told me that he was not with C company, but a signaller attached to battalion headquarters who was sent out to repair a broken tele-

phone line and was ambushed. When I reviewed all the evidence I had on that attack I concluded that a separate ambush had been set up by the same Japanese force that was trying to re-take Perembil village and that they had cut the line not too far from the fire-fight. It was re-arranging small incidents like this that helped to retain the accuracy of events.

One of the nice things to be able to do in a unit history would be to give everybody a mention, but if the history is the progressive story of a body of men through six years of war, this is just impossible. The history would finish up a a list of names and no narrative, so the best that can be done is to mention the casualties and the recipients of awards within the story and try to ensure that the nominal roll is complete so that everyone gets a mention at least once in the book. Care must also be taken in the part played by the prisoners-of-war in the general history of a battalion. The Sixth Division units that went to Greece had significant numbers taken prisoner by the Germans and these men were part of the unit for only a short time. Some of the histories of these units tend to make the prisoners' story an appendix to the book, possibly so the narrative will not be interrupted, but I found that those who were prisoners felt that they were part of their unit right through their years of incarceration and therefore deserved their place in the body of the story. For this reason I followed the chapter on Greece and Crete with the POW chapter before moving back to the next campaign in Syria.

The problem then arises in how to deal with contentious issues. One issue that may be worth exploring, for instance, was why the 2/5th Battalion had seven commanding officers in the six years. No obvious reason for this appeared in the material I read. However, I made the decision early in the writing that a unit history was not the forum to use for going into the politics of war. Certainly the contentious points must be mentioned but trying to deal with them in ay detail would only lead to speculation and would take away from the main purpose of the story which was to try and give some life to the experiences of nearly three thousand men.

Apart from the primary source such as the war diaries and personal stories I found the histories of the sister units in the division of inestimable value in confirming the situations in which the 2/5th was placed and it became clear that a unit history can make a valuable contribution to military history in its broader sense. It is a pity in some ways that the official history of a conflict cannot wait until most of the unit histories are available. The historian's task would be much easier if reference could be made to these sources. For example, the 2/5th Battalion history completed that of all nine infantry battalions in the sixth division make an enormously valuable reference to anyone who wanted to write a history of the division.

The last question I have to address is the odd comment I used to receive when I started this project —'It's too late to do it now, should have been done years ago' —. The simple answer is that is never too late. However, to get the personal material it needs to be done soon as, not only are the memories fading but the participants are becoming fewer. We are not so many years away from only having documents left and no people.

One thing to keep in mind is that although these unit histories are classed as military history they are not a discussion on strategy or tactics but they relate the story of human beings and their reaction to a period of unnatural circumstances. They have an importance in telling the story of a broader society, they contribute to family history and our knowledge of what makes up our society is enhanced as much as our knowledge of the military scene.

Max Chamberlain

'The men who could shoot and ride'. Unravelling the tracks of the Australian contingents in the South African War, 1899–1902

A paper presented at the 1988 MHSA Symposium Canberra, 11–13 June.

My objects in researching the South African War have been:

(1) to fill gaps in our knowledge; (2) to simplify complexities; and (3) to attempt to correct misconceptions, so that other non-experts may better understand the essential facts, and become enthused to take up the task of unravelling the tracks of the fifty or so units sent from Australia to this War. For our large wars the histories are too voluminous to digest easily but for our small wars the fragments have been too few for easy understanding.

After the publication of the few books on the subject following the end of the war in 1902, little appeared in the four decades that embraced the two world wars, which completely eclipsed it. Only in recent years has it become the study of a few serious Australian researchers, regrettably too late for most to ascertain the facts while participants were still alive. Their actions in this war should be better known in Australia, but it is probably true that more Australians are familiar with American wars. Strangely, the South African War resembled, in a small way, the American Civil War. It was a war between an industrial nation and an agrarian people; both the Confederacy and the Boers had spectacular early success; but both depended on foreign recognition and assistance which was not forthcoming. With much the same fascination as the American Civil War, the South African War is, in addition, a fast-moving clash of horsemen against horsemen that is unique in our animals.

Unfortunately, there was no Official Historian appointed to record Australia's part in the war. Federation occurred during the war and early units were sent by individual Colonies, then by States, and later the Commonwealth, so that no one authority took responsibility for presenting their story until the publication of the *Official Records* ... in 1911, edited by Lt. Colonel P.L. Murray, who admitted that it was not a history and that it depended in part on John Stirling's *Colonials in South Africa*, which was based on official despatches. Other Australian references gave parts of the story, and although there were many references to Australians in British histories these works mostly concentrated on the regular war and skimmed the more mobile guerilla war in which most Australians served.

In this paper I will first survey the recent literature on this subject, then give an introduction to a method of reducing the complexities to a study of the four main waves of Australian contingents in ten time phases, and finally try and correct some misconceptions about the part played by the men of these units. This methodology involves the isolation of the key events, key maps, and key statistics.

As recently as 20 years ago most readily available sources for compiling an overview of the Australian participation were found in the books published before the first world war. In the last two decades there have been new studies using archival and other material. When I wrote *To Shoot and Ride* in 1967 I relied largely on published records and despatches. Ten years later I produced a study of one Colony in this war—Victoria—using press and archival sources, such as newspapers, *Hansards*, and muster rolls. Most recently I completed a history of one unit — the much maligned 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles—using documents located overseas, diaries, letters, and relatives' comments. Curiously, as I progressed to smaller areas of study and probed to deeper levels, more material seemed to be available, probably because a balanced account of many units is restricted by what is known about the least well documented.

As well as a spate of material on 'Breaker' Morant, two valuable general books appeared during this period: R.L. Wallace, *The Australians at the Boer War*, (1976) and L.M. Field, *The Forgotten War*, (1979). I began my overview in 1967 with the words, 'The South African War is our forgotten war...'; Wallace called has first chapter. 'A forgotten war'; and Field's book was titled *The Forgotten War*. Although we all recognised its neglect, the approaches to telling the story differed.

Field emphasised political views and public opinion in Australia as well military aspects, but gave praise to only the 1st and 2nd contingents in the main. As Professor K.S. Inglis says in the preface, 'If the war had ended in 1900, ... the deeds of those 3,000 might well have been remembered more vividly at home than they were when overlaid by the messier events of the next eighteen months.'[6] Wallace gives a more sympathetic and human account, but with few sources quoted unfortunately. Reviewers highlighted the differences between them. Brigadier Geoffrey Solomon

says, '...the enticement of bugles and banners is not for Mr Field', but observes that Wallace, on the other hand, prefaced his work with the inscription at the cemetery at Ladysmith, 'They could not know the splendour of their dying'.[7] Dr John Barrett says that Wallace gives 'A just and realistic treatment of both the Australians' failures and their more general effectiveness ...', but that Field shows a 'lack of full-rounded sympathy for the men'.[8] Field himself says '... [a] hurt [the men] had to endure was the fact that the cause for which they had fought had been discredited, and they were discredited in turn'.[9]

Recent articles reinforce this conflict and confusion. Research papers published by the Australian War Memorial and the Military Historical Society of Australia are generally tolerant of the soldiers without being eulogistic; academic dissertations, although often more concerned with attitudes, motives, and political and public reactions, seem often to be disparaging of the men; and some press articles and reviews seem critical of the involvement and the participants. Gavin Souter wrote an article, highlighting Wilmanstrust, called derisively 'Our Noble Selves in the Boer War',[10] and Patsy Adam-Smith titled a review. 'A most inglorious war'.[11] Bill Gammage wrote, 'Australians won a good reputation in some small affrays and at Elands River ... But the commonest actions were looting Boer farms, destroying crops and houses, sending women and children away to concentration camps'.[12] There is no disputing that the 'methods of barbarism' were employed, as they were in similar circumstances by Sherman earlier and others since, but having unravelled the tracks of one unit in the guerilla war, I know that it came to be more engaged in dangerous actions with the desperate commandos than with attrition. It is hoped that we are not forgetting again.

As historians we are wary of short histories, and concerned with the question Why?, but often this can be answered only after ascertaining the answers to the What? Where? and How? questions. In trying to find out just what the Australian units had done, and where, when and how they had done it, I first compiled balanced individual unit chronologies and merged these into one to bring together units that had fought side by side. When plotted on charts and maps it was obvious that the time of recruitment and the theatres of operation separated the units into four waves: the largely military men of 1899, the Bushmen of 1900, the Imperial Drafts of 1901, and the Commonwealth troops of 1902. When these were then related to maps of the main strategic moves in ten phases, roughly quarterly, the pattern of their contribution because easier to see and assess. The key events of these ten phases are considered first.

Phase 1 1899 After years of friction, war erupted between the British and the Boers in October 1899, the Boers laying siege to Kimberley and Mafeking in Cape Colony, and Ladysmith in Natal, and thrusting south towards Colesberg. In attempts to relieve the besieged garrisons and resist the central thrust, the British suffered severely in the disasters of 'Black Week' — mid-December 1899 — at Magersfontein, Stormberg, and Colenso.

Phase 2 March Quarter 1900 With Lord Roberts as C-in-C, Kimberley was relieved, General Cronje was trapped and defeated at Paardeberg, and the Orange Free State Capital, Bloemfontein, captured. In Natal after bitter battles, including Spion Kop, General Buller relieved Ladysmith.

Phase 3 June Quarter 1900 Mafeking was relieved, Roberts's advance took Johannesburg and Pretoria, the last pitched battle of the war was fought at Diamond Hill, and the Boer republics were scoured by British columns to trample out resistance.

Phase 4 September Quarter 1900 The British advanced to the Portuguese East African Border. In the Free State a large Boer force was trapped in the Wittebergen, although De Wet and his men escaped, being chased by the columns in the first DeWet Hunt, which failed to catch him.

Phase 5 December Quarter 1900 President Kruger of the Transvaal departed for Europe and Lord Roberts passed over command to Lord Kitchener, who, with the realisation that the war was not over but had entered a more mobile phase, sought more troops from the colonies. General Louis Botha, the Boer C-in-C had returned the Burghers to their familiar home districts. DeWet was intercepted trying to cross the Vaal and turned south, again eluding the British in the second DeWet Hunt.

Phase 6 March Quarter 1901 Kitchener changed his tactics, introducing internment camps for women and children, and instituting 'Drives' (many columns advancing in conjunction) to clear areas of the enemy. Many commanders misused their mounted men in laying waste the source of enemy replenishment instead of eliminating the enemy. De Wet attempted to invade Cape Colony, and this led to the third (or Great) De Wet Hunt, which he again evaded.

Phase 7 June Quarter 1901 Large-scale Drives cleared the north-east Transvaal, and captured the last Boer capital, Pietersburg. Kitchener now had built lines of block houses to seal convenient areas to trap the commandos, but many of the troops were newly arrived and suffered in surprise attacks.

Phase 8 September Quarter 1901 In the Boer Spring offensive Smuts invaded Cape Colony, and Botha attempted to invade Natal again, but was compelled by the British to abandon his plans. Kitchener now formed mobile columns to match the commandos, and night raids and dawn attacks were more successful than Drives.

Phase 9 December Quarter 1901 The Boers made sporadic attacks on the British at places like Bakenlaagte, Tafelkop, and Tweefontein, and Smuts was operating only 50 miles from Capetown.

Phase 10 1902 Botha attacked the British at Onverwach, De La Rey captured Lord Methuen at Tweebosch, and Smuts tied down large forces in Western Cape Colony. Kitchener now tried 'New Model Drives' (concentrations of men with no gaps) and the Boers were gradually whittled down with massive Drives in eastern and western Transvaal. They finally met to discuss the peace treaty, which was signed at Vereeniging in June.

In summary, the war lasted almost three years, three British towns were besieged and relieved, there were three British defeats in 'Black Week', three major Boer leaders—Botha, De La Rey and De Wet, and the latter figured in three famous hunts. The main conclusion from these key events is that the Boers were fighting battles right up to the end of the war. In many of these their opponents included Australians.

This war in a southern hemisphere rural terrain most closely resembles what Australians might have experienced in fighting in their own pastoral lands. The area of the two British colonies and the two Boer republies was almost 500,000 square miles, compared to about 400,000 square miles for the total of New South Wales and Victoria. Durban is on about the latitude of Brisbane, but the veldt is elevated, with the rugged Drakensberg Range rising to over 11,000 feet, and the men suffered from the extremes of climate, as well as from diseases and a determined enemy.

As war became apparent, the Colonial Commandants held a conference in Melbourne and proposed a force which would have been more appropriate than the infantry companies reluctantly accepted by the War Office. Later, when they have proven their worth as mounted troops further drafts were sought. Generally, each colony contributed six units before the Australian Commonwealth Horse was formed (except Tasmania, four units). All except New South Wales numbered their units 1st to 6th with various names: Infantry, Mounted Rifles, Bushmen, etc. If the cavalry, artillery, and Army Medical Corps units are treated as additional, the pattern of six units applies to New South Wales, but its three Mounted Rifle and three Bushmen units were each numbered consecutively. The four waves, based on the year recruited, do not include the thousands of Australians who joined Imperial or other non-Australian units in Africa.

1st Wave During October 1899 the first units of partly trained men were hastily raised and despatched, arriving at Capetown in December, although the first Australian troops to serve in early battles in November were N.S.W. Lancers returning from England via Capetown. Queensland suffered the first contingent members killed in action, on New Year's Day 1900, at Sunnyside. New South Wales and Queensland troops were in the offensive to relieve Kimberley, defeat Cronje at Paardeberg, and advances to Bloemfontein. The units from other colonies served on the central front, forming the Australian Regiment, which apart from the Victorian Mounted Rifles, had only been mounted for a few days before it had to withstand severe attacks in the Colesberg area.

They advanced to Bloemfontein from the south, where the Australian Regiment was disbanded, all the Australians being reorganised into Hutton's Brigade in the Colonial Division. They advanced into the Transvaal, were at the capture of Johannesburg and Pretoria, New South Wales and Western Australian troops distinguishing themselves in the Battle of Diamond Hill. The Boer army was pushed eastward and dispersed, the British reaching the Portugese East African border in September 1900. Australians were included in the five Divisions that took part in the first De Wet Hunt, which brought them into the area where Ausralian Bushmen were besieged at Elands River, and they helped effect their relief. In October De Wet's attempt to enter the Transvaal was thwarted by Australians who forced him along the Vaal in the second Hunt, nearly catching him at Rensburg Drift in October, and at Bothaville in November. In December the early units completed their year of service and most returned to a newly Federated Australia.

Second Wave The Colonies evolved an indigenous type of soldier when citizen groups advocated using men experienced in bushcraft to combat the Boer at his own game. Between March and June 1900 Bushmen units began arriving at Beira to join the Rhodesian Field Force under General Carrington and descended to the battlefield from the north, overlapping in time the units of the 1st Wave. The Queenslanders were the only Australians at the Relief of Mafeking in May. Bushmen fought at Koster River and Rustenberg, were in the siege of Elands River in August, and in other actions against De La Rey. In the eastern Transvaal they were in a serious action at Rhenoster Kop in November. When De Wet attempted to invade Cape Colony in February 1901, Bushmen under Plumer pressed him hard in the third Hunt and took his guns, forcing him to retire. They were also with Plumer on the march north to take Pietersburg, and other detachments fought in western and eastern Transvaal and Cape Colony. In June they completed their year of service and were replaced by the Imperial Drafts which began to arrive at Port Elizabeth and Durban in March and April 1901.

3rd Wave The State-raised Imperial Drafts provided manpower for the new tactics of Drives. Tasmanians served in Cape Colony. The South Australians captured De Wet's convoy in the Orange Free State. Victorians and Western Australians served in the north-east Transvaal and then South of the Delagoa Bay Railway, the Victorians being cut up at Wilmansrust in a surprise attack in June. South Australians attacked Smuts's Commando with fixed bayonets in July, and Tasmanians were instrumental in capturing several Boer leaders. When Botha attempted to invade Natal, Victorians, Queenslanders, and Western Australians helped block his path. He returned to the high veldt and attacked a force at Bakenlaagte in October where Victorians of the Scottish Horse per-

formed gallantly until relieved by troops including the South Australians, who had ridden 75 miles in 22 hours. In January 1902 he attacked a column at Onverwadit where the Victorians redeemed themselves, riding to save the guns. Australians were in the New Model Drives in the eastern Orange Free State. By March 1902 Commonwealth troops were arriving and the Imperial Drafts returned home.

4th Wave The A.C.H. was engaged in the Drakensberg and in April transferred to Klerksdorp by train to form an Australian Brigade attached to Thorneycroft's Field Force, part of an army 20,000 strong, in sweeping operations in the western Transvaal, capturing Boers in the last great Drives of the war. Peace was declared in June. The last four A.C.H. Battalions arrived too late for active service and by August all the Australians had returned and disbanded.

It is easy to criticise men not now able to defend themselves. This analysis shows that, although they were involved in the unpopular tactics needed to subdue a recalcitrant foe, they were for almost the entire duration of the war mounted fighting troops engaged in active operations against the toughest Boer commandos, thus making a contribution out of proportion to the numbers engaged. Men who served in both the regular and the guerilla war said that the latter was by far the more dangerous. Australians experience in this war is much more than Elands River, Wilmansrust, and 'Breaker' Morant.

Possibly earlier writers understood what these men had done more than recent writers, influenced perhaps by Vietnam. In a rare reference Dr C.E.W. Bean described tham as 'having a reputation for dash and skill in action but some wildness when unengaged'.[13] He could have been referring to the Diggers, and some of the Boer War actions call to mind behaviour that I had associated with the first world war and after. It seems that the Digger spirit pre-dated the Digger in what was the first serious involvement of Australians in war.

Despite much evidence that they displayed the same courage and mateship as the Digger—their six Victoria Crosses were for saving comrades under fire—recent writers seem to imply that they differed from the Digger. To test this I tabulated their characteristics as recorded on muster rolls and discovered that they presented an almost identical profile to that of the A.I.F.—mostly single, in their twenties, Protestant, and more likely to be from the cities and large towns than the bush, contrary to popular belief.[14] With the opportunity to select the best from the large number offering there was a likelihood of higher quality than in the world war situation. For some units the ballot was used to reject volunteers rather than to recruit conscripts.

I took the title of my overview from the main qualifications for enlistment in the recruiting notices of the time '...the ability to shoot and ride', which seemed to fit most appropriately what they did. Only later did I discover that Kipling had used similar words to describe the real worth of Colonials in the war:

'And ye vaunted your fathomless power, and ye flaunted your iron pride,
Ere—ye fawned on the younger Nations for the men who could shoot and ride.'[15]

MAX CHAMBERLAIN

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Clem Sargent

The British Army in Australia

A paper presented at the 1988 MHSA Symposium, Canberra 11–13 June

The subject of the British Army in Australia covers the longest period to be considered by this symposium and there is little doubt that it does not attract the proportion of attention or research which the time the British forces were in this country merits.

Including the marines, not army but included for ease of reference, we are looking at 82 years, 1788–1870, almost half the period of the military history of Australia, although certainly not the most warlike. Nevertheless, during that time 25 British regiments served here, some twice, along with sundry other units — the Marines, Veterans, Royal Artillery, Staff Corps, Engineers, Sappers and Miners, and Commissariat.

The aims of this article are:

—by outlining the little information we have to illustrate the neglect of this subject;

—to argue why more should be done of the period

—to refer to some of the research sources available; and

—to generate some discussion on the matter.

Firstly, what has been published on the British Army in Australia? It is not intended to give a long list of references but attention is drawn to the Royal Australian Historical Society publications — *Military Research For Family Historians — British Units in Australasia* which is supported by *A Military Bibliography for Family Historians*, both publications by Ralph Sutton. The bibliography lists publications on the regiments and organisations which served here and in New Zealand, forty in all.

An examination of the bibliography shows 17 entries on the Marines, nine entries on the New South Wales Corps, the 102nd Regiment, and of these 26 the majority of works, specific to the two bodies, are journal articles, with only one substantial book, Moore's *The First Fleet Marines 1786–1792*. For the remaining 24 regiments and smaller groups the bibliographies are almost entirely regimental histories with the odd article from *Sabretache* or one of the genealogical journals. There is, of course, the late Brigadier Bunny Austin's *The Army in Australia 1840–1850* but this is a very general work and not particular to any regiment in that decade.

It is believed that a book on the New South Wales Corps may be published late this year or early next year but at the moment of the 25 regiments and sundry other bodies which contributed to the military history of this country, the story of only one, and that a small body of Marines, has yet been adequately documented.

It may well be asked what it is that the regiments did that is not adequately covered in the regimental histories, but how much of the written history of a regiment, with 200–300 years' service, can be devoted to its five to 20 years sojourn in Australia? One of the best histories — the five volumes on the Buffs — the 3rd or Royal East Kent Regiment — devotes eight pages to service in the colony from 1821 to 1827. *The Devons*, history of the 11th North Devonshire Regiment — a fairly slim volume — in Australia from 1845 to 1858, has one half page on their 12 years here. The rest of the regimental histories very between these two extremes. It seems then that, with the exception of the Marines, the history of the British forces in Australia is contained in some dozen or so specific articles in Australian journals, perhaps 100 to 150 printed pages of British regimental histories and a few introductory books such as Peter Stanley's *The Remote Garrison*.

There are also passages in other sources — personal reminiscences and, for the Sappers and Miners and Royal Engineers, some coverage in McNicoll's *Ubique*, the history of The Royal Australian Engineers. Altogether it is a sorry account of the contribution which the units of the British Army made to the development of this country in their 82 years out here and it is worthy of better.

Why should that be so? The popular concept of the British soldier in Australia seems to be of a red-coated thug who flogged male convicts and raped the female ones. Evidence has been found of at least an attempted rape of a convict woman by soldiers of the 48th Regiment and the military magistrates did order floggings but the prime role of British soldier was to guard convict gangs to prevent escape and to act as a deterrent to any convict mutiny. It will be recalled that the New South Wales Corps fulfilled the latter role quite adequately at Vinegar Hill in 1804.

The threat of convict uprising was never far from the minds of the Governors. In 1818, for example, the free population of the colony was 16 000 men, women and children, not including troops. A good proportion of the free population were emancipated convicts. The convicts themselves numbered 3230 and many of those were trained soldiers and sailors. To control them Governor Macquarie considered that he needed 1000 troops and the 48th, present in New South Wales at that time, was brought up to this strength. But the need for troops grew in proportion to the increase in convict population, between 1815 and 1821 it had increased by 14 081 so from 1823 onwards no less than two regiments were present.

In 1818, then, convicts were 16% of the population and the military made up 5% of the total or 6% of the free population. Now 6% was a significant proportion in the young colony. Soldiers had to be fed, quartered, clothed and they undoubtedly had some money to spend — mostly on rum perhaps. What effect did the military requirement have on the economy of the colony? In a Working Paper in Economic History, Pamela Statham at ANU has researched the involvement of *Officers and Men in NSW 1788–1800* in the economic life of the colony but this is only a 12 year segment of the total 82 years.

Some of the more obvious contributions of the British Army in Australia were:

a. In exploration — Lieutenant Thomas Laycock of the New South Wales Corps led the first party to traverse Tasmania from North to South.

   —Lieutenant Lawson, lately of the New South Wales Corps, as an officer of the Veteran Company, crossed the Blue Mountains with Wentworth and Blaxland and there are suggestions that he was the planner and promoter of the expedition

   —Ensign Barallier, of the same Corps, in 1802 travelled up the Burragorang Valley to a point equally as far west as Lawson, Wentworth and Blaxland reached on the main range.

   —and so it goes on with explorations being undertaken or organised by members of each succeeding regiment, much of it unrecorded, in their pursuit of escaped convicts or bushrangers but each sortie pushing the boundaries of the known country further out each time they tackled the bush

b. In road, bridge and building construction —either regimental officers or later, officers of the Royal Engineers, were responsible for many of the first buildings; roads and bridges were constructed and most often planned under the direction of these officers. The first lighthouse in Australia, at South Head, Sydney, was constructed under the supervision of Captain Gill of the 46th, who held the appointment of Engineer. His successor, Druitt of the 48th, put in the kiln which fired the Colony's first high temperature bricks. Major Thomas Bell, of the same regiment, supervised the construction of the road from Hobart to New Norfolk. Lieutenant Carmac, of the Buffs, built the church of St Thomas, still standing at Port Macquarie.

However, the greatest contribution to the development of Australia was the involvement of the army in the establishment of new settlements. An officer, usually a captain, with a handful of troops, some convicts nearing the completion of their sentences and some hard characters, often being sent to places of secondary punishment, would be landed at a spot, judged by a previous explorer to be suitable for settlement and told to get on with it. Almost all the new settlements were accessible only by sea and so each became a microcosm of the first settlement at Port Jackson. Consider them — Newcastle, Hobart, Port Dalrymple (Launceston), Port Macquarie, the infamous Macquarie Harbour, Phillip Island in Westernport Bay, Morton Bay, the Northern Territory settlements, Albany. They go on. Some were abortive, and some have been documented, for instance the first settlement at Phillip Island and *The Foresaken Settlement* at Port Essington in the Northern Territory but they have been looked at from the local history point of view and not within the context of a regiment's service.

The wider social implications of the military presence should also be considered. Those officers who were appointed magistrates administered justice in the colony and, if their punishments are now considered harsh, they should be assessed not by 1988 standards but by those of the times and it should be remembered also that the punishments handed out to their own troops, by the regimental courts, were, if anything, more severe. A comparison would perhaps show that the military magistrates and, it was only the magistrates who could legally award such punishments, were nowhere as severe as that fine Christian gentleman — The Reverend Samuel Marsden — who seems to have believed in saving souls from perdition by liberal application of the lash.

Apart from their duties as magistrates, the officers formed an influential sector of the free society. We know something of the place taken by the officers of the New South Wales Corps in their time and if administrative steps were taken to curb the activities of later arrivals, they nonetheless took leading places within the social organisations of the settlements. This does not appear to be the case with NCOs and the rank and file whose lives more likely revolved about regimental activities in the barracks. One thing known is that soldiers of the 48th Regiment played a part in the establishment of non-conformist churches in this country — so where does the picture of drunken and brutal soldiery go then? How many other similar cases could exist that have not yet been recorded?

In additional to the magistrates, the regiments played the main role in the formation in 1825 of the mounted police and its subsequent manning to 1850 when the military mounted police force was disbanded. At that time the force had in its representatives of the 4th, 17th, 28th, 39th, 50th, 58th, 80th and 96th regiments. The 4th had been in the colony in 1831, so there is a tale to tell there.

A large part was played by those who elected to leave the regiments and remain as settlers. Officers took up their land grants, often purchased more and generally were successful. Soldiers, on the other hand, only received 25 acres, often in rough bush country — not really a viable proposition — add to this 20 years or more service in an organisation where all had been found and the picture emerges of a less than likely chance of establishing themselves. Many returned to their civilian occupations as tailors, bakers, New cordwainers, others became publicans and most of these became successful urban settlers, adding their skills to the development of the colony. Their stories, officers and men, must be part of the history of the regiments in Australia.

These then are some aspects of the life of the regiments in Australia and if their service here was less than warlike, and as the historian of the 21st put it —'Had no glory in it' — it is still a substantial part of the history of this country and who are better qualified to piece it together than those who have a knowledge and understanding of military service — the military historian.

Now it is necessary to look at some of the source material available if any one is sufficiently inspired to tacke the history of one of the regiments or other bodies and, it is intended, as an example, to go through the sources which I have used to gather data on the 48th, The Northamptonshire Regiment, in South Wales from 1817–1824.

This project was undertaken as a follow-on to an article written for *Sabretache* on the battle of Albuera. There were six regiments at Albuera which later came to Australia so it seemed natural to look at the service of those regiments in Australian and try to follow the activities of the still serving veterans of Albuera and the rest of the Peninsular campaign. But here a word of warning I began my research in 1981 and have still not completed the project. It is not a quick process although I took time out to gain a first hand view of the battlefield in Albuera as well as Salamanca, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz and several other Peninsular battlefields.

To consider the research sources — the first step of course was to examine Gurney's *History of The Northamptonshire Regiment 1742–1934.* In this there were six very good pages which gave an outline of the regiment's activities in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land and mentioned some highlights such as the killing of the notorious bushranger Howe. The bibliography for those pages gave references to other sources such as Cobbold's *Mary Anne Wellington, Soldier's Daughter, Wife and Widow,* published in 1836, recounting the experiences of the wife of one of the bandsmen including his service in Australia.

From there the next step was to the Monthly Returns and the Muster Rolls and Pay Lists both on microfilm in the National Library, copied under the Australian Joint Copying Project from the original records in the Public Record Office at Kew, London.

There is a full description of the make up of the General Monthly Returns — each of 18 pages — in the April 1971 issue of *Sabretache* but essentially they give information on four facets —

—the officers with the regiment and, sometimes but not always, their locations

—the strength of the regiment by rank including increases and decreases

—the location and strength of detachments

—official correspondence received.

On the other hand, the Muster Rolls and Pay Lists give

—a nominal roll of the regiment either by battalion alphabetically or by company

—sometimes on the muster pages, the location of the soldier, and if he served at Waterloo

—promotions and demotions

—other aspects relating to pay but giving leads to other facts; for instance details of soldiers receiving their 7, 14 and 21 years' increments show the date the soldier was taken on strength of the unit and what unit he may have transferred from

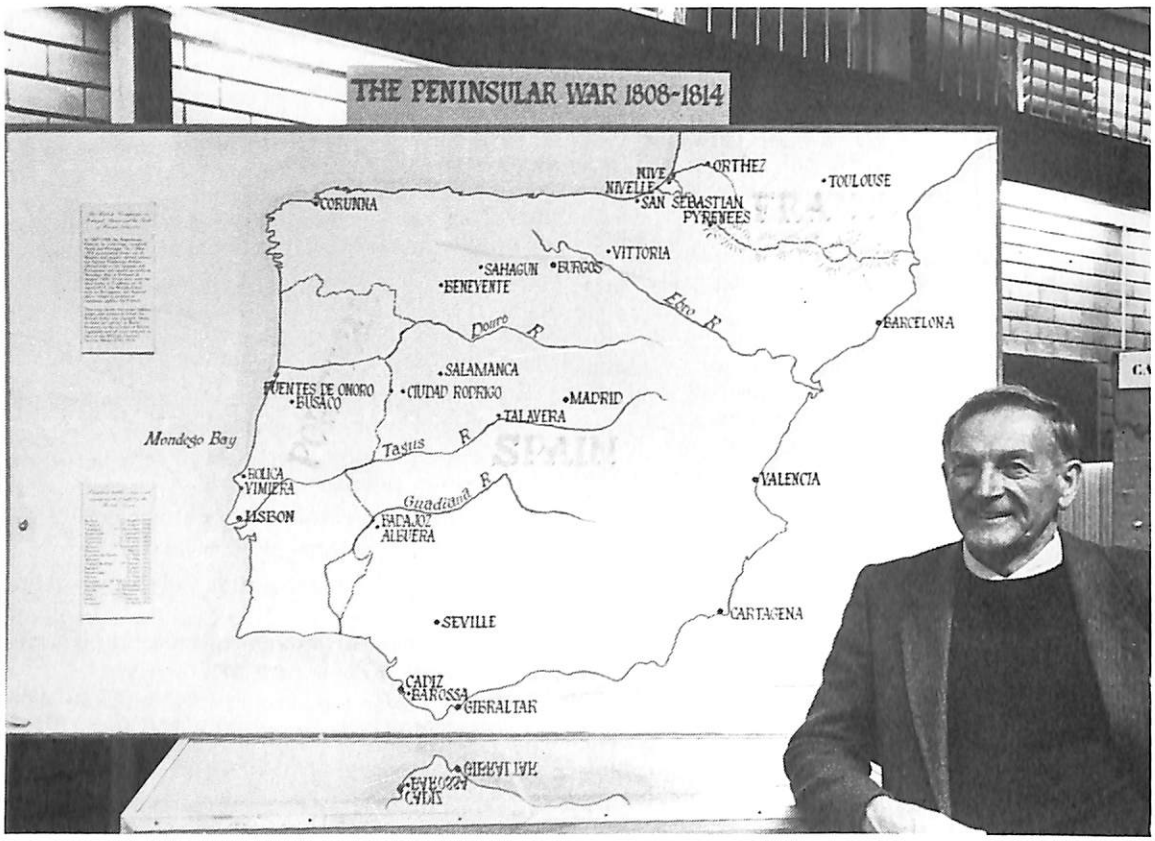
—correspondence relating to pay matters which might indicate dates of arrival or when shipboard.

These are some of the facts which might be obtained from these two very useful sets of documents but be warned they are only as good as the clerks who prepared them and are therefore not always consistent, they do change in format and presentation over the years.

From those records I went to the Historical Records of Australia and here was fortunate as there was a great deal of information from the investigations carried out by Commissioner Bigge, sent out to examine the administration of Governor Macquarie. He took evidence from officers and soldiers alike on such diverse subjects as the conduct of courts to the durability of locally made soldiers' clothing.

Next the Mitchell Library index which gave references for the regiment and by name to many further primary sources such as letters, diaries, official correspondence and so on.

The *Sydney Gazette* was also a primary source of much information both official and social.



Clem Sargent, with his Peninsular War display, at the 1988 MHSA Symposium

Then there were the current writings:

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* for entries on many of the officers

Historical society journals and other publications

Any other material published on the particular period.

Do not forget the genealogists — some useful information was obtained on several other ranks, such as the carpenter who was bought out of the Army by John Macarthur to whom the ex-soldier was then indentured for two years. Here the Society's Research Group on the British Army in Australia provides some useful contacts.

As a bonus, I was able to examine the Soldiers' Documents and the Regimental Descriptions Book at the PRO. These gave the personal details of most of the other ranks but the Description Books for all regiments are not neccesarily available and Soldiers' Documents, which are the discharge certificates may not be available for all soldiers.

There are many other records available in PRO and it is worthwhile obtaining a copy of the PRO publication *Records of Officers and Soldiers Who Have Served In the British Army*. In this context I should also mention the National Library booklet *Australian Joint Copying Project Handbook Part 4 — WAR OFFICE*. This lists all the War Office records held on microfilm. Microfilm copies of Colonial Office, Treasury letters and the Journals of Surgeon Superintendents of Convict Ships should also be scanned.

An effort has been made to bring to your attention that there is worthwhile military historical material to be found in researching the first 82 years of Australia's history. The recording of the activities of each of the individual regiments is long overdue. The forthcoming history of the New South Wales Corps has been mentioned, work is being done on the 17th, the 11th, the Sappers and Miners and I hope one day to finish the long overdue history of the 48th in the Colony of New South Wales 1817 to 1824.

That leaves another 21 regiments — the challenge is with you.

MHSA FEDERAL COUNCIL

Record of Meeting, Sunday, 12 June, 1988 (4.30 p.m. to 5.20 p.m.)

Present:

Patron: Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot
Federal President: Brigadier Tan Roberts
Editor: Stephen Allen
WA Branch Rep: Flight Lieutenant Pat Hall
Federal Secretary: Bronwyn Self
Members: Qld (2); NSW (1); Vic (10); SA (2); WA (1); Geelong (2); ACT (11).

President welcomed members and spoke about the constitution of Federal Council (FC), current FC projects including the main responsibility to publication of *Sabretache*, liaison with related organisations and keeping alert to items of interest for members (collectors and researchers), e.g. potential damage to collections with floods at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and effect of decrease in resources service at the Research Centre e.g. Monday closures. FC can act by expressing the society's concern e.g. current proposal to Minsiter for Veterans' Affairs and the Chairman of AWM Council to appoint FC member as ex-officio member of AWM Council.

Federal Council also handles a volume of enquiries/requests for information from members and non-members. The President also spoke re resolution (as far as possible) of the Rex Clarke Estate. He warned that outstanding claims may still surface. President also raised the issue of military history as it affects the three services, mentioning assistance given to military district and corps museums. DCOORD instruction Feb. 1988 for Army museums means that only available staff can be used. FC will send copy of Lt. Col. John Jackson's article re this to branches. Editor reported, mentioning a dearth of articles, need for short items from collectors plus photographs. Col. Simpson (ACT) suggested Jul/Sep 88 *Sabretache* incude as much material as possible relating to 1988 symposium.

Ian Barnes (Geelong) mentioned lack of items relevant to collectors because collectors are not submitting these items. Max Chamberland (Vic) asked whether there are any barriers to submitting articles. Editor (recklessly) agreed no, he would accept articles in any reasonable format, but would prefer typed A4 sheets but this should not preclude anyone submitting an article.

Rhonda Grande (WA) suggested using extracts from branch newsletters this agreed. Clem Sargent (ACT) asked what editorial help was available and the Editor agreed to discuss articles before and after submitted and prepared to discuss any major editing. There is an editorial committee and perhaps we need a style guide as a model. Peter Stanley (ACT) suggested potential authors should see *Sabretache* as one member of the society talking to another. Another members suggested every issue of *Sabretache* should carry a call for items and the editorial advice which is available. Editor also mentioned the society's 1988 Special Publication to be Max Chamberlain's 'Asian battle diary' manuscript (similar cost to *But Little Glory*). Clem Sargent congratulated the editorial committee on their choice.

General Business

Ian Barnes (Geelong) spoke re problems associated with Queenscliffe Museum and members' private items on display and the lack of ongoing trustees. Other members raised problems re threats to their museums. Rhonda Grande (WA) re Dilhorn House affected by dedication/involvement of COGMD.

Neil Smith (Vic) Corps of Commissionaires MHSA to have museum on premises need MD and Army Office backing for continuity. Army office notice is advisory not directory. Pat Hall (ACT) spoke re good situation for Point Cook RAAF Base museum with a Cpl and WO on strength. Dan Wright (Qld) spoke re Victoria Barracks' Musuem and Historical Society. This is a civilian museum on army property with good register of what is onloan so material can be retrieved. Recently a problem arose when government auditor asked for rent in lieu of 'profits'.

Ian Barnes (Geelong) urged liaison with The National Trust. President raised issue of incorporation of branches which is still not practical for the society. Federal body and each state (separately) would need to incorporate. This has been left to the state branches to decide independently. Victoria Branch (raised issue originally) is reviewing issue and instead having heafty annual public liability. President will circulate to branches copy of RVSI article on relevance of military history to serving personnel. Pat Hall (ACT) mentioned the Australian Defence Heritage publication.

The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

President of the Military Historical Society's Federal Council, Brigadier Tan Roberts, at the podium during the Symposium Council meeting

Anthony Staunton

The United States Medal of Honor

Anthony Staunton's interest in the Victoria Cross and its Australian holders is well known to MHSA members. Anthony's research interests are more varied than this one award, however, and his display on recent recipients of the United States Medal of Honor was one of the many interesting exhibits at the MHSA Symposium. The following article, based on the display, gives an insight into the VC's American counterpart.

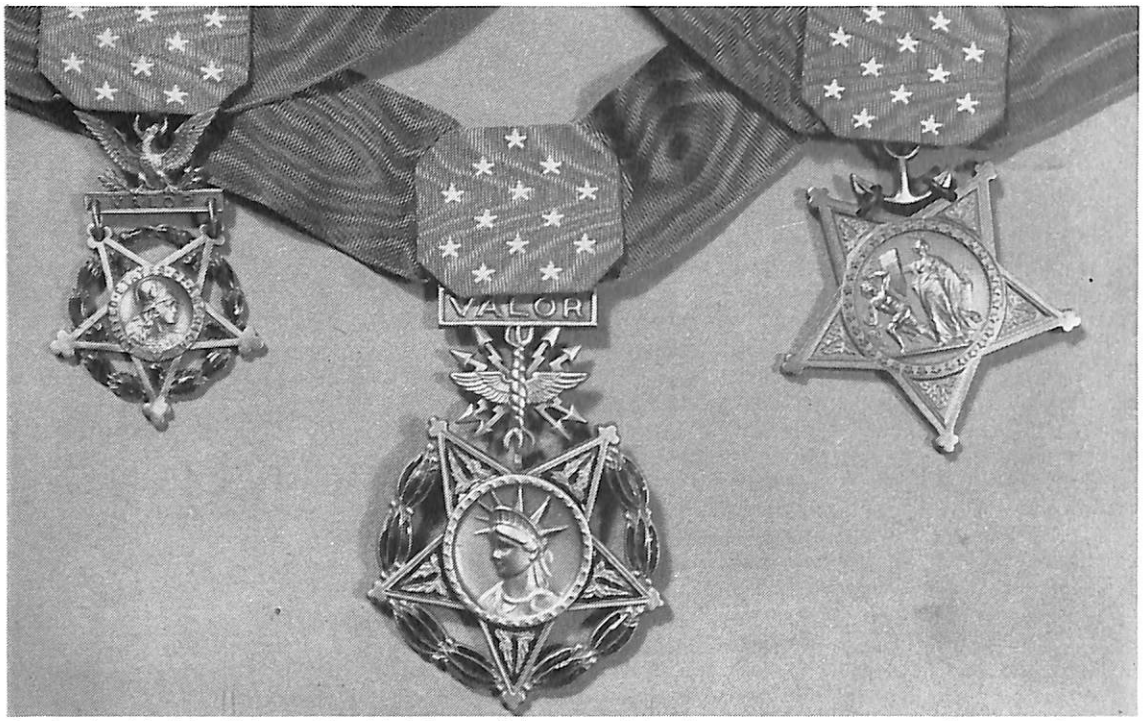
The United States Medal of Honor is the highest American gallantry award and is only awarded for exceptional bravery above and beyond the call of duty. It was first established in 1863 during the American Civil War and to date only 3100 have been awarded. 238 Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in Vietnam and on Memorial Day 1984, the Unknown Serviceman of the Vietnam War was also awarded the Medal of Honor.

First Vietnam Award

The first Medal of Honor won in Vietnam was awarded to US Army Captain Roger Donlon who commanded the Special Forces camp at Nam Dong on 6 July 1964 when a reinforced Viet Cong Battalion launched a full-scale surprise attach which commenced at 2am and continued for 5 hours. Donlon directed the defence operations in the midst of an enemy barrage of mortar shells, falling grenades and heavy gunfire. He suffered multiple wounds early in the battle but continued to retrieve abandoned weapons, direct mortar fire at the enemy and engage the enemy with both grenades and rifle fire. He aided the wounded and was cited for his leadership, fortitude and extraordinary heroism. The camp withstood repeated attacks and, after the battle, Donlon spent a month in hospital in Saigon recovering from his wounds before returning to the United States. Less than five months later at the White House on 5 Decmeber President Johnson presented Donlon with the Medal of Honor. He remained in the army, served another tour in Vietnam and is today a full colonel, close to retirement. Among the more than 50 Nam Dong defenders killed on 6 July 1964 was Warrant Officer Kevin Conway of the AATTV, the first Australian killed in action in Vietnam.

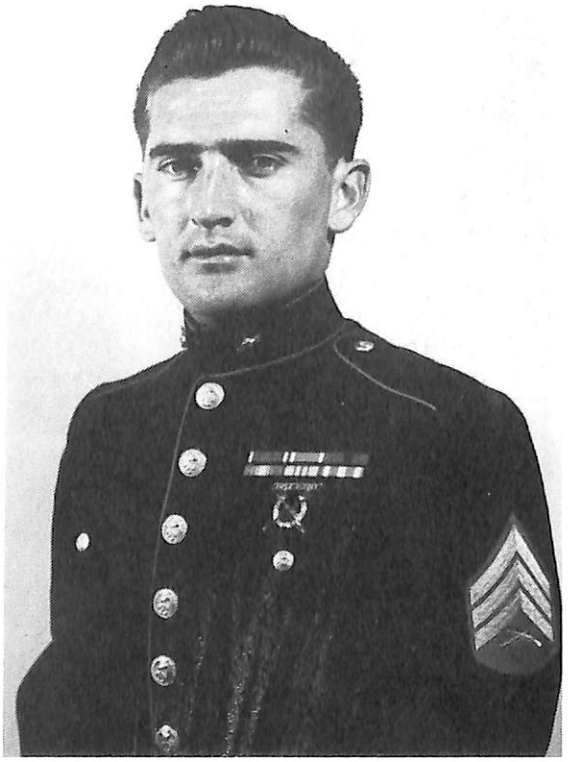
United States Marine Corps

The first of 50 Marines to be presented with the Medal of Honor for Vietnam received it from President Johnson at the White House on 6 December 1966. It was awarded to Corporal Robert E. O'Malley, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division near An Cu'ong 2, Quang Ngai province on 18 August 1965. While leading his squad in an assault against a strongly entrenched Viet Cong force, O'Malley's unit came under intense fire. With complete disregard for his personnal safety, he rushed across an open paddy and with his rifle and grenades killed eight Viet Cong. O'Malley led his squad to the assistance of an adjacent marine unit that had suffered heavy casualties and helped several wounded marines to the helicopters when the evacuation order was given. Regrouping the remanents of his squad, he returned to where the fighting was heaviest and had to be ordered by an officer back to the evacuation point where from an exposed position he covered his squad boarding the helicopter and was last aboard. Ironically, the first marine Medal of Honor to be won in Vietnam was the last marine Medal of Honor to be presented. Captain Donald Cook, USMC who had been captured in Phuoc Tuy Province on 31 December 1964 was cited for courage as a prisoner of war from the date of his capture until his death on 8 December 1967. As senior prisoner of war he put the interests of his men above that of his own well being and this eventually cost him his life. His death was not officially established until 1980 and it was only then that the award was presented.



The Service Medals of Honor. The Medals are of the Army (left), the Air Force (centre) and Navy (right). The Navy medal was instituted first, in 1861; the Army medal in 1862; and the Air Force medal of honor in 1966. (The Air Force did not become a separate service until 1947.) (Photo: Dept of the Army)

Captain Roger Donlon, first recipient of the Medal of Honor during the war in Vietnam. (This Week Magazine, 30 May 1965)



Corporal Robert E. O'Malley, USMC (U.S. Department of Defence)

United States Navy

The United States Navy won 14 Medals of Honor in Vietnam. Petty Officer James E. Williams was in charge of River Patrol Boat (PBR) 105, leading a two boat patrol on the Mekong River on 31 October 1967 when the patrol was suddenly fired upon by two enemy sampans. He returned fire killing the crew of one sampan and causing the other to flee. Pursuing the fleeing sampan, the patrol encountered heavy fire from the river bank before confronting a superior enemy force of two junks and 8 sampans. He radioed for support and while awaiting its arrival found an even larger concentration of enemy craft. He boldly lead his patrol through intense enemy fire and destroyed or damaged 50 sampans and 7 junks. In 3 hours of battle, the patrol accounted for the destruction or loss of 65 enemy boats inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy. Williams had 18 years naval service and was less than two years to retirement when he volunteered for service in Vietnam. As well as the Medal of Honor, he won the Navy Cross, the Bronze Star and the highest naval non-combat award, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. In March 1967 he returned home to his wife and 5 children and retired from the Navy to become a US Marshal. He was one of four servicemen presented with the Medal of Honor by President Johnson when he opened the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon on 14 May 1968.

United States Air Force

Twelve officers and men of the United States Air Force were awarded the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. Captain Hillard A. Wilbanks, 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron was a Forward Air Controller piloting an unarmed light aircraft flying visual reconnaissance ahead of a South Vietnamese Ranger Battalion near Da Lat, Tuyen Duc province. On 24 February 1967, his search revealed a well-concealed and numerically superior hostile force poised to ambush the advancing rangers. Realizing this, the Viet Cong opened fire on Captain Wilbanks and advanced towards the exposed forward elements of the range battalion. Recognising that close air support could not arrive in time to help the rangers withstand the enemy onslaught, Captain Wilbanks attacked the enemy with the only weapon he had, a rifle. He flew his unarmoured light aircraft at tree top level through a hail of enemy fire inflicting many casualties on the enemy by firing the rifle from his side window. During the final courageous attack, he was mortally wounded and his bullet ridden aircraft crashed between the opposing forces. The rangers he had saved fought their way to the plane wreckage to find Captain Wilbanks still alive but he died on a medevac helicopter while being evacuated. On 24 February 1968, the Secretary of State for Air presented Captain Wilbanks' widow with the Medal of Honor at the Pentagon.

Boatswain's Mate First Class James W. Williams (official U.S. Navy).

Captain Hilliard A. Wilbanks USAF.

Captain Robert J. Modrzejewski USMC and Staff Sergeant John G. McGinty USMC, both members of Company K, 4th Marines.

Multiple Awards

On seven occasions men from the same unit won the Medal of Honor in the same action in Vietnam. In six cases, two men from the same company were awarded the Medal of Honor. During Operation Hastings, Captain Robert J. Modrzejewski commanded Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was cited for his unparalleled personal heroism and indomitable leadership in four days of continual fighting in the Song Ngan valley which was within rifle range of the DMZ. On 18 July, Company K's first platoon commanded by Staff Sergeant McGinty was repeatedly attacked for four hours. McGinty led his men throughout the fight and when painful wounded continued to shout encouragement and direct fire with such effect that the attacks were beaten off. On 12 March 1968, both men were presented with the Medal of Honor by President Johnson at the White House. In the seventh case, three men from different companies of the same battalion were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in the same battle. There was an eighth case of two awards for the same action. At Dong Xoai in September 1965, a Special Forces Lieutenant asked for a volunteer to recover a rocket launcher. A wounded Navy Seabee stepped forward. Both won the Medal of Honor, the Seabee posthumously.

'In enemy controlled territory'

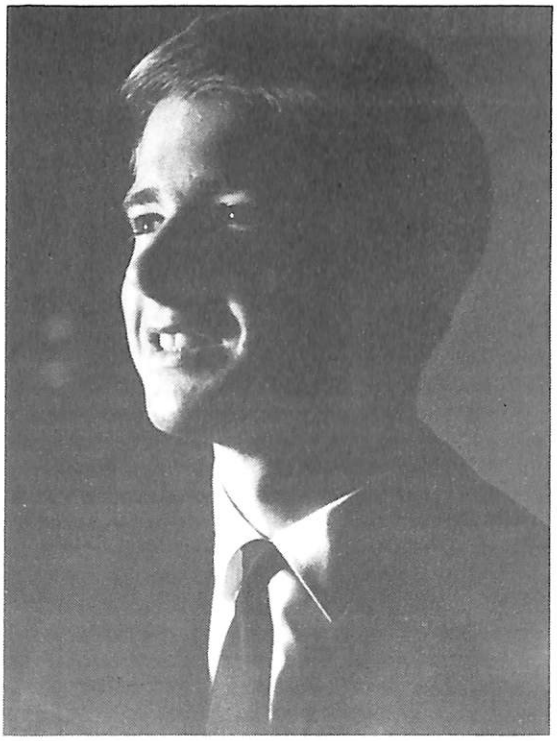
On 30 December 1968, Sergeant Robert L. Howard was a platoon sergeant on a mission in 'enemy controlled territory in the Republic of Vietnam'. A two company enemy force attacked his platoon and both he and the platoon commander were wounded. Howard crawled through a hail of enemy fire to rescue his platoon commander, rallied the platoon into an organized defence force and withstood atcks for 3½ hours until rescue helicopters landed and then personally supervised the evacuation of all his men. The citation for Howard's Medal of Honor stated he was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group and that the action took place in the Republic of Vietnam. After the war it was revealed that Howard belonged to the MACV-SOG and that the action took place in Laos. MACV-SOG was a special operations unit engaged in highly classified clandestine operations throughout Southeast Asia. Howard was one of five men of the MACV-SOG to win the Medal of Honor in Laos. A sixth Medal was won in Laos by a marine whose unit had crossed the border.

Black Recipients

First Lieutenant John E. Warren Jr was a platoon commander in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. On 14 January 1968, in Tay Ninh province his platoon came under enemy fire and Warren with several of his men began manoeuvring through the hail of enemy fire towards the hostile positions. When he had come to within six feet of one of the enemy bunkers, an enemy grenade was suddenly thrown into the middle of the small group of men. Thinking only of his men, Warren fell in the direction of the grenade shielding those around him from the blast saving at least 3 men from serious or mortal injury. Of the 238 Medals of Honor awarded in Vietnam well over 100 were awarded for actions similar to that of Warren's which is why so many Vietnam Medal of Honor awards were posthumous. Incredibly, some of these men such as SP4 John Baca of the 1st Cavalry Division on 10 February 1970 survived the explosion and received the Medal of Honor in person. Warren was one of 15 blacks to win the Medal of Honor in Vietnam, reflecting the intergration of all American units unlike World War One and Two when few blacks were in combat units and none won the Medal of Honor. Blacks have won army and navy Medals of Honor last century but the first black marines to be honoured were for Vietnam.

Lieutenant Robert L. Howard, United States Army (U.S. Army official).

Lieutenant John E. Warren Jr, United States Army (U.S. Army official).



Corporal Thomas W. Bennett, United States Army (U.S. Army official).

Conscientious Objector

Corporal Thomas W Bennett, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division was a pacifist with deep-seated religious convictions. When his draft board offered him the choice between military and civilian service, Bennett selected the Army since he felt he could contribute to his country by caring for the casualties of war as a medical aidman. On 9 February 1969, his company was ambushed by the North Vietnamese in the Chu Pa region of Pleiku province. With complete disregard for his safety, Bennett moved through heavy fire to his fallen comrades, administered life-saving first aid under fire and made repeated trips carrying the wounded to positions of relative safety from which they could be medically evacuated from the battle position. Two days later, despite being told it was impossible, Bennett attempted to reach a wounded man forward of the company position and was mortally wounded.

In 1945 Desmond Doss who also was an Army medic became the first consciencious objector to win the Medal of Honor. He was cited for gallantry on Okinawa and lived to receive the award from President Truman. The widow of the first black officer to be awarded the Medal of Honor at first refused to receive the award because of her religious convictions. She finally consented to accept the award when the Army agreed to present the medal in private and without publicity.

Last Vietnam presentation

A month after his inauguration, President Ronald Reagan presented the last Medal of Honor to an individual for the Vietnam War to Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez. On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man reconnaissance force was inserted by helicopter 25 miles west of Loc Ninh and 10 miles inside Cambodia. The force was quickly discovered and under heavy fire requested emergency evacuation. Benavidez at Loc Ninh overheard the call for help and immediately volunteered to assist in their extraction. he was dropped by helicopter 75 metres from the team members who by the were all wounded or dead and suffered multiple wounds reaching the crippled team but managed to carry or drag half the wounded team members to the helicopter. After take off, he was again wounded and the pilot mortally wounded causing the helicopter to crash. Despite his serious condition, he helped the men from the wreckage and then organised their defence called in air strikes against the buildup of enemy forces and then supervised the evacuation on a second helicopter. He was recommended for the Medal of Honor but it was rejected because there were no eyewitness. Years later it was found that two had survived and the recommendation was reconsidered.

Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army (U.S. Army official).

Last World War Two Presentation

During the presidency of Jimmy Carter, two awards of the Medal of Honor were made for service in Vietnam but both were presented by the Secretary of State for the Navy. However, President Carter personally presented two other Medals of Honor which were the last two awards for action in World War Two. They were to Corporal Anthony Casamento for gallantry on Guadacanal in 1942 who failed to be awarded the Medal of Honor in 1943 because of the lack of eye-witnesses. When they were found in 1964, the Navy Secretary resisted recommending the award until the decision was overturned by President Carter who presented the award to Casamento at the White House in 1979. Casamento died in New York on 18 July 1987. The other late World War Two award was presented in 1979 by President Carter to Lieutenant Colonel Matt Urban for gallantry following the D-Day landings. The award had been recommended in 1944 but had been lost between France and Washington. A query by Matt Urban had revealed a copy of his file and this was processed 35 years late.

NUMBER WON AND PRESENTED BY YEAR

Year	Action	Presentation
1964	2	1
1965	10	
1966	25	6
1967	58	16
1968	59	42
1969	53	44
1970	22	57
1971	6	40
1972	3	
1973		9
1974		16
1976		4
1978–81		3
Total	238	238

PRESENTATION OF VIETNAM AWARDS

President	150
Lyndon Johnson	40
Richard Nixon	103
Gerald Ford	6
Ronald Reagan	1
Vice President	53
Spiro Agnew	9
Gerald Ford	14
Secretary of State	33
Army	19
Navy	14
Air	1
Other	2
Total	238

VIETNAM AWARDS BY SERVICE AND UNIT

United States Army	155
1st Cavalry Division	25
1st Infantry Division	11
4th Infantry Division	11
9th Infantry Division	10
23rd Infantry Division	11
25th Infantry Division	21
101st Airborne Division	17
1st Aviation Brigade	4
11th Arm Cav Regiment	3
173rd Airborne Brigade	12
199th Infantry Brigade	4
5th Special Forces Group	9
MACV-SOG	5
Other	16
United States Marine Corps	57
1st Marine Division	25
3rd Marine Division	28
Other	4
United States Navy	14
United States Air Force	12
Total	238

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR

OPERATING ACCOUNT		1987–88 $		1986–87 $
Balance brought forward 1 July		5,714		4,019
Subscriptions received	10,330		9,402	
Less Capitation	187	10,143	155	9,247
Bank Interest		254		196
Advertising		396		—
Sales				
Sabretache	139		98	
Sudan Book	188		365	
Sudan Figure	140		395	
Regimental Medals Hand Book	85		—	
Other	—	552	2	860
Special Int Groups		155		35
Sundry Income		86		129
		17,300		14,486

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	1987–88 $	1986–87 $
Balance brought forward 1 July	3,732	3,451
Interest Received	289	281
	4,021	3,732

	1987–88 $	1986–87 $

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

(N.S. Foldi)
Hon. Treasurer
1 August 1988.

In my opinion the accompanying accounts of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia are properly drawn up to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as at 30 June 1988 and of the surplus of the Society for the year ended on that date.

(L. Carder FASA CPA)
Auditor
1 August 1988.

— FEDERAL COUNCIL

ENDED 30 JUNE 1988

Publication of *Sabretache*		7,418		6,978
Postage		749		770
Sudan Book		45		—
Sudan Figure		—		60
Postage and Packing		71		50
Special Interest Groups		143		—
Regimental Medals Hand Book	—		216	
Federal Council Expenses				
Stationery	357		306	
Address List	245		106	
Typing	—		72	
Sundries	184	786	214	698
Balance carried forward 30 June		8,088		5,714
		17,300		14,486

	1987–88 $	1986–87 $
Balance carried forward 30 June	4,021	3,732
	4,021	3,732

Notes to and forming part of Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 1988

1. Funds Surplus

	1987–88 $	1986–87 $
Operating Balance 1 July	5,714	4,019
Operating Balance 30 June	8,088	5,714
Operating Surplus	2,374	1,695
Plus Interest on Investment Account	289	281
	2,663	1,976
Plus Subscriptions in Advance Previous Year	312	887
	2,975	2,863
Less Subscriptions in Advance Current Year	338	312
Surplus	2,637	2,551

An account for publication of Sabretache was not paid until July 1988. The total cost was $1,110.

The value of stock on hand (at cost) was

- Sudan figure $2,681
- Sudan book 965
- Regimental Medals Hand Book 151

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA — FEDERAL COUNCIL

President's Report for the year ended 30 June 1988

I am again pleased to report that the Society, as evidence by its membership roll and by the annual accounts which will be published in *Sabretache* with this report, has had a successful year. The contents of *Sabretache* and the matters reported upon and discussed at our Federal Council meetings give evidence of a lively and varied membership whose wide range of interests are illustrated in the 1988–89 Directory of Members issued with the April/June number of the journal.

At the midpoint of this Bicentennial year we can look back on a most successful Symposium held in Canberra over the Queen's Birthday weekend (and which will be reported upon in detail in the next issue *Sabretache*); we can also look forward to our Bicentennial MHSA Publication — Max Chamberland's chronology of Australian military involvement 1945–1973. On your behalf, I thank the Canberra Branch in particular for hosting the Symposium — and the Geelong Branch for so willing undertaking a similar task for 1990.

The Special Interests Group's project is developing momentum, with a good lead given by Peter Stanley's *British Army in Australia* group.

We hope to publish more of intrest to colelctors in *Sabretache* in the coming year and I invite the attention of all collectors to the advance notice of "Collectors' Corner" on page 2 of the April/June issue. Study of the "coding" on our new Directory will show how many members have collecting as their primary interests. Federal Council regards seriously its responsiblity to meet their special needs; but we need your help to do so, particularly through your contributions to *Sabretache*.

Your Council noted with concern during the year the several instances of damage to the Australian War Memorial by weather and utilities breakdowns and the tendency for financial and staffing strictures to lead to a reduction in services to member and general public through the Research Centre. Federal Council will continue to make appropriate representations on these matters. At the same time, we note with pleasure the Memorial's new features, including Peter Corlett's scuplture of *Sympson and his Donkey* and the addition of the external flame to the pool of relections. The Australian-Hellenic Memorial in Anzac Parade was also opened during the year.

There being no other nominations, your President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer have accepted office for another year. I thank members for the expression of confidence in the Federal Executive; in turn, I thank other Executive members for their support and encouragement in 1987–88. In particular, I thank Bronwyn Self in her first year as Federal Secretary, replacing Clem Sargent — indeed 'a hard act to follow', but one Bronwyn has followed with dedication and distriction. And congratulations to Stephen Allen for maintaining the high standard of *Sabretache* since he began his editorship with the October/ December 1987 issue.

May I thank particularly our Patron, Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot for his support during the year and for his much-appreciated participation in the Bicentennial Symposium.

To all Branch Councillors, Branch members and those corresponding members, both individual and corporate, who enable the Society, through *Sabretache*, to reach a wider audience — thanks, congratulations on another good year, and 'recruit a mate in '88' — we need more members!

TAN ROBERTS
Federal President

Alex E. Perrin

Who were the spotters? — An introduction to the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company

Alex Perrin, himself a former army spotter, is compiling and researching the history of the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company. The spotters played a little-known but vital role in allied operations in the South-West Pacific area. In this article, the spotters are briefly described, an, in "Bullets and Biscuits", an insight is given into the activities of the spotters in 1942.

A litte-known unit, the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company was the formation to which the spotters belonged. The first spotting stations came into existence to strengthen and extend the failing civilian network in the traumatic days of the passage of power from the Civil Administration in Port Moresby to a war-time footing and the control of service personnel. Major Don Small, Chief Signal Officer of 8th Military District was our "founding father". His General insisted: "Get Those Stations Out!"

He did. In the nine days between the fall of Rabaul and 1 February 1942, Major Small assembled civilian wireless equipment, transformed volunteering infantrymen to signalmen after only a few hours of instruction, drew one month's ration for six stations and, with the assistance of the RAAF Short Sunderland Flying Boat, had the stations operating on the north coast of Papua before the first enemy air raid at Port Moresby on 3 February.

Urgent action was of utmost importance. Everything was done on an "ad hoc" basis. Most Army regulations were broken but the network was a working reality.

The stations were usually manned by two or three spotters. It was an experience most unlike normal soldiering. No mail for up to six months, no canteen, no film shows, no parade ground, however there advantages. Spotters were given acting rank. Self discipline was paramount. There were up to eight daily schedules to keep us busy on the sets, expensive civilian equipment to maintain, cipher to be mastered and care for one's welfare.

The enemy landing on the island changed the role of the spotters somewhat. While air warning was always important they were now involved in military intelligence. A large proportion of the 160 stations which operated in New Guinea were in enemy territory. The spotting stations at Lae, Salamaua, Shaggy Ridge, Podena Island and Lake Rombebai played important roles in the island campaigns.

Keeping spotters rationed and their equipment well maintained demanded much time. HQ and Sub-Sector personnel were gifted in this regard. They were highly trained and dedicated people whose care of the isolated spotters on location was gladly offered.

The unit was not without distinction. Messages of congratulation came from the General Officer Commanding, cards from the Commander-in-Chief, ten mentions in despatches, ten Military Medals awarded and one Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The spotters had experiences unique in military history.

Bullets or Biscuits

The progress of the Japanese through South-east Asia filled Australians with an air of foreboding. Where would it stop? The enemy had come so far in so short a time. Resistance had crumbled.

By February 1942, the enemy had established a strong Area Army Headquarters at Rabaul; penetrated New Guinea at the strategic points such as Wewak, Madang, Lae and Salamaua and, with thundering regularity, continued to bomb Port Moresby. It stilled the breath of even the stout hearted.

Awaiting the decisions of the allied Chiefs of Staff was demoralising. Tension was high.

Five and a half months before the Japanese landed near Gona, on the north coast of Papua, a spotting station had been established at Kokoda. Jim Craddock and John Holyoake reported enemy planes overhead which were bound for Port Moresby. Shortly after Easter they reported an air raid on the plantation at Kokoda, noting that dwellings, the shedding and the air strip were not on the target list:

"Hell, something's got to happen soon. Whose move next?" Waiting for that move was getting at the spotters, indeed waiting was getting at the whole of the Moresby Garrison.

Then movement came at last. In a report, Major General Basil Morris stated:

> It had been decided down south that we were to set up at Buna. My orders were to send the 39th Australian Infantry Battalion from here to Buna witha view to taking up a position and making an air field. A big 'task force' was to go from Townsville to Buna...

By mid-July the battalion ws on its way across the Owen Stanley Range. Proceeding to Kokoda was bad enough. The thought of fighting in the jungle in this kind of country was horrific. Trained in conventional warfare, these as yet untried troops pressed on.

Another spotting station moved into the area with remnants of the 39th battalion. Bill Baker and Keith Kent had been advised by an ill-informed officer at Rouna Falls Signal Centre that: "If you blokes get an early start, you'll be in Kokoda by 1500 hours."

Eight weary days later they had made it as far as Myola, laden with their equipment.

The task assigned to these two spotters was to provide a W/T link for company and battalion commanders with Bisiatabu, the signal centre for the operation. They were equipped with a Fullerphone, a well proven workhorse. A field cable had been laid to Kokoda in great haste by three of their mates from Rouna Falls Line Section. 'Snow' Boyd, Ray Hancock and Allan Swan under appalling conditions, had given the force a line to Kokoda. Relying on "pedal power" rather than battery and battery charger, Baker would connect the device, no unlike a bicycle, and pedal furiously while Kent keyed morse code through the line.

There was little enough time for rations and when they were supplied they may have been nourishing, but they were not appetising. Bill, a real country boy, one day shot a cockatoo. Even after 4 hours of cooking all that was worth consuming was the juice in which the bird was cooked!

Bill and Keith were at Menari on the Kokoda Trail when, suddenly without any warning, "biscuit bombers" — supply planes — came overhead to make a supply drop. The young Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit officer, Bruce Johnson, ordered everybody to take cover wherever they could. The supplies were merely pushed through the door of the aircraft, there being no parachutes available at this time.

Tins and sacks of rations plummeted to earth in all directions. One soldier who had ignored the order to take cover soon dived under the floor of the native hut to join the others. After the drop, he found that the bunk which he had vacated had been smashed by a falling sack of bully beef!

The drop caused real trouble for Bruce Johnson. A tin of "dog biscuits" — Army ration 'hard tack' — had come crashing down on his ankle, badly damaging his leg. Native carriers had to convey him to hospital in Port Moresby, but not before Bill Baker had teased him:

> "Fancy having to tell your grand-children that you were put out of the war by a tin of 'dog biscuits' on the Kokoda Trail!"

Plenty of lethal bullets on the Trail, but not a lot of lethal dog biscuits!

After the experiences of this campaign these two spotters were withdrawn early in September 1942. They rested at Rouna Falls for a week or two and then moved out to another assignment.

A few days after the enemy landing in the Buna/Gona area, Jim Craddock and his new mate Bob Skinner were awaiting relief from the Kokoda station. The old Hudson bomber landed at the plantation airstrip, delivered goods and passengers, loaded up the two spotters and in a matter of seconds was on its way back to Port Moresby. After all, the Japanese were already across the Kumusi River. Hours later, Captain Alan Champion who had escaped from Buna where he was Assistant District Officer, sought transport back to Port Moresby where he was to report to Major General Morris. As the Hudson was the last plane to use the strip before the campaign began in earnest, he had to settle for walking the track accompanying sick and injured troops.

The actual landing of the Japanese on the Papuan coast provided evidence of the thoroughness and ruthlessness of enemy tactics. Upon landing, the enemy fanned out to surrounding villages and gained the upper hand by a brutal regime of killing and destruction which became their trade mark in future campaigns. Within seven days they had pressed on to Kokoda which they held throughout the muddy, bloody campaign over the next 8 weeks.

The spotter who were in locations close to the enemy landing were stationed at Ambasi, Gona and Buna. There were ten personnel in all, and after destroying their sets they had no alternative but to make a dash for the cover provided by the mountains. A few days previously one group had rescued five USAAF aircrew. This group was joined by some Anglican missionaries, Reverend Benson, Miss Mavis Parkinson, a teacher, and Nurse Hayman. The three spotters who finished up in the party were Harry Palmer, Ray Hanna and John Holyoake. They tried for days to keep clear of the Japanese and the confused native people. One day the party rounded a corner on a little used track. The ambush only took seconds in time when all but one were killed by the opening salvos of machine gun fire.

Several conflicting reports exist of this tragic incident. Even the official report to Canberra stated ...these accounts must be treated with great reserve.

It would be inappropriate to retell here the epic story of the Kokoda Trail. However, the report of the Assistant District Officer, Captain Alan Champion, may be new to some:

> During the afternoon of 21 July 1942, at Buna Government station, the beach patrol reported the approach of aircraft. A few minutes later a Japanese single float sea plane circled the station at tree top height firing several bursts of machine gun fire apparently at some natives who were in the vicinity.
>
> The plane flew off in a south-easterly direction. I instructed the cipher clerk, Sergeant Barry Harper, a spotter, to report the incident, while I sent off to ascertain whether there were any casualties — fortunately there were none. Later in the afternoon the same kind of aircraft returned, circled low, but did not fire any shots. This was repeated four times after the first visit. After the final visit the plane flew off in a north-easterly direction at approximately 1715 hours. On the same day the beach patrol pointed my attention to what appeared to be a strange formation of cloud. I went to the radio station for my binoculars and found this to be a large destroyer, or light cruiser, heading in the direction of Gona. I then saw the stern of another vessel well towards the shore, the fore-part being obscured by Cape Caliton. On sweeping the sea with my glasses I saw two more destroyers and two merchant vessels of approximately 5000 to 8000 tons each, heading towards Buna.
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> Visibility was rather poor owing to the haze out to sea, but I estimated the positions of the ships to be 8 to 10 miles from Buna. I immediately instructed the cipher clerk to send a clear (plain language) message on "X" frequency reporting the convoy off Buna. The cipher clerk was also instructed to stand by with the native police, ready to evacuate the radio equipment at a moment's notice.
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> At approximately 1730 hours I heard what appeared to be gun fire and mentioned to Lieutenant Wurt of the Papuan Infantry Battalion that the ships were shelling Gona. I collected all codes, ciphers and defence papers together with a bag of cash from the office safe, and then one of my beach patrols from the Sanananda area came to report that enemy troops were landing in that area. I immediately burnt all secret documents.
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> Planes then started coming in from the sea, so I decided to evauate the station. On returning to the radio station I found the radio equipment destroyed, the spotter personnel already having evacuated. I immediately sent a runner after Sergeant Harper to ascertain if he had transmitted my message to VIG. Harper reported that he had sent the message eight times without getting any acknowledgement from Port Moresby.
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> Lieutenant Wurt, Sergeant Bishop and myself retired to Giruwa village, at the rear of Buna. We waited there until 1745 hours when we heard heavy explosions coming from the direction of Buna station. Not having received any acknowledgement to my messages, and fearing being cut off by the enemy, we decided to make for Awala, the nearest radio station — a distance of approximately 36 miles along the main Kokoda road. A police runner was also despatched to Awala with a letter to the District Officer.
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> On arrival at Saputa, a Papuan Infantry Battalion Corporal caught up with us. He reported that the Japanese were coming ashore in barges. We had a short spell and then proceeded to Popondetta where we found the spotters with Captain Austin of the Government Native Plantation. Captain Austin gave us a meal and asked if he could return to Sangara, collect some stores and retire to the mountains. I explained that he would be safer with us, but he complained about his bad leg and said he would never make the trip. I suggested we would carry him, but he said he would rather go into the hills. Unfortunately I granted his requested. The party then consisted of Lieutenant Wurt, Bishop, Harper, Hill, Clasby and myself. We said goodbye to Captain Austin and set off to Awala. We called into Sangara rubber plantation to warn Warrant Officer Mason, but his house was deserted. The party then proceeded to Eaugahanbo where Warrant Officer Bitmead made us all a very welcome cup of coffee. Bitmead said he would await instructions from the District Officer. My party left Eaugahanbo at dawn at 0715 hours on 22 July. We met the District Officer, Lieutenant McKinna and Warrant Officer Yoeman. The District Officer informed me that he was proceeding in the direction of Buna and instructed me to report to Major Watson on arrival at Awala.
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> We carried on, arriving there at 0745 hours where a very good breakfast awaited us and also good news that my SOS on the previous evening had been heard.
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> On 23 July, Major Watson instructed me to proceed to Kokoda with all possible speed and instructed the Commanding Officer of 39th Australian Infantry Battalion to make all haste to Awala. I, together with Sergeant Bishop, left Awala to make all haste to Kokoda. We met the advance party of the 39th Battalion on the Awala side of the Kumusi River. The main body were at Wairopi. ("Wairopi" is Pidgin English for 'Wire rope'. There was a wire rope bridge over the raging waters of the Kumusi River). We proceeded on to Kokoda, arriving there at 2130 hrs. I sent a message to my Headquarters advising them of my arrival. On 24 and 25 July, I spent time supervising and extending the airstrip, and at 1640 hrs I left Kokoda with a line of rations for

forward troops at Oivi. Having handed over the rations I returned to Kokoda, arriving at 2400 hrs.

On 26 July, I received a message from Headquarters instructing me to report to Port Moresby immediately. Lieutenant Colonel Owen told me to catch the plane to Moresby but no further planes arrived. So I, together with some sick troops left Kokoda at 2330 hrs and proceeded over the Owen Stanley's to Moresby where, on arrival, I reported to Major-General Morris.

The Japanese landing near Buna/Gona appeared at first to be a stroke of strategic genius, but in fact, it turned out to be a mistake of great proportions. The flaws in Japanese military intelligence were idiotic, as were our own. Ignorance of the topography of New Guinea quickly distorted and even negated, the plans of both the Japanese and the allies. Yet the whole sorry episode ws to highlight the strengths of both sides. The withdrawal over the Kokoda Trail was not an inglorious action by the Australian Militia and the experienced Brigades of the 7th Australian Infantry Division, while the Japanese were by no means disgraced. The enemy was almost within sight of Port Moresby, yet, at that moment they pulled back. It may have been a problem of the length of their lines of communication, or, as has been suggested by some, the withdrawal order may have come from the Emperor. More realistically, it was the enemy's need for reinforcements for Guadalcanal that eased the threat they had posed on the Kokoda Trail.

The two spotters who were to relieve Jim Craddock and his mate, were given a special assignment with the Commanding Officer of the 39th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Owen. Clive Turnbull and Bernie Murphy flew in with their equipment on the last plane to touch down before the campaign began in earnest. The Battalion did not have the equipment to handle communications over great distances and in such rugged terrain. Later, when Brigadier Potts arrived with the mightly 21st Brigade, he also leaned heavily on the role of these two signalmen.

'Spud' Murphy told of his first few hours at Kokoda:

> There were no native carriers for our wireless gear. The carriers initially alloted to us had only minutes before been released from the local prison — murderers, looters and rapists — and given the cover of darkness 'they took off like the Watson's'. Both of us had just been discharged from the dysentery camp and were not fit to haul all the gear which included the transmitter, receiver, batteries and batter charger as well as our own clobber. Then an officer arranged for 8 Police boys to do our carrying. They were great. We set up on the edge of the Kokoda plantation and made contact with Moresby. Eureka! all was well. Well, for a matter of hours anyway, then the Japs were everywhere. Over the next two days we shifted half a dozen times, ending up at Deniki.

On the afternoon of 28 July 1942, Colonel Owen took a small party of troops in an endeavour to hold Kokoda. Under cover of darkness he stood up to throw a grenade into an enemy position when a Japanese sniper shot him in the head. He died at 0300 hrs after Doctor Veron had struggled for an hour to save the life of this gallant leader of the 39th.

This was a disaster. The charisma of Colonel Owen, famous for his leadership of the 2/22nd Australian Infantry at Rabaul, was what the desperate defenders of Kokoda needed. The 39th Battalion, the Militia 'Choco' Battalion, had its back to the wall, but the members of this battalion were to fight with such distinction that even the experienced Battalions and Brigades of the 7th Australian Infantry Division came to acknowledge their desperate courage and fighting skills.

In the days of the campaign our troops were all decked out in khaki drill uniforms. Spud Murphy and Clive Turnbull arrived on the scene in "tin hats" and khaki. Nothing could make them more obvious in the jungle! It was early in August that green dye was dropped with supplies and the Australians were given instructions on how to become chameleon soldiers overnight.

Murphy and Turnbull were becoming an important link for the Australian defenders in the Kokoda Campaign. Their civilian equipment, however, took a battering. Constantly on the move, their batteries had suffered in transit and much of the acid was lost. This meant that during transmission the Briggs and Stratton battery charger would be kept running while the operators keyed their morse code over the air waves. This made no secret of their location. The noise travelled for miles, particularly at night. Spud Murphy reported:

> The Japanese were never far away, but we kept Brigade traffic going back to Wonga and Rouna Falls. We were often under machine gun fire, or mortar attacks. Even the mountain gun had a go at us.

One can only imagine the difficulties associated with constant movement of the station. The aerial would have to be re-set, and none of the five or six pieces of equipment were lightweight. Any movement on the Kokoda Trail was hazardous, yet some days they would be forced to move the station several times. On other occasions they would remove the frequency crystals and leave the set hidden. It was a cat and mouse game all the way.

When the 21st Australian Infantry Brigade of the 7th Australian Division moved down the track with Brigadier Potts, the workload trebled. The new Battalions, 2/14th, 2/16th and 2/27th were added to the link. It was then that rations became a luxury. Spud and Clive sometimes went for four or five days without rations, but the radio traffic always got through.

Early in September 1942, the Japanese opened fire on the wireless lean-to for the last time. The Teleradio

was hit. The vibrator was ruined. The set was useless. Time was taken to remove the crystals, and the transmitter was dropped down the "thunder box" pit before the spotters took off.

'Spud' and Clive returned to the Convalescent Camp at Koitaki. Communications were taken over by the 1st Australian Corps. It was while on a well earned break at Koitaki that they heard the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Thomas Blamey, make his unfortunate 'Run, rabbit run' remark in connection with the withdrawal over the Kokoda Trail.

Both of these spotters were awarded the Military Medal for gallantry. Their citation reads:

> Prior to 24 July 1942, Corporal Murphy volunteered with Sergeant Turnbull to install and operate a wireless station at Kokoda for the purpose of observing and reporting enemy ground and air movements. On 24 July when Awala had fallen to the enemy who were advancing on Kokoda, the wireless set was set up at Kokoda. On the morning of 25 July, as a result of enemy action, it was necessary to move the station to a site in the scrub near the Vodda River. At 2300 hrs on 25 July when orders were received through a Battalion runner ("B" Company, 39th Battalion) that the area was practically encircled by the enemy and that the wireless station was to be moved immediately, the station was again moved to a site near Deniki. For the next few days the two men were forced to move the station on several occasions to avoid enemy destruction until they were finally forced to site the station at a position some 30 minutes' walk from Isurava. The station was sited on the down slopes of a feature which was occupied on the top by Battalion troops. The enemy occupied the opposite feature and consequently the station was in the direct line of fire. Instead of evacuating the station when finding themselves in this position, these two men stuck it out and in addition to carrying out special duties they were able to pass Brigade traffic when Brigade communications failed. Regardless of his personal safety Corporal Murphy with Sergeant Turnbull kept the set working from 24 July to 5 September 1942, when the enemy overran the area and Sergeant Turnbull and Corporal Murphy escaped after destroying their equipment. During the period Corporal Murphy exhibited in the face of the enemy, a high standard of resourcefulness and courage and as a result was instrumental in transmitting valuable intelligence of enemy movements.

The Kokoda campaign reached its climax when the enemy pushed the defenders back towards Port Moresby as far as Iorabaiwa. Then came a lull in the fighting after the middle of September.

The frustration, indeed the anger of the Japanese who had really tested the metal of the Australian troops set against them, can be understood. Their higher formations had ordered them to withdraw when their goal was almost in sight. It was to be the first of many withdrawals in the South West Pacific region, but to give credit where credit is due, the enemy fought every inch of the way — to the last ditch, to the last breath.

Some strong pockets of enemy resistance were experienced by the Australians in their advance back to the coast, but there the Japanese troops were well prepared to stand, and to try to reclaim their losses. The costly battle of Buna/Sanananda was to follow for another two months.

Ron Montague

Thomas Baynes, a Founding Father of the Australian Army?

Many readers would know that the Australian War Memorial has recently acquired the sword that was presented to Thomas Baynes in 1861 and may like to know a little more about that man, who might reasonably claim to have been one of the founding fathers of the Australian Army, or at least a founder of the New South Wales Military Forces.

Thomas Baynes was born during August of 1812 in the parish of St Andrews at the inner London suburb of Holborn. He was a son of Richard and Bridget Baynes who, it is believed, moved to the old town of St Albans and it was here that Thomas enlisted as a private in the 11th Regiment of Foot for unlimited service. His Attestation papers show that he was sworn in by a local justice of the peace and enlisted by a corporal of the 38th Regiment. St Albans was clearly not a major recruiting office.

During his period of training at the regimental depot of the 11th (North Devon) Regiment of Foot Private Baynes seems to have made a good impression; he was soon appointed to lance-corporal and on 3 August 1833, just over two years after he had joined, he was promoted to full corporal. For the regular army in peace-time this is fairly rapid promotion. As an instructor he became a sergeant two years later and in 1837 the Regiment was posted to Canada to deal with a rebellion among the French-speaking inhabitants and also to curb the incursions by United States troops across the border with the state of Maine. Sergeant Baynes was commended by the authorities for his efforts in training the local militia which included writing a small training manual for the military force of New Brunswick. After two years in the Canadian colonies the 11th Regiment was moved back to the United Kingdom. The rebellion had been effectively quelled and the border problem with the United States was, more or less, solved.

Between 1840 and 1845 the Regiment saw service in Ireland and south Wales and during that time Sergeant Baynes was married to his wife Bridget (the same name as his mother!) and on 15 May 1840 he was promoted to colour sergeant. It was in this capacity and in charge of a small detachment that he was posted to Adelaide soon after the 11th Regiment arrived in Australia. Before embarking from the overseas posting depot at Chatham it was divided into two divisions to sail in the merchant-ship *Castle Eden* and the troopship *Ramillies*. Baynes spent two years in South Australia, followed by ten months in Tasmania before joining the main body of the Regiment before it occupied the new Victoria Barracks in Sydney on 5 August 1848.

During the nine years that the 11th Regiment and Colour Sergeant Baynes were in Sydney both appear to have impressed the local population. The men of the Regiment formed a fire brigade which was instrumental in quelling a number of large fires in and around the city. Both the officers and the rank and file did much towards the laying out of a sports ground which was later to become the Sydney Cricket Ground. Some leading citizens of Sydney petitioned the British Government to allow the 11th (North Devon) Regiment to remain in the Colony for a further term of service; it went on to serve a total of twelve years in Australia. In 1852 Baynes was promoted to sergeant major and he too came to the notice of the local citizens.

In March 1854 Britain and France declared war on Russia which began the long, hard campaign in the Crimea. Soon a war scare spread through the Australian colonies and some arm-chair tacticians believed that Russia might invade this country by marching through Afghanistan and India and launching a seaborne invasion force from there. The British garrison in Australia was very thinly spread and amounted to no more than five regiments and these were shared by New Zealand where an outbreak of local war by Maoris was anticipated. The New South Wales Government authorized the formation of a local military defence force in August 1854 and Sergeant Major Baynes was asked to form a cadre of instructors to train six companies of infantry. The companies were to be formed in and around Sydney and the volunteers were to be unpaid and would provide their own uniforms; arms and ammunition were the responsibility of the colonial government. Sergeant Major Bayne, as a member of the permanent staff was to be paid at the rate of seven shillings a day.

Sergeant Major Baynes could not be seconded to a local force indefinitely; it was necessary to release him by some means from his unlimited engagement with the British Army. It was decided that he should go before a medical board with the object of discharging him on medical grounds. He was then

PEOPLE WE KNOW—No. 17.

An Honest Man, and a Soldier.—*Much Ado*, 2, 3.
"When I was in Canada in 1837 I recollect," &c.

examined by the Regimental Surgeon, Mr Heffernan, who wrote out the following report:

> Sergeant Major Thomas Baynes; Disability: chronic rheumatism and worn out constitution first apparent about two years ago when he was stationed at Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. To constitutional causes not aggravated by vice or intemperance and producing general debility from a general failure of the health as shown by the loss of several teeth and considerable impairment of his eye sight.
>
> Signed N. Heffernan, M.B. Surgeon XIth Regt.

The Board was convened on 5 February, 1855 and Baynes was discharged on the grounds of him having 'a worn out constitution'. The Members of the Board noted that his character was very good and that he had received the Good Conduct Medal. He was to be paid a gratuity of fifteen sovereigns.

However, progress was delayed because after the Treaty of Paris that the allies signed with Russia in 1856 interest in local volunteer forces waned and Thomas Baynes future looked uncertain. In 1858 he was granted the licence of a new hotel in the South Head Road and he named it after his old commanding officer and the battle that still captured public imagination, the 'Colonel Bloomfield and Waterloo Hotel'. Two years later Baynes was given the licence of the 'Farrier's Arms' in George Street.

In 1861 the international situation was to change dramatically. The Russians completed a naval base at Vladivostok, the French were expanding their empire in the Pacific, the Maoris were rebelling in New Zealand and the United States was on the verge of civil war. The colonial governments in Australia were now beginning to realize that the troubles were no longer in Europe or in remote parts of the world but were getting closer to home. What was worse was the fact that the Imperial troops were being moved to New Zealand leaving fewer infantry men although the coastal artillery had been strengthened since 1854.

The governments of the more populous Australian colonies ordered the formation of local volunteer cavalry, artillery and infantry units with uniforms provided and payment of all ranks when called out on active duty. New batteries of artillery were formed at Sydney and Newcastle and a number of rifle companies were raised in Sydney and suburbs and in many country centres. Sergeant Major Baynes now found himself dealing with an ever expanding military organisation.

On 20 June 1861 Thomas Baynes was appointed as Brigade Adjutant of the Sydney Volunteer Infantry Companies with pay at the rate of fifteen shillings a day During the twenty seven years that followed Thomas Baynes was employed as a full time staff officer of the New South Wales Military Force. As Brigade Major he visited volunteer infantry companies throughout the Sydney suburbs and the scattered country units such as Goulburn, Bathurst and Ulladulla. He went on to serve the Force as Quartermaster and finally as Chief Paymaster.

A retirement age did not appear to apply to officers of the NSW Military Force a hundred years ago because Thomas Baynes, now a Lieutenant Colonel, was still serving full time at the age of seventy-seven. It was reported that the New South Wales Government Gazette in March 1889 showed him as having resigned although Baynes denied this. He appealed to Sir Henry Parkes for a gratuity or pension for his long service but he was to receive nothing.

On Boxing Day of 1889 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Baynes suffered a severe stroke and died, at his son's home in Enfield, the following day. His wife, Bridget, had predeceased him by almost two years. He was survived by a daughter and two sons; both were serving officers in the NSW Military Force. A military funeral was held on 29 December and Baynes was buried at Waverley Cemetery. The funeral cortege was led by the band of the Permanent Artillery followed by the entire Permanent Artillery Force and detachments of all the Volunteer Military units stationed in and around Sydney. The funeral service closed with three volleys fired from field guns of the Permanent Artillery.

For his times Thomas Baynes was an outstanding personality. With neither wealth nor patronage to help him, a former private soldier had risen through the ranks to achieve a senior field rank. He appears to have been a natural administrator and capable of passing on the knowledge he acquired during his early years in the British Army, in which he spent the first twenty-four years of his service. As a 'worn out' old soldier he then went on to serve for a further twenty-eight years in the New South Wales Military Force. Contemporary newspaper items record Thomas Baynes as having been a genial host during the time he was a hotal keeper, during his latter years he was frequently seen as a guest at the Officer's Mess at Victoria Barracks. The cartoon drawn by Clinch for the *Sydney Punch* in 1879 included him among a series of colonial personalities entitled 'People We Know' whom the cartoonist regarded favourably. Clinch also drew another series called 'People We Would Rather Not Know' who consisted mainly of the less popular politicians of the day.

Notes

WO 97/1420
WO 12/2875-2887
Archives Office of NSW, Reels 205-221
Votes and Proceedings, L.A. of NSW (1861) Vol. 2.
Votes and Proceedings, L.A. of NSW (1883-1884)
Votes and Proceedings, L.C. of N.S.W. (1855) Martin Report.
Sydney Punch 25 January 1879.
Sydney Morning Herald, 30 December 1889.

John E. Price

Tasmanians who served in more than one Contingent or formation during the South African War of 1899-1902

Explanatory Notes

The following article was written purely as an exercise so, before anyone decides to dash off a letter to the Editor accusing me of poaching or inaccuracy, let me say that in all probability it is incomplete and because there are countless errors to be found in P.L. Murray's book Records of Australian Contingents to the War in South Africa 1899-1902 I cannot guarantee its absolute fidelity.

For a number of years I have kept data, mainly in rough notes, of the previous South African War service of the personnel who served with the eight Australian Commonwealth Horse battalions. Every so often, whenever there is a lull in activities, I amend my copy of Murray. Listing men known to have served in other formations; thus upgrading their entry. Having reached the end of this batch of notes, I thought that it was about time to publish some findings.

The Tasmanian contingents were chosen not because it was the last section in Murray's book but, more importantly, it was the smallest of the overall Australian contribution to the War. Also, being an island, there was less chance of men 'doubly' volunteering into adjacent Colonial/State contingents as may have been the case on the mainland.

In Appendix 1, on page 578, Murray lists a "Grand Total of Contingents. Etc." and in the Tasmanian section we note that 860 officers and men left, in seven contingents, for South Africa. This is corroborated, in the summary of the State's contingents despatched, on page 577. However it may be found, through perusal of the attached lists, that some 40 personnel interchanged between the seven contingents; therefore the number of troops despatched was nearer 820. This in no way belittles Tasmania's contribution, but realistically means that there are forty less Queen's South Africa medals to be accounted for. It should be noted that these figures only refer to men who, upon the expiration of their service with one Tasmanian contingent, enlisted into another from the same State. It is doubtful of the exact number of Australian volunteers to the South African War will ever be known but, with time consuming research, a fairly accurate figure may be reached.

Should any reader know of Australians with duplicated service in other contingents, as well as 'foreign' formations I would be delighted to hear of them.

1st Tasmanian Contingent 1=/TC Draft

BARNES. 62. Pte. Robert Henry	1229 Saddler 1/ACH (Tas)	
BLYTH. 48. Pte. Charles Oscar	Lieut. 4/TIBC	KSA
BRANAGAN. 26. Pte. William Daniel	129. Colour Sgt. 4/TIBC	KSA
BRIANT. 3. Pte. Frederick Charles	1181. CSM. 1/ACH (Tas)	
CHALMERS. 2. Cpl. Cyril Roderick Alleyne	Lieut. 3/ACH (Tas)	KSA
CHALMERS. 10. Pte. Frederick Royden	Lieut. 4/TIBC	
COOMBE. 25. Pte. Archibald	259 Transport Sgt. 4/TIBC	KSA
GABY. 32. Pte. Richard Wigmore	255. Sgt. 8/ACH (Tas)	
HALLAM. 1. Sgt. Harry	Lieut 4/TIBC	KSA
LADE. 57. Pte. Cyrus	1238. Sgt 1/ACH (Tas)	
LOWTHER 35. Sgt. William Ponsonby	Lieut. 2/TBC	KSA
MORRISBY. 20. Pte. Frank Edward	1184. CQMS. 1/ACH (Tas)	
SWAN. 9. Pte. Morton Henry	Lieut. 4/TIBC	KSA
WALKER. 73. Pte. George Arthur	2128. Sgt. 3/ACH (Tas)	
WHITELAW. 41. Pte. John Henry	Pretoria Police Force	
WILLIAMS. 6. Pte. Stanley James Salter	39761 Tpr. 2/Scottish Horse	
WILSON. 74. Pte. Robert Benjamin	355 Pte. 4/TIBC	KSA

Draft to 1st Tasmanian Contingent = 1/TC Draft

ADAMS. 84 Sgt. Frank Bertram	Lieut. 2/TBC	
CHEPMELL. 78. Pte. Henry Douglas	141. Sgt. 4/TIBC	
CHEVEUX. 100. Pte. Arthur Farrell	Imperial Military Railways	
DOOLIN. 76. Pte. Robert Percy	Imperial Military Railways	
LARNER. 98. Pte. Harry Elvin	1236. Cpl. 1/ACH (Tas)	
McCORMICK. 79. Pte. John	Lieut. 4/TIBC	KSA
PEGG. 114. Pte. Albert Edward	1198. Pte. 1/ACH	
RICHARDSON. 113. Pte. George Fairbrass	Lieut. 4/TIBC	KSA
SMALLHORN. 117. Pte. Herbert	1234. Cpl. 1/ACH (Tas)	

2nd (Tasmanian Bushmen) Contingent = 2/TBC

ADAMS. Lieut. Frank Bertram	Ex. 84. Sgt. Draft 1/TC
KEMSLEY. 146. Sgt. George William, D.C.M.	Lieut. 8/ACH (Tas)
LAWSON. 149. Pte. Robert	1193 L/Cpl. 1/ACH (Tas)
LETTE. 147. Pte. Alfred	1242. Farrier Sergt. 1/ACH (Tas)
LOWTHER. Lieut. William Ponsonby	Ex. 36. Sergt. 1/TC
SMITH. 150. Farrier Sgt.	Ex. Imperial Yeomanry: Warren's Mounted Infantry.
	2114. Farrier Sgt. 3/ACH (Tas)

3rd (1st Tasmanian Imperial) Contingent = 3/TIC

BARWISE. 28. Tpr. William Kenyon	Lieut. 1/ACH (Tas)
BERWICK. 25. Tpr. William	1192. Pte. 1/ACH (Tas)
BISDEE. 24. Tpr. John Hutton, V.C.	Lieut. 4/TIBC KSA
BROWNELL. 20. Tpr. Eric Lindsay Douglas	4/TIBC
CLARK. 25. Tpr. Peter, D.C.M.	1004. Pte. 2/ACH (SA)
CLIFF. 33. Tpr. James	1666. Pte. 3/ACH (NSW)
COSTELLO. 27. Tpr. Albert Edward	1191. S.S. 1/ACH (Tas)
DOUGLAS. 46. LCpl. Gordon Adye	Imperial Commission
EGAN. 48. Tpr. James Patrick	Commission in South African Field Force
FERGUSSON. 50. Tpr. Benjamin Thomas	2132. Sgt. 1/ACH (Tas)
GARDINER. 55 Tpr. Arthur Joseph	478. Pte. 3/ACH (Tas)
GUEST. 57. Tpr. Robert William	2051. LCp. 3/ACH (Tas)
JACKSON. 73. Tpr. Charles Albert	2047. Sgt. 1/ACH (Tas)
LAUGHTON. 79. Tpr. Louis Horace	Lieut. 4/TIBC
LAWRENCE. 78. Tpr. Owen Effingham	Returned to South Africa
LITTLEJOHN. 83. Tpr. Mervyn James	259. Cpl. 8/ACH (Tas)
MAGUIRE. 90. Tpr. William Alfred	1240. Pte. 1/ACH (Tas)
SHAW. 4 Sgt. George	Lieut. 4/TIBC
STEPHENS. 3. Sgt. Edward William	Lieut. 8/ACH (Tas)
STOREY. 101. Tpr. Cameron Richard	1185. Cpl. 1/ACH (Tas)
WARD. 107. Tpr. Kenny	2088. Sgt. 1/ACH (Tas)
WYLLY, Lieut. Guy George Egerton, V.C.	Imperial Commission

4th (2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen) Contingent = 4/TIBC

BISDEE. Lieut. John Hutton, V.C.	Ex. 24. Tpr. 3/TIC	
BLYTH. Lieut. Charles Oscar	Ex. 48. Pte. 1/TC	
BRANAGAN. 129. Colour Sgt. William	Ex. 26. Pte. 1/TC KSA	
BROWNELL. 20. Pte.	Imperial Commission	
COOMBE, 259. Transport Sgt. Archibald	Ex. 25. Pte. 1/TC	KSA
CHALMERS, 2/Lieut. Frederic Royden	Ex. 10. Pte. 1/TC	KSA
CHEPMELL. 141. Sgt. Henry Douglas	Ex. 78. Pte. 1/TC Draft	KSA
DREW, 148. Acting RSM John.	Ex. Border Horse.	KSA
EMERY. 153. Pte. Percy Alexander	263. Cpl. 8/ACH (Tas)	
HALLAM. Lieut. Harry	Ex. 1. Sgt. 1/TC	
HART. 279. Pte. Richard John 315.	Pte. 8/ACH (Tas)	
JOYCE. 183. Pte. John Martial	1237. L/Cpl. 1/ACH (Tas) Doubtful	
LAUGHTON. Lieut. Louis Horace	Ex. 79. Tpr. 3/TIC	
McCORMICK. Lieut./Adjt. John	Ex. 1/TC Draft	KSA
RICHARDSON, Lieut. George Fairbrass	Ex. 113. Pte. 1/TC Draft	KSA
SWAN. Lieut. Morton Henry	Ex. 9. Pte. 1/TC	KSA
WILSON. 255. Pte. Reginald Collins	Ex. 112. Pte. 1/TC	KSA

E. Company. 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse.

BARNES. 1229. Saddler Robert Henry	Ex. 62. Pte. 1/TC
BARWISE. Lieut. William Kenyon	Ex. 28. Tpr. 3/TIC
BERWICK. 1192. Pte. William	Ex. 25. Tpr. 3/TIC
BRANSGRAVE. 1190 S.S. Henry Edward	Ex. Rimington's Guides: Brabant's Horse
BRIANT. 1181. CSM. Frederick Charles	Ex. 3. Pte. 1/TC
COSTELLO. 1191. Staff Sgt. Albert Edward	Ex. 27. Tpr. 3/TIC
JOHNSON. 1239. Pte. Joseph Thomas	Ex. Kitchener's Fighting Scouts
JOYCE. 1237. L Cpl. Joshua James	Ex. 183. Pte. (John Martial) 4/TIBC
LADE. 1238. Sgt. Cyrus	Ex. 57. Pte. 1/TC
LARNER. 1236. Cpl. Harry Elvyn	Ex. 98. Pte. 1/TC
LETTE. 1242. Farrier Sgt. Alfred	Ex. 147. Pte. 2/TBC
McGUIRE. 1240. Pte. William Alfred	Ex. 90. Pte. (MAGUIRE) 3/TIC
MORRISBY. 1184. CQMS. Frank Edward	Ex. 20. Pte. 1/TC. Died of Disease 25/6/02.
PEGG. 1198. Pte. Albert Edward	Ex. 114. Pte. 1/TC Draft
SMALLHORN. 1234. Cpl. Herbert Ernest	Ex. 117. Pte. 1/TC Draft
STOREY. 1185. Cpl. Cameron Richard	Ex. 101. Pte. 3/TIC
TILLEY. 1186. Sgt. Lionel John	Ex. Brabant's Horse

E. Squadron. 3rd Australian Commonwealth Horse.

FERGUSON. 2132. Sgt. Benjamin Furney	Ex. 50. Tpr. (B. Thomas FERGUSSON) 3/TIC
GAGE. 2138. Cpl. Henry Cleburne Ogle	Ex. Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry
GUEST. 2081. LCpl. Robert William	Ex 57. Tpr. 3/TIC
JACKSON. 2047. Sgt. Charles Arthur	Ex. 73. Tpr. (Charles Albert) 3/TIC
MATTHEWS. 2135. Lance Sergt. Lionel John	Ex. 695 Tpr. (Lionel) 2/N.S.W.M.R.
WALKER. 2128. Sgt. George Arthur	Ex. 73. Pte. 1/TC
WARD. 2088. Sgt. Kenny	Ex. 107. Cpl. 3/TIC
SMITH. 2114. Farrier Sgt. Thomas	Ex. 160. Far. Sgt. 2/TBC: Warren's M.I.: Imp. Yeo.
STOURTON. Lieut. Reginald Norman Joseph	Ex. 27666. Sgt. 1/Scottish Horse

C. Squadron. 8th Australian Commonwealth Horse.

EMERY. 263. Cpl. Percy — Ex. 153. Pte. (P. Alexander) 4/TIBC
GABY. 255. Sgt. Reginald Wigmore — Ex. 32. Pte. 1/TC
HART. 315. Pte. Richard John — Ex. 279. Pte. 4/TIBC
KEMSLEY. Lieut. George William. D.C.M. — Ex. 146. Sgt. 2/TBC
LITTLEJOHN. 259. Cpl. Mervyn James — Ex 83. Tpr. 3/TIC
PARKER. 296. Pte. Robert — Ex. Prince of Wales' Light Horse
STEPHENS. Lieut. Edward William — Ex. 3. Sgt. 3/TIC
WALKER. 251. Sergeant Major Alfred — Claimed to have served with previous Tas. Contingent

Notes

Records of Australian Contingents to the War in South Africa 1899-1902 Lieut.-Colonel P.L. Murray, R.A.A. (edit) Department of Defence, Melbourne 1911.

Muster Rolls of the Australian Commonwealth Horse Battalions. Australian Archives (Victorian Division) Outer crescent, MIDDLE BRIGHTON, Victoria, 3186.

Australian Awards of the King's South Africa Medal prepared by Major R. Clark. Military Historical Society of Puckapunyal. c. 1971 Mr A. Chaffey. West Launceston. Tasmania.

Key to abbreviations:

TC	Tasmanian Contingent
TBC	Tasmanian Bushmen Contingent
TIBC	Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen Contingent
TIC	Tasmanian Imperial Contingent
ACH	Australian Commonwealth Horse
1/TC Draft	Draft to 1st Tasmanian Contingent

Note: 1/ etc. denotes number of contingent

Book Reviews

Alan Powell, *The Shadow's Edge — Australia's Northern War*. Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Victoria, 1988, pp. xv1 and 346. 35 photographs, 6 illustrations, 4 maps, price $24.95.

Alan Powell is the Dean of Arts of the new University College of the Northern Territory, and it is therefore not surprising that he has chosen to write a wartime history of the Territory. Readers should not be misled by the title for this is really a book about Darwin's war.

Even though the book deals with World War II, its main concern is not a 'blow by blow' description of Darwin's role in the Pacific War. Instead, Alan Powell provides us with a sociological study of the effects of the war on the Territory's inhabitants — both black and white. Thus, his book is punctuated with war reminiscences from civilians and servicemen and women who were based in the Far North.

The first two chapters deal with the various half-hearted attempts that were made to provide for the defence of Darwin before Pearl Harbour. It makes depressing reading as he points out that governmental bungling, interservice rivaly and the apathy of the local inhabitants all contributed to the disaster that befell Darwin on 19 February 1942. On that day, the Japanese carrier force brought the real war to the Territory, and it was this event which Powell uses as a form of dividing line in this book. In essence he views the wartime history of the Northern Territory as being either pre-Darwin Raid or post-Darwin Raid. Although his account of this first attack on Australian soil adds nothing new to either Douglas Lockwood's or Timothy Hall's books, his assessment of the stories of panic after the raid are certainly worthy of note. By drawing upon the views of the people who were there on the day of the Darwin Raid, Powell suggests two things. Firstly that the panic after the raid was typical of what had happened elsewhere during the war, and therefore it was not an indictment of some weakness in the Australian national character. Secondly the story of a mass exodus by troops and civilians after the raid was largely a myth which reflected more on the jittery state of the morale of the public and politicians to the south than on the people in Darwin.

The latter chapters deal separately with the experiences of the Aborigines, the civilians, the base troops, the airforce, the navy and the army in having to cope with the dual problems of the War and the isolation of the Territory. Powell has collected stories from the American, British, Canadian and Australian service personnel who served in the region. Curiously though, he has no reminiscences from the Dutch forces who served there, even though he makes mention of their presence in his book.

Powell has presented us with the human side of the war in the Northern Territory. This emphasis makes it easy to forgive the few instances where he has his facts wrong. For example, he states that there were no survivors from the Dakota aircraft that was shot down during the Japanese raid on Broome on 3 March 1942. If he had consulted Bill Tyler's *Flight of Diamonds*, he would have learnt of the incredible story of the 8 survivors of the crash.

Overall though, *The Shadow's Edge* is good reading. If you are interested in the problems of Australia's northern defence, or in Australia's homefront during World War II, then this is the book for you. As well, you get the bonus of discovering what Peter Finch and John Wayne really did in the War (well, while in Darwin at least!).

JONATHON FORD

George Forty, *German Tanks of World War Two*, Blandford press, 160pp, RRP $A45.00 (£14.95).

George Forty has written many books about tanks and this is not one of his minor works.

Seven of the ten chapters detail the history and equipment of the tanks, fro the pzKpfwI to the pzKpfw IV and all the variants (including some that didn't see the light of day). Within these chapters are also accounts (Allied and German) of engagements in which the tanks were used.

The first chapter describes preparations for war, maintenance and manufacture etc. The second chapter describes organisation and training. The last chapter is devoted to superheavies, specialised vehicles and captured tanks.

The main features of this book are the dozens of rare photographs. They show the tanks in detail with nearly every variant.

German Tanks of World War Two is a well presented and detailed book giving a full description of a popular subject.

BARTEK RASZEWSKI

Members Wants Wanted: Medal groups, photographs and written material for the 50th Battalion AIF. Contact Dr Roger Freeman, 57 Sussex Terrace, Hawthorn, SA 5062.

Letter

PO Box 39 2541
Auckland West
NEW ZEALAND

Dear Sir

Mr John Sweetman of Lockeridge, WA, suggested I write to you as Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society, regarding a book I have recently brought out privately.

It is the first one to cover in any depth the New Zealand Reinforcement Badges of 1914–18, and is in a limited edition of 1,200 copies. Men who served alongside the Australians at Gallipoli, in the desert and on the Western Front, would have worn these badges initially. All the known types are illustrated and described.

I enclose a few photocopies of pages from the book and would be grateful if you could pass on the information to any of your members who may be interested. I would be happy to send further copies if you require them.

Many thanks.

Yours Truly,
G. Lowe

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

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