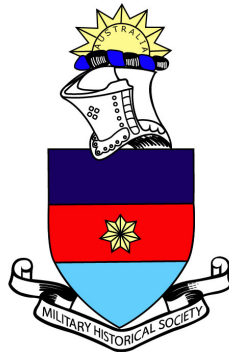


Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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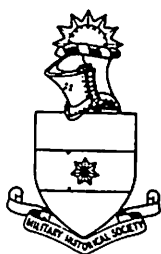
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OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1988 VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 4

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

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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.

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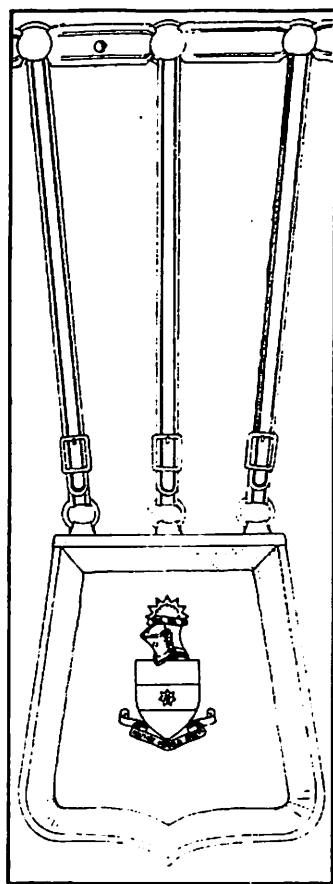
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Collector's Corner Regrettably this feature has had to be temporarily shelved due to the underwhelming response of members. Come on! Members *do* want to know about your collections and *Sabretache* is only too pleased to receive your contributions.

Army traces Vietnam service personnel Lt. Col. Neil Smith, Victorian branch secretary, advises that Central Army Records Office (CARO) is halfway through a six month project to trace the recipients of the 10 000 unclaimed Army Vietnam service medals. Andy Deville of CARO is carrying out this task, and has compiled a complete alphabetical roll of recipients. Andy can be contacted on (03) 326 5633 if you have any questions regarding the project, or if you are able to help.

Constitutional amendment Members' attention is drawn to the publication in full of the Military Historical Society's Constitution in this issue. Also published within are amendments which have been proposed for adoption by Federal Council.

War Memorial Administration Building Opens The AWM's new administration building was officially opened by the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Ben Humphries on Thursday 24 November 1988. The new building offers vastly improved working conditions for the majority of the Memorial's staff. Researchers should note however that the Research Centre, including the core photographic reference collection, is still located in the main AWM building. Access to the Research Centre is by the staff entrance at the rear of the building, opening hours are still 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.



Illawarra Museum opens On October 3 1988 the Illawarra Military Heritage Museum was formally opened. Exhibits for a preview of the museum at the opening included Vietnam, South-west Pacific 1942-45, Kembla Fortress, 34th Battalion, Illawarra industry during the war years and military vehicles. It is planned to expand the exhibits to also include the home war effort, 6 Machine-Gun Battalion, 2/3rd Battalion AIF, the resistance/partisan movements, and general militaria. Housed in the restored battery observation post of Breakwater Battery overlooking Port Kembla Harbour the museum should be open for regular public viewing from April 1989. For further information contact the Illawarra Military Heritage Society, PO Box 21, Wollongong East, NSW 2520.

Sabretache style and format Not everybody has access to a style guide such as the *Commonwealth Style Guide for Authors and Publishers*. The following points are intended to assist contributors to produce work which needs the minimum of editing before typesetting.

Length: Articles can be of any length up to a maximum of about 5000 words. If your work is significantly longer than this you may wish to consider editing it down to a more manageable size, or submitting it as a two-part series. Reviews are generally between 250-750 words in length.

Typed: Double-spaced on one side of A4-sized paper is preferable. This format enables editing corrections to be made without resorting to cramped or tiny writing. Easier for your editor and more readily understood by the typesetter.

Don't despair if you haven't a typewriter. Legible handwriting is acceptable at a pinch (and your editor is a major offender here!) but again, double-spacing (i.e. write only on every second line) makes the task of editing much easier.

Spelling/Punctuation: *Sabretache* follows the preferred spellings as given in the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*. This means, for example, that 'z' spellings are generally preferred to 's' spellings. Do by all means punctuate, but not to excess! Changing double quotation marks (" ") to single (') is one of the most time-consuming of all minor editorial chores. Lengthy quotations should be indented from the left margin, without quotation marks. Finally, UPPER CASE letters should be restricted to proper nouns and titles of specific organizations or units. For example, many of us are wont to speak of the War or World War Two when war or world war two is perfectly acceptable. '22nd Australian Infantry Brigade' is a proper usage of upper case, while a general reference to a 'brigade' (or even 'the brigade') should be in lower case. There are many other general forms of usage which can be readily identified from past issues of *Sabretache*. The titles of books or names of ships for example are printed in *italics*. The equivalent on your typewriter is to underline the words requiring an italic face. Remember, when in doubt, past issues of *Sabretache* provide a useful guide to style and usage. Happy writing!

Wendy Fisher

The RAAF in China during the second world war

It was just a throw away line — ‘I was in China during the war’ but I couldn’t believe my ears! For months — and literally right around Australia — I had been assured, most emphatically, that the RAAF was NEVER in China, and yet here was my uncle telling me he had been in China during the war. My faith in my old friend in Beijing, a former UP journalist and POW in Stanley Prison Camp for a short time, was vindicated. He remembered seeing the RAAF in Kunming. Admittedly my uncle didn’t form ‘The RAAF’ — but he did wear a RAAF uniform and there were a few others.

So after months of letter writing, phone calls and researching I finally got in touch with not only the Australian crew members of *Liberator* BZ954 of RAF Special Duties 357 Squadron who had spent a couple of months at Kunming in 1944, but also the RAF pilot who had settled here after the war. And the reason they were there was because of a delightful Australian woman — Mrs Phyllis Cast! It is an interesting story. . .

With the collapse of France in 1940, the Japanese, who already were well established in China, obtained concessions from the French Government to permit them to station troops in Indochina and use the area as a base for their operations against Malaya and the American-supported Chinese. The Japanese then expanded their position as the Siamese and indigenous Vietnamese revolutionary forces attacked the French armies. General Decoux, the Vichy Government’s Colonial Administrator in Saigon, having no real choice, signed a treaty with Tokyo on 21 July 1941. This alliance gave Japan the right to defend Indochina in return for recognition of French Sovereignty — and instigated and gave impetus to several Indochinese nationalist organisations and guerilla groups which chose to work with the allies to rid Indochina of either the French or Japanese — or both. In London, the Free French also opposed Decoux’ Japanese alliance.

In August 1943 Lord Mountbatten was in Canada, attending the first Quebec Conference, Quadrant, where he was directed to establish the South-East Asia Command — SEAC — which was to include Burma, Malaya, Sumatra, Ceylon and Siam. The question of where to draw the precise boundaries of French Indochina and the problem of whether or not to even

include Indochina in SEAC was not determined at the conference. It was agreed however that America, in conjunction with Chiang Kai-shek, would control all operations east of Burma from their headquarters in Chungking. The reason for the uncertainty about Indochina being, Roosevelt didn’t believe all the colonies in the East should be returned to the European colonial powers and he strongly advocated a trusteeship for these countries under the United Nations. Churchill, on the other hand, wished to retain cordial relationships with France, being neighbours across the English Channel. Not wanting a confrontation with America over Anglo-Gaullist relationships at this stage, he kept quiet.

As early as 1943 an American group of eighteen was actually assembled in Georgia for special parachute training with the view of being assigned to the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) in China for guerrilla work within Indochina — the idea of the US Navy’s Commodore M.E. Miles and Lt G. Devereaux. However, as Roosevelt’s anti-colonial policies became well known, the programme was abandoned. Unofficially though there were several intelligence groups with American connections operating within Indochina. One was established by the French Naval Commander Robert Meynier and another, supposedly the most reliable of all, the GBT group led by Laurence Gordon (Australian), Harry Bernaud (British) and Frank Tan (Chinese-American). This group was originally funded and aided by the British but later taken over and funded by the Fourteenth United States Army Air Force. Despite these clandestine on-the-spot links with Indochina, Washington directed that nothing should be done in regard to Indochina in case it could be seen as assisting imperialistic policies.

At Brazzaville in French Equatorial Africa in January 1944, the French Committee for National Liberation supported de Gaulle’s aim for the restoration of French Colonial rule in Indochina, where an ever increasing number of French colonists supported the idea of joining the Allies to preserve French rule in the colony. As Mountbatten himself wished to enlarge the SEAC boundaries to encompass the South China Sea ports, agents of Force 136, the British Army’s intelligence unit in India, had been conducting

intelligence and paramilitary operations in Indochina since the beginning of 1944. Believing he had Chiang's approval in the form of a 'gentlemen's agreement' made when they met in Chungking in October 1943, Mountbatten urged that French staff and troops be allowed to join his command so that eventually he could force Washington to accept French demands for aid in Indochina.

So when the French Lieutenant-General Blaizot, approached the British at the SEAC HQ in Kandy, Ceylon, Mountbatten didn't have too difficult a task to persuade his staff that French officers should take control of most, if not all, operations in Indochina. The French presented a plan, 'Operation Belief', on 21 February 1944 which involved parachuting French agents from a China-based airfield. While Mountbatten was very agreeable, and the British War Cabinet approved the idea as early as 16 February 1944, followed by the British Chiefs of Staff on 14 April, it wasn't until 4 August that Churchill agreed to have General Blaizot join Mountbatten's command — temporarily. Their inclusion in SEAC was more a token gesture on the part of the British to gain a means to an end — to force the Americans to help gain an entrance to the South China Sea ports. Finally, on 21 October, the official appointment of a permanent French Section was confirmed. Roosevelt didn't find out until the following month — November 1944!

Another of De Gaulle's delegates, Major Francois de Langlade — a former rubber plantation manager in Malaya — established an office in Calcutta, close by the RAF bases from which the RAF's Special Duty Squadron 357 — and some months later SD 358 — operated. His main task was to organise and prepare the actual sabotage and guerrilla operations in Indochina. His plans included the use of RAF planes to parachute in arms, ammunition and French agents with plans and orders.

The Free French had also set up offices in Chungking and Kunming which enabled the Americans on the spot to have direct connections with this group and they became 'very cooperative and friendly'. However, the allies did not entirely trust the French because of the political factions within both Indochina and France. The Americans used their own Office of the Strategic Services — Detachment 202 — along with the Chinese Communists and Vietminh for their intelligence network while the British tended to use their own Force 136.

Meanwhile, my uncle, Keith Noel Heilbronn (No. A.426876), with other RAAF personnel sailed in the USS *Westpoint* for the US and Canada where he undertook courses at Calgary and Mossbank. Having completed these courses he went to Nassau where he joined 111 Operational Training Unit as a Wireless Operator on Mitchells.

On 10 January 1944, he transferred to Liberators and teamed up with a RAF pilot, Flt-Lt Herbert (Bill) Cast.

They flew back to Montreal and did a six-week course on Liberators with the Atlantic Transport Group with the intention of flying to the UK to have British guns fitted into the US-built plane. However, a Liberator already fitted out with the British weaponry (EW 112) turned up, so, temporarily attached to Ferry Command the crew took it over and were directed to fly it to India instead.

Bill Cast had an Australian wife, Phyl, and a little son, Charles, who had managed to accompany him on his postings from the UK to Canada, Nassau and back to Canada. However, when the attachment to India came through Phyl and Charles were left to get back to Australia as best they could. Bill, in all innocence, believed if he selected an Australian crew he would be able to fly to Australia whenever he had any leave and see Phyl! Little did he realise he would not see them again until May 1946.

The crew Bill selected from the members available were:

E.T. Mattingley, 2nd Pilot, RAAF
R. Harvey, Navigator
K. Heilbron, WAG, RAAF
M. Cox, WAG, RAAF
W. Farish, WEM, RAF
F. Keenan, WAG, RNZAF
R. Chapman, Flt Eng, RAF
S. Simpson, Ferry Com. Radio Op., RAF

They left Quebec for Gander in Newfoundland on 25 March 1944, where it snowed for eleven days before the Met boys finally gave them clearance to fly — assuring them it was clear at 20 000 feet. The Met boys were wrong and they had to fly almost all the way to the Azores at 32 000 feet. The usual operating ceiling for Liberators was 25 000 feet. This should have been indicative of some of the problems they were to have as a crew in months to come.

Keith's log book records their trip to the East —

April 7th—Azores to Rabat Sale	6 hrs 40 mins
April 9th—Rabat Sale to C. Benito	6 hrs 20 mins
April 10th—C. Benito to Cairo	6 hrs 30 mins
April 12th—Cairo to Habaniya	5 hrs
April 13th—Habaniya to Karachi	10 hrs 10 mins

They finally arrived at Digri, near Calcutta, on 28 April to join the recently formed RAF 357 Special Duties Squadron. This squadron was formed on 1 February 1944 — an expansion from No 1576 Flight at Digri — specifically to support the considerable numbers of resistance fighters, to drop and supply agents, including the French, behind the Japanese lines in Burma, Malaya and Siam.

The crews operated as a normal RAF Squadron, undertaking parachute training at the school at Chaklala to prepare them for their rather dangerous role. Training was directed by Force 136, the British Army Intelligence unit of which Cast was also a member. He would attend briefings as a regular occurrence at the HQ of the unit — Phone No.

Calcutta PK 36! On one occasion when a briefing was in progress, Bill noticed the overhead punkhas swinging slowly. He leapt up and had the Indian Punkha-Puller arrested — such was the necessary secretiveness of the operation. Apart from Bill, contact between the crew and Force 136 was usually made by a Major Bunny Warren who appeared just before an operation — until one night when he was 'delivered also'. The French agents and the equipment to be dropped would turn up at the same time.

These operations were always preceded by a practice drop close to the home bases of Digri or Jessore. According to Eric Williams, a navigator who joined Cast's crew later in 1944 when it was decided two navigators were necessary for these long flights, only one practice drop was made before the actual drop behind the lines. The agents, often Burmese women during the later stages of the tour, were strapped into parachutes and pushed out at the precise moment as often the target area was only a small cleared patch in the jungle or on the side of a hill. One such dummy run failed when the drop was made a second too late and the agents were all killed.

During May, Cast began his love/hate relationship with his plane BZ 954 and made two thirteen-hour flights into French Indochina to fly in agents and supplies. At this late date Cast can't really recall any details of these flights. On 24 June, Keith, flying with another crew in Liberator BZ 901, made his first flight to Kunming, China, over 'the hump' where they stayed for two nights before returning to Chabua in India. The Australian Journalist, George Johnston, also flew 'the hump' in June 1944 and he wrote in the *Argus* that '...on this rooftop of the world, geographical knowledge is so meagre and maps so unreliable . . . the "hump" route is still the world's most hazardous air route regularly flown'. Actually, the maps were very good.

While July is a blank in Keith's log book as he had dysentery and was hospitalized in India, Bill's logbook records BZ 954 flew to Kunming on 2 July. Bill wrote:

We crossed the 'Hump' from the Assam Valley to China at 18 500 in bad weather accompanied by an experienced American Transport pilot as the previous attempt to carry out this op. had

The crew of Liberator EW 112 in Montreal, Canada, prior to their ferrying flight to India, 1944. Left to right: E.J. Mattingley, F.J. Keenan, W. Cast, K.N. Heilbron, R. Harvey, M.J. Cox, B. Farish.



resulted in the loss of the aircraft and crew ... On 5/6 July the operation was carried out successfully.

On 6 July Major Langlade and two other French agents were parachuted into Vietnam near Lang-son to give a verbal message from de Gaulle and discuss tactics at Hanoi with General Mordant and General Ayme, the Commandant of the Tonkinese Army which had swung over to de Gaullist ideals of planning to cooperate with the Allies. Bill Cast believes that Langlade was not the agent's real name and that in fact the second agent was really the senior man — possibly General Leclerc who in reality was Viscomte Philippe de Hauteclocque.

Keith resumed flying with the crew, which also included a second Australian navigator, Eric Williams, on 21 August and flew back to Kunming on 29 August where the crew remained until 30 October — the RAAF really were in China! Well — five members anyway!

Log books show that they flew only five actual operations during that period — 4 at night. The reason the crew believes they were based in Kunming at this time, apart from its relatively close proximity to Indochina, was due to the monsoonal weather which made flying from Indian bases impossible. Having nothing like a Pathfinder squadron and very few navigational aids in this area, all operations were only carried out on moonlight nights. Hence no moon equalled no operation. By being based in Kunming they could at least fly down to French Indochina, some 550 kilometres as the crow flies, avoiding the worst of the weather and the Japanese although on two flights they were attacked and on another they encountered St Elmo's Fire which put their radio out of action.

On their first trip to Kunming, Cast and Mattingley were put up in the residence of the British Military Attache while the other crew members were in what Max Cox remembers as the stables. They were quite comfortable and the buildings indeed were some of the best in Kunming. Keith remembers tipping over a bath upstairs and incurring the wrath of their Chinese host as the water flooded the rooms below. During their prolonged stay in Kunming all the crew were billeted at the American base right at the air strip.

The members of 357 Squadron were told NOT to talk about their unit ... not that they were told anything more than necessary. Cameras and diaries were not allowed. 'What you didn't know, you couldn't tell if you were caught' wrote Max Cox. Officially, the Americans, knowing full well their President's views, and possibly not aware of Mountbatten's understanding with Chiang Kai-shek, saw the British and French operations as being politically motivated. However the Americans at the US base at Kunming on the other hand, couldn't have been more helpful.

Despite being warned not to disclose their mission and routes to anyone, on arrival at Kunming the Americans supplied Cast's crew with accommodation, food and all the guns and ammunition they required for the flights south, even refusing to take the guns back on completion of their Kunming based tour. (Because of the distance the plane had to fly just to get to Kunming from India, its armament had to be decreased to allow for extra fuel.) After one mission to Hanoi when Cast took evasive action over the South China Sea to try to shake off a Japanese aircraft, the Americans did a fighter sweep over the area on the following day to clear the area for the next flight.

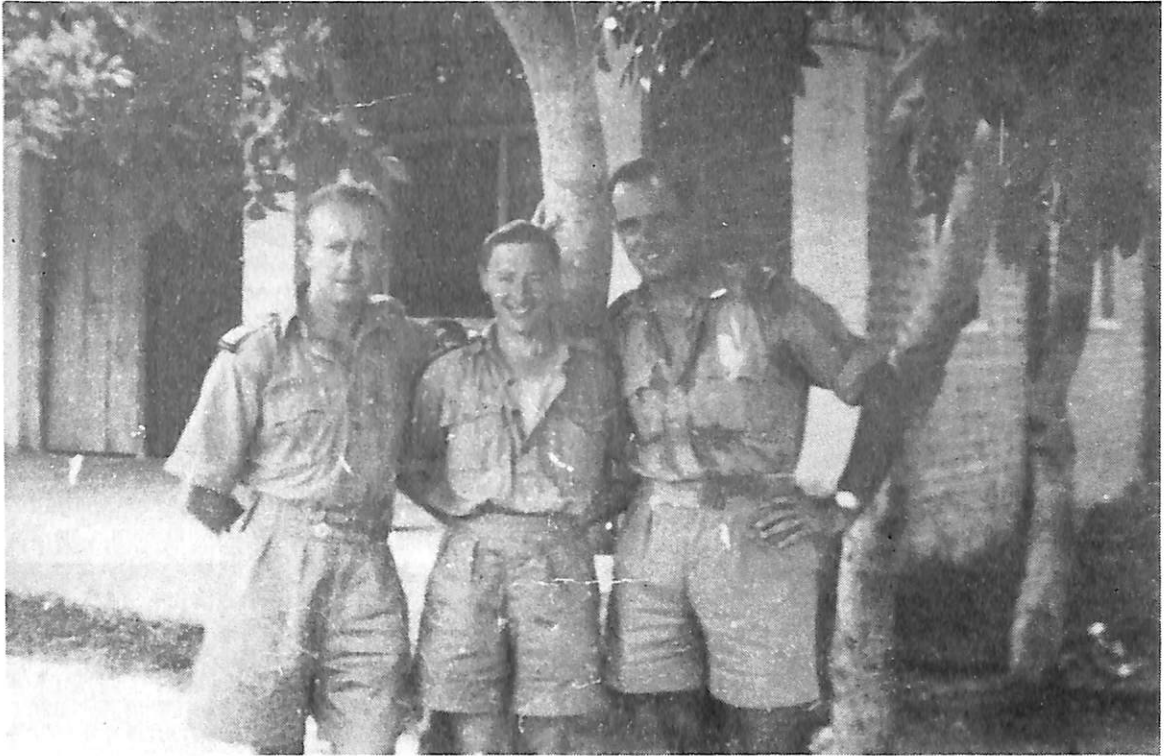
Memories of Kunming include a feed of a very good steak, coffee at 80 yuan a cup, very good rates of exchange on the black market for both US\$, Rupees and Scotch, Chapman and an American being arrested by the Chinese over an incident with a prostitute, being told one million Chinese lived on the main street in 1944, Col Kenny Brand (the head of 136 in Kunming) saying that as soon as his secretary started looking like Gladys Cooper it was time for him to go on leave and hazy recollections of visits to a Chinese temple some 12 miles outside of Kunming.

The New Zealand Naval Commander R.B. Goodwin, who had escaped from the Japanese Sham Sui Po Camp at Kowloon, was also in Kunming, staying at the British Military Mission Mess. While billeted with the Americans, Max remembers vividly:

one day a whole team of Chinese Coolies were engaged in emptying out the latrines — the odours were horrific. Then a couple of Chinese 'helpers' did wonders by spraying the flies in the mess kitchen with DDT in the evening. The problem was the powdered eggs etc. had been prepared for breakfast and were goodly laced with DDT — hence the latrines again filled up rapidly!

While General Stilwell had turned a blind eye to cooperating with the British and the flights into FIC, when General Wedemeyer took over from Stilwell in October he argued that Mountbatten seemed to be wasting both planes and fuel which could be better employed in conventional operations over Burma. The Americans closed Kunming airport to the RAF for all clandestine operations which involved the French — 357 Squadron's one Liberator.

After being banished from Kunming — conveniently after the typhoons had abated — the British and the French, not really hampered by the Americans anti-colonial political policies, continued their night-time flights into Indochina from Jessore. These night-time operations made by both 357 and 358 SD Squadrons were the longest and most hazardous ever flown in Liberators anywhere at any time during the war. On 27 January 1945 Cast and crew (who included co-pilot in training CO WgCdr Hodges RAF, DSO and bar, DFC and two bars!!) made what they believed was the longest flight ever over all enemy-held



Eric Williams (centre) with comrades outside the Jessore mess, 1944 (author's collection).

territory of 3000 miles from Calcutta to south of Saigon and back.

The planes themselves were not the easiest to fly, especially in the climatic conditions found over Burma, India and China, so the number of actual operations was, up to this point at the end of 1944, comparatively few. 'The extreme conditions of heat and humidity played havoc with aircraft if left standing idle', one member wrote. Cast recalled the rather high accident rate for the Liberators in the early days of the squadron. The metal fuel tanks were lined with a rubber bladder which, in the heat, contracted away from the metal. Although full of fuel and registering full on the gauge the bladders did not contain the maximum amount of fuel, causing the planes to run out of fuel and crash before reaching home base.

One safety precaution for this squadron was a coded beacon fitted so allied squadrons could identify them while they maintained radio silence. However, on one occasion, the identifying emitter was not fitted to Cast's plane and a Beaufighter trailed the Liberator for some distance before, to Cast's crew's great relief,

falling behind. Later the Beaufighter pilot told Cast the only reason he had not shot him down was he did not believe the Japanese had four-engined planes of that size in the area!

The weather and ground activities in the reception areas were the main determining factors in the successful completion of a mission as they frequently flew at only 600 ft and a few knots above the stalling speed of the aircraft over that unbelievably mountainous terrain. Also, facing their growing feelings of guilt at having collaborated with the Japanese, many of the Free French agents literally threw themselves into their subversive tasks with the greatest enthusiasm and took great risks — and alerted the Japanese who finally took measures to counteract the plans to free Indochina very effectively on March 9, 1945.

For his ability as a very competent pilot, his Commanding Officer, Wing Commander W.C. Hodges, recommended Bill Cast be awarded the DFC. One of Cast's crew wrote, 'he could certainly drive an aeroplane he could!' Cast also knew when not to fly it. After several pieces of motor fell to bits

over Hanoi and hydraulic failure of the flaps, Bill refused to fly the old 'gremlin ridden BZ 954 — and he had enough rank to get away with it!' On returning to Jessore on 16 November Bill wrote he:

walked away from that aeroplane without looking back and told my CO that I wouldn't fly it again — and I never did. The crew got a nice new KH series plane, BZ 909.

Ron Harvey, the Australian navigator, received the accolades of his companions for his skills as a superb navigator. He always got the plane to the pre-arranged dropping zone which was usually nothing more than a tiny paddy field some 1200 miles from home base often in 'weather even the receiving committee considered it was wasting time to light the recognition torches!' And he got them home again with the aid of the beautifully printed detailed coloured silk maps issued to him. But the overall success of these clandestine missions were, on the whole, very much a team effort.

Cast and his crew were awarded the *Croix de Guerre* by the French authorities — although only Cast has received his. The citation for the *Croix de Guerre* — *Etoile d'Argent* Cast and the crew were awarded is more specific. . .

These officers and airmen were the crew of a Liberator which took part in the Langlade/Milon Mission to Indochina during July. This was an important mission completed for the French Commander and involved two long and dangerous flights. The first occurred on 3 July which took them over the Himalayas from India to the Kunming base and was carried out in terrible atmospheric conditions. The other occurred on 5 July over Indochinese territory. In spite of one engine cutting out, after an hour's flight, Flight Lieutenant Cast, who was in command, continued the mission. He only returned to Kunming after completing it with a second engine out of action. On 26 July, Flight Lieutenant Cast also



Keith Heilbron receiving the Distinguished Flying Medal from the Duke of Gloucester, Rockhampton 1946 (author's collection).

carried out successfully a sortie, during which supplies were dropped for the Indochinese resistance group. Two sorties to Indochina by the Liberator had been previously made in May.

Another gesture of French thanks and goodwill was made to Cast's crew on Christmas Day 1944 when they were presented with a crate of Scotch prior to flying to Hanoi. However, they were not very happy on returning some eighteen hours later to find their Christmas gift empty!

Keith Heilbron, having been ill during the early flights into Indo-China when the French Generals were flown in, was awarded the DFM presented by the Duke of Gloucester in Rockhampton, in 1946 for his contribution to the crew's success in getting the French into the area. Cast's crew between them won three DFCs, two DFMs, eight *Croix de Guerre* and eight 1939-45 stars. Ironically, in 1938 Cast had applied to the Chinese Embassy in London to join their airforce as a pilot. His services were not required! He married Phyllis instead.

Because the British and the Americans operated independently to some extent, the lack of communication eventually led to the loss of three Liberators of 357 Squadron's sister squadron 358 on the night of 23 January, 1945. They were shot down by fighters of the US Fourteenth Air Force which mistook them for Japanese bombers. Even the RAF Liaison Officer with the Fourteenth Air Force in Kunming had not been informed of the mission 'owing to the political situation'. This, and similar incidents, led to renewed appeals by both Wedemeyer and Mountbatten to their respective governments for closer cooperation.

After Roosevelt's death and the Japanese coup in Indochina on 9 March 1945, closer cooperation did take place — although too late according to some historians — to undo the damaged relations in Indochina which were to have repercussions for the next three decades.

NOTE: Bill Cast came out to Australia and became one of TAA's most senior pilots. He and other crew members are all living on Australia's east coast — from Launceston to Rockhampton.



Frank Keenan, Max Cox, Elvin Mattingley, Bill Cast and Bill Farish pose in front of a Lockheed Liberator (author's collection).

Leigh Edmonds

The 'Flakintel' Section

Most military history is written about the achievements of men confronting the enemy, or the great men who oversaw great events, or the great strategic and tactical movements in war. However, complex modern warfare demand vast support structures able to ensure that men and material are in a position to meet the enemy on favorable terms. This article sets out to describe one small section — and some of its activities — which played a part in ensuring that the men and machines of the Royal Australian Air Force operating against the Japanese in the South-West Pacific Area during the latter period of the second world war were better prepared to face the enemy threat. This article deliberately avoids discussion of the intelligence information which the Flakintel section created, studied and passed on to the men at the front. That is for another article.

By the second half of 1944 the Japanese air presence over the lower half of the South-West Pacific Area had dwindled away to almost nothing. Although Allied aircraft were largely free to roam as they pleased they still found that the airspace around important Japanese bases was keenly contested by anti-aircraft fire. As the Japanese relied more upon ground-based defence their equipment and their skill in using it increased, presenting a growing threat to allied aircraft attacking Japanese surface targets. In response the Allied Air Forces paid closer attention to this anti-aircraft threat. The United States Army Air Force created a Flak Intelligence Section which served both its own and Royal Australian Air Force formations. US information was passed to RAAF users through the Flakintel Section of the Central Interpretation Unit of RAAF Command.

RAAF Command controlled the operational units of the Royal Australian Air Force which were incorporated in the Allied Air Forces of the South-West Pacific Area. It was initially based in Brisbane. The Central Interpretation Unit was only a part of RAAF Command's overall intelligence staff, having, in April 1944, an establishment of twenty out of a total intelligence staff of 265.¹ The task of the Central Interpretation Unit was to study all aspects of objective intelligence concerning actual or potential targets for attack. As targets which had previously been out of attack range were rapidly coming within reach this

work became increasingly important and in demand. In the first instance it involved close research of geographic and economic information leading to the choice of targets. This required a great deal of detailed work which was necessary for the effective attack of those targets including: detailed photographic interpretation; model preparation; collation of all available intelligence material (such as target photos, target maps, approach plans, orientation maps, flak mosaics, intelligence maps, oblique sketches and model photographs) to squadrons in the field and operational training units.² The proper appreciation of targets included intelligence on the presence and strength of Japanese anti-aircraft defences.

When the Flakintel Section of CIU was created it was intended to work alongside the US Flakintel Section while, at the same time, establishing the nucleus of a section which could operate independently if the American counterpart moved on. In June 1944 a decision was made that RAAF officers with flying experience would be trained in flak intelligence and allotted to the various Areas and Wings which required the service; they were trained at Flakintel Section and then sent out to the various RAAF units.³ In May 1944 approval was given for three Army officers to be attached to RAAF Command to give the Air Officer Commanding advice on flak intelligence matters, but the matter was still under action in August 1944.⁴ The plan was that one Army officer would be stationed at Flakintel Section Headquarters in Brisbane and the other two would be stationed in the field. By September three Australian Army officers, Major H.R. Latreille, Major F.H. Davidson and Captain W.C. McLachlan, arrived in Brisbane and were put through a course on the fundamental principles of flak intelligence by previous Flakintel Section officers. This course lasted about a month and at its conclusion Major Latreille assumed command of the Flakintel Section.⁵

When the US forces did move on, however, the Flakintel Section had to take care of a separate zone of responsibility and its work load was much increased. In order to co-ordinate all phases of flak intelligence the Army officers needed to spend much time in the field with operational units, but this limited the time available to them for research and collation of flak

intelligence.⁶ During the first trip of a Flakintel Section officer to an operational area Major Latreille flew on a mission with 380 Bomber Group. The aircraft in which he flew did not reach the target but put down in the ocean. He was posted missing and Major Davidson took command of the Section.

By November 1944 the Flakintel Section consisted of three Army officers and two RAAF officers. The Army officers were primarily responsible for the study of the higher phases of flak intelligence development, an appreciation of the technical performance of Japanese equipment, potential developments in weapons performance, fire control methods and tactical deployment of Japanese anti-aircraft artillery. It was believed that Army officers properly trained in all aspects of artillery and anti-aircraft artillery were more suited to deal with these technical matters. One RAAF Officer served as the Section Executive Officer and another was trained in photographic interpretation and anti-aircraft positions.⁷ There were a further eight officers working in flak intelligence in forward areas, providing liaison between the Section and operational formations down to Wing level.

In January 1945 approval was given for four Army lieutenants with a sound knowledge of anti-aircraft and operational experience to be attached to the Flakintel Section. They were trained in flak intelligence and then attached for duty at each Area headquarters to provide technical assistance to the RAAF Flakintel officer. This allowed the senior Army officers in Flakintel to spend more time in research work and to move more freely when in the field to conduct research — for example, in newly occupied areas it allowed them to move in and make an early appreciation of captured equipment.⁸

There were seven staff working in the Flakintel Section by February 1945. They were an Army Major (Officer-in-Charge), two Army Captains (Drafting Officer and Collating Officer), a Flight Lieutenant (Executive Officer), a Flying Officer (Photo Interpreter), and two other ranks clerks. The Officer Commanding was responsible for section policy, for liaison with all outside units and theatres, and for the co-ordination of all activities in the section, including the training of Flakintel officers. The Drafting Officer supervised the production of all graphic material such as flak mosaics and also the preparation of illustrative intelligence reports and summaries. The Collating Officer was responsible for handling all documents of flak value, extracting and recording flak intelligence and preparing submissions of articles and reports for intelligence reports and summaries. The Executive Officer took care of Section administration (under the direction of the Officer Commanding) and initially scanned all written material to see if it contained anything of flak intelligence value. He also recorded all details of enemy anti-aircraft performance, and kept the battle situation and flak intelligence wall maps up to date. The Photo Interpreter worked with the Photo Interpretation Section of CIU and was

responsible for the location and identification of all Japanese anti-aircraft positions. He also maintained a set of flakintel position co-ordinate cards for all interpreted targets and kept flak mosaics available. The clerks undertook typing and secretarial work, filing, recording and despatch duties.⁹

One of the most important kinds of intelligence gathered and kept by the Flakintel Section was the location of every known enemy anti-aircraft emplacement in the RAAF area of operation as well as an appraisal of the types of anti-aircraft artillery used from them. A primary source of information was photographs, but additional intelligence could be gleaned from the flak interrogation sheets supplied to the Section by Wing Flakintel officers. Every piece of information was carefully recorded and noted on cards and flak mosaics. The result of this work was a very accurate picture of the enemy anti-aircraft fire so far met by RAAF aircraft which could be used to prepare advice on routes and attack paths into and out of targets so that the effectiveness of anti-aircraft fire could be minimised.¹⁰

The Collation Officer examined every document which went to him with potentially useful intelligence about enemy anti-aircraft activities. Everything of interest was extracted and incorporated into section records so that a very thorough compendium of knowledge of all aspect of enemy anti-aircraft operations was built up. It was carefully indexed on cards so that any information could be easily extracted if necessary.¹¹

The most important function of the Flakintel Section was to make information on Japanese anti-aircraft activity available to all who needed it. To do this it promulgated five main types of information: the location of enemy anti-aircraft installations; details of the level of enemy anti-aircraft activity; details and developments of enemy anti-aircraft including tactics, organization and training; methods of applying flak intelligence to target appreciation and flak analysis of targets; and provision of sundry graphic material.¹²

The location of enemy anti-aircraft installations, indicated on flak mosaics, was produced and sent to squadrons which needed them with the minimum of delay. Each week a list of flak mosaics was made available so that units not on the regular distribution list could order any mosaics it required. In addition, lists of flak position co-ordinates were produced and made available to the same units that received the list of flak mosaics.

Details of the level of enemy anti-aircraft activity were recorded on cards in the Section and, at the close of each month, this information was consolidated onto Area Performance Schedules and made available to Flakintel officers in the field.

Intelligence on details and development of enemy anti-aircraft was promulgated in the RAAF Command Intelligence Summary and also made available to

users through the Flakintel Handbook, Bulletins, Memoranda and Newsletter.

Methods of using anti-aircraft intelligence and flak analysis included giving instruction on basic gunnery principles, the use of flak intelligence material in planning, the detailed duties of Flakintel Officers, and the technical developments in anti-aircraft equipment. In addition, from time to time, a periodic flak analysis of relevant targets was produced and made available through Objective Intelligence Reports.

Graphic material produced by the Section on all aspects of flak intelligence was distributed direct to the field for distribution to squadrons.¹³

Not all the information with the Flakintel Section sent out to operation units was originated in the Section. In particular, a considerable amount on the technical performance, use and training of Japanese flak came from sources such as the US Pacific Area headquarters and from the UK Far East Air Force—information on general principles of anti-aircraft were also drawn from the European theatre.¹⁴ An important technical advance in the flak analysis of targets carried out in the RAAF area of responsibility followed the visit of a Flakintel Officer from the Far East Air Force in January 1945. He brought a new method of analysis which was a definite step towards the accurate analysis and assessment of the most flak-free course into and out of a target. It used formulae developed by American and British mathematicians to calculate the flight time of projectiles over a given aircraft course. This gave a mathematically accurate solution which allowed a much more accurate computation of routes into and out of targets. The key to the new method was a 'flak computer' which was photographically reproduced from overseas originals. This complex method of target analysis was later supplemented by other methods which allowed a rapid analysis of the target and could be used in emergencies when there was not time for a complete and proper analysis of a target.¹⁵

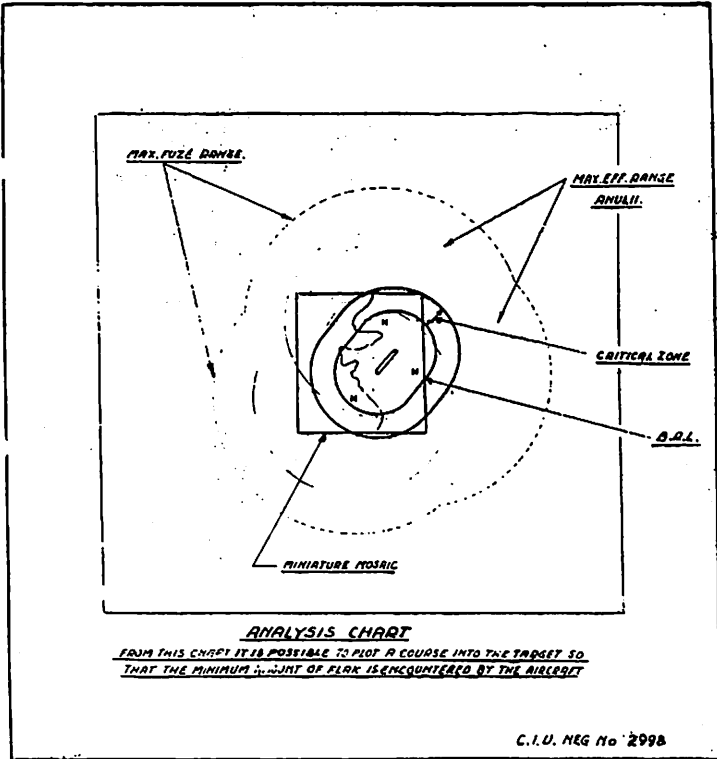
The Flakintel Section was heavily involved in liaison with all other allied forces and with training officers in the basics of flak and the principles of flak analysis. It was not unusual for officers from operational units to drop in for a visit or for representatives of forces in other theatres to call in to swap information, including visits from officers of the Royal Artillery with experience in the European theatre. Officers of the section were also attached to other organizations to gain additional experience and information or to share their knowledge with others. For example, towards the end of May 1945 Major McLachlan spent a day discussing flak analysis for high level, dive and glide bombing, and low level and ground strafing with two officers of the British Pacific Fleet. They suggested that it would be useful for the Major to be temporarily attached to the fleet and he spent some time there before returning to the section in the first week of July. Major Davidson spent four days in April 1945 attached to the school of Artillery (A/A).¹⁶

All kinds of training courses and lectures were provided by the Section; either in Brisbane, at other headquarters, or in forward areas. In February McLachlan went to the North-West Area to give instruction to the heavy bomber wings there who were very anxious to have flak analysis of defended targets prior to attacks. (He was not able to establish flak intelligence there properly then, partly because the Army officer who was to be attached to the Wings had not yet arrived.) Informal talks and discussions were commonly given, as when officers of 120 Squadron and 683 Group called in for particulars of the anti-aircraft defences of New Britain towards the end of November 1944, or when a course from the School of Military Intelligence was shown over the section and given a brief talk on its activities in mid-January 1945. It conducted longer formal courses in all aspects of flak intelligence for those officers who were to serve as Flak Intelligence Officers with the operational units such as Area commands or Wings under RAAF Command control.¹⁷

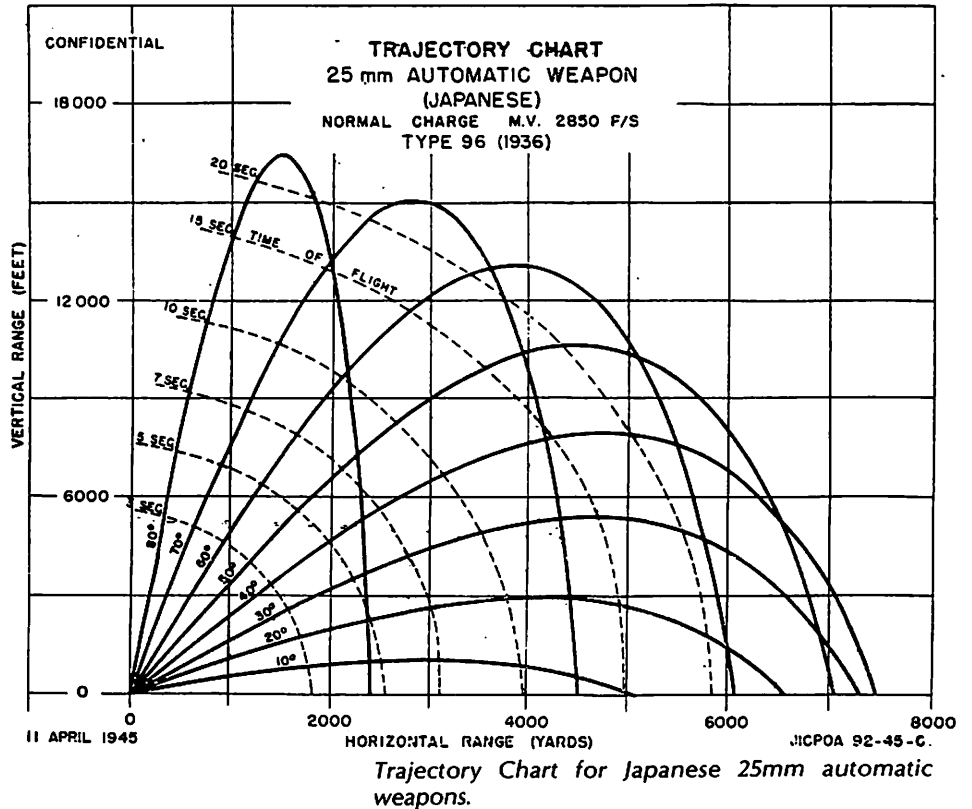
In addition to these activities there was the routine of section activity in preparing material for publication, analyzing intelligence and keeping on top of the paperwork. One of the largest projects of the Section was the *Flak Intelligence Handbook* which was ready for publication by the end of November 1944 but not widely distributed until February 1945 due to printing and other administrative problems. It was a compendium of information on Japanese equipment, tactics and organization up to August 1944 which was to be made available to all formations which required the information, and several hundred copies were distributed. The *Handbook* was a loose leaf book intended to be updated, but it was superseded by a more up-to-date book produced in April 1945 by the United States.¹⁸

The section published weekly and monthly lists, and a series of ten *Flakintel Memoranda* were published from late 1944 to June 1945 setting out the organization of the flak intelligence dissemination network within the RAAF and giving highly detailed flak analysis information for a variety of methods of attack on targets defended by enemy anti-aircraft weapons. On occasions these normally routine activities were not without their own drama and frustrations:

Sat., 2 Dec. A heavy day. First of all, no stencils that would reproduce the area performance sheets effectively were available; and it looked as though they would have to be typed in 2 strikes, and as there were 17 sheets that alone would have been a day's work. Finally the necessary stencils were borrowed by AG Radio & Cable Section. Unfortunately when the stencils were cut, the machine, although not in use, could not be used because of the collation of the CIU publication. A machine was borrowed from AG Radio & Cable Section and finally the sheets were finished by 1700, and with some impressed



Flak Analysis Chart.



labour from other sections were collated and despatched by 1720.¹⁹

In June the section published the first issue of the *Flakintel Newsletter* which was to be 'published when ever sufficient information warrants production'. It was designed to keep Flakintel Officers in the field:

informed of all new development in enemy anti-aircraft methods and equipment, and Allied counter measures which have proved successful. The sources of information will be all publications outside the RAAF Command which do not receive complete distribution to all RAAF units. The articles reproduced are selected as being of immediate value or as having possible bearing on future operations. Articles illustrating trends of Japanese anti-aircraft are also included for general information of Flakintel Officers.

Items in the issue included: flak cars on Formosan railroads; masthead bombing; armament on Japanese LSMs; a report on Japanese defence against night attacks; Japanese heavy anti-aircraft guns versus strafing Hurricanes; employment of anti-aircraft in the Central Pacific, and so on.²⁰

It appears however that only one issue of this *Newsletter* was published; the war in the Pacific was entering its last few weeks. The Flakintel Section was wound up at the end of August 1945,²¹ and the whole of RAAF Command was dissolved on 6 September 1945.²²

Unlike many military organizations of this time, Australian flak intelligence did not follow the British model. In Britain the study of enemy anti-aircraft artillery was largely an Army concern conducted by MI15. The RAF gave little prominence to flak in briefing its air crews although it did use flak analysis in planning target approach and breakaway.²³

Australia followed the American model, in which army anti-aircraft artillery officers were attached to the US Army Air Force. The RAAF controlled flak intelligence although Army Officers were used as technical advisers.²⁴ Air crews were briefed on flak but, since the briefing was conducted by RAAF officers who had usually received training from the Flakintel Section, they followed the policy of advising air crew of the menace of flak but not overemphasising it for fear that it would affect crew morale; 'policy behind this presentation is that although enemy flak is a menace,' it was said, 'intelligent approach can and does minimise risk.'²⁵ The duty of the Flak Officer in the field was to plan approaches and see that aircraft were given the best course into and out of the target area. In training courses (often conducted by the Army officers in the Flakintel Section) it was emphasised that although Army officers were responsible for the higher study of flak, in the field only RAAF officers were involved in air crew briefing.²⁶

The flow of intelligence into and out of the Flakintel Section involved other command organizations and the internal structure of RAAF Command. To a large

extent the intelligence gained from other high level organizations was collated and presented in a form useful to RAAF units. Within the RAAF the flow of intelligence to and from the section was channeled through Flakintel Officers at Area Headquarters and at Wing level. Intelligence was gained from photographic interpretation, air crew reports, mission reports, POW interrogation, Japanese Order of Battle, captured documents and equipment, and reports from other theatres. The digested intelligence was fed back to Flakintel officers in the form of flak mosaics and co-ordination cards, flak position co-ordinates, records of enemy anti-aircraft activity weapon trajectory charts, graphic illustrative material, directives and articles, the Flak Intelligence Handbook and through training courses and lectures.²⁷

In the Area Headquarters there was an Army and an RAAF officer who were responsible for all flak intelligence within the Area and the dissemination of information between the Section and operating units. At Wing level there was one RAAF officer who was responsible for preparing information for specific missions, providing briefings as required, interrogations and co-ordination of flak planning and interrogation work by Squadron Intelligence Officers. At the squadron level flak was only one of the matters handled by the Intelligence Officer. Flak officers in the field were advised to:

see that all information dealing with flak reached the people concerned — feature display material on any available wall space — discuss flak work informally — never force the idea of flak down anyone's throat, but make it known that you have the answers to problems likely to arise — be present at as many briefings and interrogations as possible — let the air crew members see that you appreciate what information, photographs, etc., they are able to give you.²⁸

At this level officers were discouraged from touching upon the technical aspect of flak because it would be very easy to make air crew members unnecessarily wary of anti-aircraft fire. Information such as the shape and density of shell bursts, or the presence of tracer, were collected in a raw form and transmitted up the network to the Flakintel Section where they were collated, and then sent down again in a form designed to make future operations in airspace threatened by flak more likely to be successful and less potentially dangerous to RAAF aircraft.

At its height the Flakintel Section had no more than ten staff members based in Brisbane. However, by using a small number of additional men spread throughout all operational formations of the RAAF, the section was able to spread its message that 'Flak can be defeated' and provide the passive weapons for that victory to every member of the RAAF involved in planning and fighting the air war against the Japanese. Its influence was not to be heavy-handed, rather it was a steady and informed background presence

designed to make air crew more confident and capable in their work.

It is almost impossible to determine the effectiveness of the Flakintel Section or to judge its value to the RAAF effort in the South West Pacific Area. Statistics such as enemy aircraft destroyed, number of sorties conducted, tons of bombs dropped or rounds of ammunition fired are positive factors and easily measured. Equally easily measured are number of aircraft lost in combat, air crew killed, and other losses. It may also be possible to estimate, in some

statistical form, the declining loss from anti-aircraft fire, but is it possible to ultimately calculate the value of a Section whose objective was to make sure that friendly aircraft were not in a part of the sky when enemy fire crossed it?

The author would be very interested in hearing from anyone who was involved in Flak intelligence in the South West Pacific Area, in particular those who used the services provided by the Flakintel Section at any level.

END NOTES

1. Memorandum to Secretary, Air Board from Air Officer Commanding, RAAF Command, 11 April 1944, CRS A705, file 231/9/1261, part 1B.
2. Minute CIU/A/14 'Establishment HD582C — Section A-6 (CIU)', 8 November 1944, CRS A705, file 231/9/1261, part 1B.
3. 'History of Flakintel Section, RAAF', AWM54, file 32/9/7.
4. Memorandum to Secretary, Air Board from Air Officer Commanding, RAAF Command, 8 August 1944, CRS S705, file 231/9/1261, part 1B.
5. 'History of Flakintel Section', *loc cit.*
6. Memorandum to Secretary, Air Board from Air Officer Commanding, RAAF Command, 26 November 1944, CRS A705, file 231/9/1261, part 1B.
7. Memorandum 26 November 1944, *loc cit.*
8. 'History of Flakintel Section', *loc cit.*
9. 'Flakintel Section — SOP for Internal Office Organization', AWM54, file 32/9/3.
10. 'Lecture — Flakintel', AWM54, file 32/9/4.
11. *ibid.*
12. 'Flakintel Section SOP', *loc cit.*
13. *ibid.*
14. For example, notes on a US 7th Air Force Intelligence Summary included in Flakintel Training Lectures, AWM54, file 32/9/4.
15. 'History of Flakintel Section', *loc cit.*
16. *Flakintel Weekly Reports*, AWM54, file 32/9/2.
17. *ibid.*
18. *ibid.*
19. *ibid.*
20. *Flakintel Newsletter* No. 1, 16 June 1945', AWM54, file 32/3/2.
21. 'History of Flakintel Section', *loc cit.*
22. Harry Rayner, *Scherger*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1984, p.69.
23. 'Control of Flakintel', AWM54, file 32/9/4.
24. 'An introduction to Flakintel', AWM54, file 32/9/4.
25. 'Introduction to Flakintel', *loc cit.*
26. *ibid.*
27. 'Introduction to Flakintel', *loc cit.*
28. 'Promulgation of Flak Intelligence', AWM54, file 32/9/4.

Clem Sargent

Two More Regimental Medals To The 48th

An article 'The first medal to troops in Australia' published in *Sabretache* Vol. XXVIII No. 1, January/March 1987 described a regimental medal issued to veterans of the Peninsular War still serving in the 48th, the Northamptonshire Regiment, in 1819 when the regiment was in New South Wales. The article gave details of two authentic medals in Australian collections.

Since then two more medals have come to light, one in a private Australian collection and one now in the collection of the Mint and Barracks Museum, Sydney. The service of both recipients in New South Wales is well documented in the Muster Books and Pay Lists of the 48th and both are mentioned in other sources as serving in the Colony in 1819, substantiating the claim made in the 1987 article that the medal was received only by those veterans with the regiment in 1819, while in New South Wales.

The first of these two medals, in a private collection, is to 'BENJ HANDSTOCK' with the actions Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, and Toulouse. Handstock, also occasionally spelt 'Hindstock' in the muster records, enlisted in the 48th at Hythe, Kent, on 1 May 1811 at the age of twenty-one. He joined the regiment in Spain in time to take part in the bloody sieges of 1812 and the remaining battles in which the 48th fought in Spain and the south of France. He sailed to New South Wales with the headquarters of the regiment in the transport *Matilda* arriving in Sydney on 3 August 1817. Handstock was in Sydney until 1821 when he was detached to Hobart Town and remained there until he was invalided to England on 30 June 1823 for discharge 'in consequence of loss of Thumb left Hand by Wound'. He was at that time supernumerary to the strength of the regiment following the reduction of its establishment in 1822.

Handstock returned to England and was discharged on a pension of sixpence a day, increased to ninepence in January 1857. In 1848 he was awarded his Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 with clasps for the same eight actions which appear on his regimental medal. The pension records show that he died at Derby 18 November 1869, nine years after he made an appearance in a court case mounted by the children of Major George Druitt, seeking resolution of their claim to the Irish estate of the late major. Druitt

on his arrival with the 48th in 1817 persuaded Margaret, married to Private Terrence Burn in a shipboard ceremony two days after the *Matilda* had sailed from Cork, to leave Burn and to take up residence with Druitt. In the Court of the Queen's Bench in Dublin on Friday 22 June 1860 Handstock appeared as a witness to vouch that Margaret 'did not live with her husband at all after arriving in Sydney, but went direct to the Major'. The statement by Handstock appealed to the sense of humour of the court and the old soldier's evidence was greeted with laughter.

The second medal, to THOS. HEWITT, now in the collection of the Mint and Barracks Museum is more difficult to identify. It was one of a family group offered by Spinks Australia in their auction of 16-17 March 1988. The regimental medal shows ten auctions — Talavera, Albuera, Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes and Toulouse. The other medal in the group was to THOS. HEWITT, Coldstream Guards, with clasps Alma, Balaclava and Inkermann.

Identification of the regimental medal presented some initial difficulty as there were two Private Thomas Hewitts in the 48th in New South Wales. Records of both are available from the Muster Rolls and Pay lists but the services of both are also documented in the biography *Mary Anne Wellington, Soldier's Daughter, Wife and Widow*, by the Reverend Richard Cobbold, published in 1846, one year before the authorisation of the Military General Service Medal 1793-1814; a fact which becomes of significance in determining to which Thomas Hewitt the regimental medal was issued. For clarity they will be termed Hewitt(1) and Hewitt(2). Hewitt(1) was the husband of Mary Anne Wellington and his service is, by far, better documented.

The records show that Hewitt(1) was born in the Parish of Ingham and was enlisted at Norfolk, although this should probably be Norwich, on 30 November 1797 at the age of sixteen. He became a drummer and later a bandsman. His discharge certificate, dated in Sydney, 13 May 1823, was signed in his own hand showing that he was literate. Hewitt(2) from Aylsham, was enlisted at Norwich on 12 December 1797, and his discharge certificate, dated at Sydney, 24 February 1824, is signed 'Thos Hewitt + his mark', showing that



Regimental medal awarded to Private Thomas Hewitt, 48th Regiment. Collection — Mint and Barracks Museum (author).

Hewitt(2) could not write. This is of some consequence as in this book *Mary Anne Wellington* etc is recorded that Mary Anne's husband conducted Bible classes on the voyage out and 'in five months he had read the bible through'. He also wrote a history of himself and his wife. So the husband of Mary Anne could read and write and must therefore be Hewitt(1).

The biography recalls that Hewitt(1) used to accompany Lady Macquarie on his clarinet 'in the best con-

certo music which could be procured, and in her fashionable and crowded drawing-room this brave man was treated with the respect due to his talents and demeanour'. On the reduction of the regiment in 1822, Hewitt(1), along with many other veterans chose to return to England where he was discharged on a pension of 1/1½d per day in consequence of 'Pulmonary affection from playing the bassoon'. Lung problems are commonly experienced by players of wind and brass instruments.

Hewitt(2) was discharged in 1824 for 'length of service' and returned to his home town, Aylsham, in Norfolk, with a pension of 1/2d per day. The life of Hewitt(1) following return to his native Norfolk is recorded in Mary Anne's biography. The date of his death is not given but it occurred before publication of the biography in 1846 and therefore before authorisation of the Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 (MGSM). Foster's medal roll of the MGSM records the issue of a medal with five clasps, Talavera, Albuera, Badajoz, Salamanca and Vittoria to a Thomas Hewitt. This then must have been Hewitt(2) who according to the pension records died in 1864. It has been found in most cases that issues of clasps to the MGSM duplicate the actions awarded on the regimental medal, with the exception of Oporto which was never granted for the MGSM.

Mary Anne's biography also records that her son, Thomas, enlisted in the Coldstream Guards, so the Crimean medal impressed to THOS HEWITT, COLDSM GUARDS, would appear to confirm a straight forward family relationship. Again this is not the case as there were two Thomas Hewitts in the

Coldstream Guards in 1854-1856. They were Nos 2444 and 2611 both described in the April-September 1854 musters as 'Labourer, Blandford'. In the next period 2444 is shown as killed at Inkermann and the data in the 'Soldiers Becoming Ineffective' list records his birthplace as Hingham, Norfolk, trade as labourer, enlisted 10 June 1839, which would seem to fit into the detail of the biography. No. 2611, later described as a labourer of Charlton, was still serving in March 1856.

Going back to Hewitt(1)'s discharge certificate it is found that he was born 'in or near the Town of Ingham' so it appears safe to assume that Thomas Hewitt 2444 born at 'Hingham' was the son of Thomas Hewitt(1) thereby confirming the relationship of the family group in the Mint and Barracks collection and giving further verification to the identity of Thomas Hewitt(1).

This family group is therefore an interesting link with Australia's early history, particularly the regimental medal awarded to Thomas Hewitt who accompanied Lady Macquarie on his 'clarinet' at her musical afternoons.

Endnotes

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WO 12/5970-73 Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 48th Regiment, 1816-1824, microfilm copies, National Library of Australia (NLA), Canberra.

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WO 120/26 f139 Regimental Pension Records, PRO.

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C.M. Fagg

The Neglected Digger Charles Joseph Ross (1857–1930)

In *Sabretache*, Vol XXVII, Jan/March 1986, p13–17, Maurice Austin and Clem Sargent both wrote about early Australian military personnel who for one reason or another served with Imperial Regiments within Australia and overseas. John Cox was credited with being the first Australian 'Digger'.

Another little known early Australian soldier was Charles Joseph Ross, 1857–1930. He appears to have the honour of being the first Australian to have served with distinction in the armed forces of three different nations: America, Canada and Great Britain, seeing action in the American Indian Wars, the N.W. Canadian Rebellion, and finally the Boer War.

Charles Joseph Ross was born on 4 July 1857, at Orange NSW, of Scottish parents.

Sometime during the early 1860s, Charles and his parents emigrated to California, taking part in the American gold rush. They took up residence in California, and it was at the Santa Clara College, California, that Charles gained his formal education. Details of his early family life are sketchy. At some point in time the family moved from California to the wilds of Nevada, where in 1869, at the age of 12 years, Charles was orphaned when both his parents were killed and his home burnt to the ground during an Indian raid. Charles was captured and taken away to live for some years within this captor's tribe.

Somehow he eventually managed to escape from the Indians, and by 1877, aged 20 years, he was serving in the American army as a scout, putting into practice all the skills he had learnt while living with the Indians. He saw active service against various Indian tribes during the Indian wars of 1877–79 against the Ute Indians.

1880–1884 saw Charles move from Nevada across to Fargo, in the state of Dakota, where he endeavoured to settle down and took up farming. However this didn't last long, and, feeling restless, he headed north, where on 11 August 1884, at Regina, Canada, he was sworn in as a Constable, Registered Number 1064, in the North-West Canadian Mounted Police.

Shortly after joining the Mounties, due to his experience as an army scout, he was seconded to the Canadian army where he served as Chief Scout for Lt Col W.D. Otter, during the North-West Canadian Riel Rebellion of 1885. During this service, Charles distinguished himself and was mentioned in Despatches several times.

The report of Lt Col W.D. Otter, Commanding the Battleford Column, Battleford, 5 May 1885 states:

Const. Ross, N.M. Mtd Police, our chief scout, was always ready to lead a dash, or take his place in the skirmish line, in fact, he seemed everywhere and at the proper time.

When the Riel Rebellion was eventually suppressed, Charles returned to duty with the Mounties. He continued serving with them for 6 years, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His promotion through the ranks was as follows:

Constable	11. 8.1884– 5.11.1885
Corporal	6.11.1885–30.11.1886
Sergeant	1.12.1889–10. 8.1890

The last three years of service were spent at Leithbridge, and it was there in 1889 that he married a Canadian lass of Scottish descent, Nellie Buchanan.

His movements from 1890 to 1900 are not known with certainty, though it does appear that he went back to Dakota to his farm for some time.

The commencement of the Boer War in South Africa in 1899 saw Charles apply to the Canadian army for service in South Africa as a member of the Canadian Contingent due to be sent over. He was refused, so he then made his own way to South Africa and once there joined the British army. He was commissioned, and from January–April 1900 he served as Lieutenant with the British unit, Roberts Horse, and was mentioned in despatches 3 times. He then obtained a transfer

COPY FOR THE COMMISSIONER.

Form No. 84a.

NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE FORCE, CANADA.

DISCHARGE.

This is to Certify that Charles Ross
 served as Constable, Corporal, Sergeant, and Staff Sergeant
 in the above Force from 11th August 1884 to 1st August 1890
 and is now discharged in consequence of having completed
his term of service.

Dated at Pegonia
October 14th 1890

[Signature]
 Commissioner N. W. M. P.

Conduct during Service Land

[Signature]
 Commissioner N. W. M. P.

This Discharge is not to be given to a person named hereon to a free land

Certificate of engagement of Charles Ross, North-West Mounted Police, 11 August 1884.

to the 1st Canadian Mounted Infantry Scouts, where he served as Lieutenant from May–November 1900, gaining a further mention in despatches.

For his service and actions at Sanna's Post, while with the Canadian Scouts, he was awarded the DSO (*London Gazette* 19 April 1901).

From November 1900 to February 1901, he served as a Captain in 'Gat Howard's Scouts', an irregular unit. From 17 February 1901–8 June 1902, when the scout unit was

disbanded, he served first as Major and then as Colonel of the unit.

Charles died on 21 December, 1930.

For his respective military service, Charles gained the following medals:

- Distinguished Service Order
- Queen's South Africa Medal
- King's South Africa Medal
- North-West Canada Medal
- Indian War Campaign Medal
- Seven mentions-in-despatches.

END NOTES:

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RG18) Service Record, Vol. 3346.

Peter Stanley

Calling a truce: 'amateurs' and 'academics' in Australian military history

Keynote address delivered to the Military Historical Society of Australia's Bicentenary Military History Symposium, Canberra, 11 June 1988.

Members and friends of the Military Historical Society of Australia. It was with an appropriate feeling of humility that I accepted the invitation of the Society's Federal Council to deliver the keynote address to this gathering. I ascribe my participation in the proceedings of this symposium not to my attainments in Australian military history but rather to the standing of the institution which I have the privilege of serving, the Australian War Memorial. Indeed I am acutely conscious that I am only one year older than the Military Historical Society of Australia, and I acknowledge that many of those present today have devoted many more years than I to the subject which brings us together at this symposium.

At the same time, I accepted the invitation to speak today because I believed that I would be able to contribute to the symposium. I've worked at the Memorial for a little over eight years, and circumstances have placed me in a job which many here would give much to do. As a member of the Memorial's Historical Research Section as well as the Military Historical Society I am, I think, well placed to observe the broad field of military history in this country, and it is from that standpoint that I make my remarks today.

Needless to say, I have to make clear that my views are not necessarily those of the Memorial.

There are many reasons why I continue to enjoy working at the Memorial, not least because I often feel that I am paid to do what most here do as a hobby. There is an excitement and satisfaction in being part of an institution whose mission is to stimulate and communicate the understanding of Australian military history. I'm aware of the opportunities which the Memorial has given me: to help to create exhibitions, to research, to write, and to help others to research and write about our history, and if I ever become tired of that I will gladly let one of you take over. That day is, I hope, far away.

We are fortunate in that at present there is a greater interest in Australia's military history than ever before. I can't remember a time in my working life when this was not so; others here can recall a long time when the study of our military past was ignored or disparaged, despite the importance of war in shaping the nation's character.

This was brought home to me some weeks ago when I had cause to refer to Robin Higham's *A Guide to the Sources of British Military History*, which was published in 1971. Higham's bibliographic survey is becoming rather dated, but it is an important work, one of the starting points for those interested in the military, air and naval history of Britain and the Commonwealth. The entry on Australia is, however, frankly embarrassing. It is 4½ pages long, two of which are occupied by a listing of the thirty-seven volumes of the first and second world war official histories. Thirteen entries are listed as an 'additional bibliography', one, I noticed, by George Vazeny, a member of the Society then and now.

A footnote to this rather meagre listing explains that 'a two-years search by correspondence failed, in spite of the help of numerous persons both within and without Australian academia, to produce an author for this section'. Higham pays due attention to the quality of the official histories edited by Charles Bean and Gavin Long, and notes that 'possible sources of help are the Military Historical Society', but the impression which he gives is of a country with a vigorous military past but an apathetic attitude toward its military history, especially among the academic community.

Were things really so bad? Higham was, after all, writing from Kansas at second hand. Perhaps not. Australia boasted a long and energetic tradition of unit histories, as Syd Tregellis-Smith will no doubt touch upon tomorrow, and the interest and expertise of serious researchers was apparent from *Sabretache*, the Society's journal. Incidentally, those writing in the journal in 1971 who are still prominent in the Society include Max Chamberlain, Franklin Garie, Bob Gray, Ronald Hopkins, Warren Perry, John Price, Clem Sargent, Phil Vernon and Barry Videon.

It gives me great pleasure to see some of these gentlemen here today, and it is particularly welcome to see that Clem and Max open the symposium today, speaking on the subjects on which they are noted authorities, the British army in Australia and the South African war, respectively.

But in 1971, Australia's academics, with the exception of Ken Inglis, Lloyd Robson and Bill Gammage,

virtually ignored our military history. On the whole, then, the impression which Higham gave was grimly fair.

There is no need to labour the contrast which the past seventeen years have brought. It will suffice, I think, to mention just a few of the books which have appeared in the past year. In the colonial period there have been John Moore's *The First Fleet Marines*, and Bob Nicholl's *The Colonial Volunteers*. It has been a slim year for books on the Great War, but studies of the second world war include John Barrett's *We were there*, Joan Beaumont's *Gull Force* and Bill Noonan's *The Lost Legion*. Unit histories are still appearing, including John Bellair's *From Snow to Jungle* (on the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion), Syd Tregellis-Smith's *All the King's Enemies* (2/5th Battalion), Peter Donovan's *Waltzing Matildas* (2/9th Armoured Regimental Group), F.W. Speed and Tony Hasting's *Esprit de Corps* (Victorian Scottish) and Victor Austin's *To Kokoda and Beyond* (39th Battalion). Vietnam continues to claim a major proportion of publishers' interest, with the appearance of Stuart Rintoul's *Ashes of Vietnam*, Frank Frost's *Australia's War in Vietnam* and Lex McAulay's *The Battle of Coral*. The study of command has recently attracted a series of authoritative books, of which Chris Coulthard-Clark's biography of Gordon Legge, *No Australian Need Apply*, is but the latest.

Nor can we look only to commercial publishers for this bounty. Coincidentally, the men and women who served in the second world war are reaching retiring age at a time when the technology of so-called 'desk top publishing' is becoming more widely accessible. It seems that we can look forward to the appearance of a number of modest memoirs and unit histories produced in low-volume, low-cost editions. The Society's own publications exemplify this trend, and at a time of increasing economic pressure on commercial publishers this is welcome development.

We can look beyond publishers for signs of the healthy state of military history. Secondary schools in New South Wales and Victoria at least are at last beginning to focus their senior curriculums on Australia at war, and more universities than ever offer 'war and society' courses. And I need not emphasize to this gathering the contribution which the Australian War Memorial is making to the promotion of military history through its Research Centre, research grants scheme, conference, books, guides and the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*.

The products of this historical enterprise do not disappear into a vacuum. Though at the Memorial we sometimes wonder whether the military historical bubble might burst, military books seem to attract buyers and readers eager to learn more of the history of this country's military experience, in peace and war, as colony and nation, in battle and at home. And in 1988 the Military Historical Society of Australia is still around, larger — not as large as we might wish, perhaps — but nevertheless a vigorous force in the study

of our chosen subject. The Society occupies a well-defined niche in the field, catering particularly to collectors, those interested in the history of the armed services and their war service. It has not been, and is not, a society for the study of the social history of war, and I do not suggest that it should become so.

To describe the interests and the products of our members by name would take me the rest of my allotted time, so I will offend none by mentioning none. What I will do, though, is remind us of the great range of interests which the Society's membership encompasses. The diverse interests of members is apparent from recent issues of *Sabretache*.

In the past year *Sabretache* has published, among other things, several articles on the South African war, articles on the Great War and Australian schools, memoirs and biographical pieces, articles on museums, aircraft wrecks, regimental and volunteer medals, the Military Cross and other gallantry awards. As a former editor of *Sabretache* I'd like to publicly pay tribute to the magnificent job which Alan Fraser did in editing the Society's journal from 1984 to 1987, and to wish Steve Allen well in assuming that heavy responsibility.

The one significant segment of interest which is not reflected proportionately in the journal is that of the militaria collectors who make up a good part of the Society's membership and whose displays are such an important part of this symposium. I've often wondered why collectors don't contribute more to the journal. I can understand that they don't necessarily share my fascination with the defence of South Australian country towns, but that's no reason why they should be deterred from contributing to the journal which represents our geographically dispersed Society and in a real sense introduces one member to another.

The collectors' reticence is puzzling. The field of collecting Australian medals and other items of military heraldry seems to be both active and, paradoxically, relatively poorly covered in print. Perhaps collectors, who are a pretty close-knit community, share information more in person than in print, or perhaps the main references are adequate. Even if the major areas of badge or medal identification, say, have been covered by authorities such as Jeff Cossum or RD Williams, it seems to me — and I admit that I'm unfamiliar with the field in detail — that there is still a great deal of potential for further publications. The main point of collecting medals, for instance, seems not to be so much to possess the medal and ribbon as to learn of the story of the person whom it represents. There may have been ten thousand Military Medals awarded to the first AIF, but, even though those medals are virtually identical, there are ten thousand individual stories there. Similarly with badges, which overwhelmingly relate to units with no published or accessible histories, there is potential for articles on the badges and the regiments or battalions which wore them. Could we look forward to series in

Sabretache called 'The men behind the medals' or 'the story behind the badge'? *Sabretache* has in the past published several articles of these kinds — I'm thinking of Peter Burness's series on Australian regiments or George Ward's article on Warrant Officer Liggins, which provide excellent models for these sorts of articles. I call upon the collectors of the Society to consider and take up this suggestion.

Having discussed possibilities for future developments in the Society's journal, I thought that since I have a captive audience of military historians I should broaden my focus and also suggest some directions which research could or might take in the future. I have to be careful here, because my section is responsible for administering the Memorial's research grants scheme and is jointly responsible for the Memorial's publications programme, and I mustn't appear to capitalize on the inside knowledge to which I'm privy of forthcoming projects or publications.

What I'll suggest, though, is firstly, areas of research which I think will become evident in the next few years, and secondly other topics or approaches which I think deserve more attention.

There have been several developments in recent years which may well influence military historical researchers. There has been a boom in both family history and local history, and I think that we'll see more articles, booklets and even books about the military service of individuals or families, or about towns, shires or regions in wartime.

Technological developments in the storage and retrieval of information will I think result in more computer 'data bases' being produced — particularly in schools — which will contain statistical or biographical information often based on the Memorial's collections. These data bases will be of use not only to the students for whom they are created, but for researchers as a whole. This suggests that we might see variants on the familiar battalion or unit history, based on these data bases.

As I mentioned earlier, the technology of publishing, which is moving away from the familiar typesetting toward computer-based 'desk-top' systems, will permit more people to publish independently of cost- and profit-conscious commercial publishers. We may then see the appearance of more memoirs and perhaps informal unit histories, not just of squadrons, battalions or ships, but of smaller units — artillery batteries, supply, signal or engineer companies or even of sub-units — I look forward to 'co-operative memoirs' of bomber crews, infantry platoons or patrol boats.

Next year will see the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the second world war. For some time less attention has been devoted to the second world war than to the first, but I wonder whether that will change soon. As I mentioned earlier, several books have appeared in the past year on the second world war.

Just as in the 1960s — fifty years after the Great War — there was a renewed interest in the 1914–18 war, so in the 1990s there may be a revival of interest in the second world war.

For Australia this will, I hope (and here I'm speaking about what I would like to happen), produce some detailed studies of operations in North Africa, and especially in the South West Pacific — and not only of land operations. Australia's comprehensive official histories have often seemed to deter further studies of individual campaigns or battles. I hope that we'll see campaigns or battles re-evaluated.

Today, though, I mainly want to discuss the field of military history as it is practised at present rather than speculate on how it may develop in years to come. This, our bicentennial year, provides an opportunity to do so.

Everyone has an opinion about the ways in which Australia has gone about marking the bicentennial, and I won't allow this opportunity to pass without making clear my own view. One of the good things about this sometimes embarrassingly self-congratulatory year is that it gives all of us an opportunity to reflect upon our past and what it means. I do not agree with those who decline to participate in the bicentenary because of the injustices perpetrated in the settlement of this land. And I have no time for those who wish conveniently to forget or distort the reality of the settlement of this country. Instead, I welcome the chance to reflect upon and to reconsider how we ought to regard our history as we move into the third century of the European history of this continent.

There obviously isn't the time today to consider the whole of Australia's military history — the speakers at this symposium will in any case give us a fair survey of that broad subject. Today, I am more interested in how we go about researching and writing about it than what we've come up with. What I propose to do now is consider some of the unfortunate differences between historians which have arisen and, unless we are careful, I think may imperil the continued health of military history in Australia.

The recent popular and academic growth in interest in Australia's military history has happened quite suddenly. So suddenly, in fact, that the field as a whole has not been able to develop uniformly or consistently. Over the past decade or so a new authorship and readership has joined the few who for so long pioneered the subject. There are representatives of these groups here today — the founders of the society, the younger, often university trained and professionally employed, like me, and the many enthusiasts whose patronage makes possible the publication of the many new works we see each year.

One unforeseen, unplanned and unwelcome consequence of this growth, though, has been to produce unresolved differences in the ways in which we approach our subject. I would like to briefly discuss

the divisions which seem to exist between those study commanders and soldiers, war and peace, 'operational' and 'non-operational' history and, most importantly, the differences which are thought to exist between amateur and professional or academic military historians. I'd like to comment on the way these divisions influence the way in which military history is practised, and propose that what we should be doing, in this year especially, is reconsidering whether these divisions serve any useful or productive purpose.

First, soldier and commanders. Two strong traditions of Australian military writing which suggest an opposition are those which are concerned respectively with soldiers and commanders. There is a long inheritance, from Bean, through *Reveille* in the 'thirties' to writers as diverse as John Laffin and Bill Gamage, which has celebrated the experience of the ordinary Australian soldier. This, the 'digger' strand in Australian military historical writing, has often seemed to suggest that Australian success in war has been due above all to the character and natural fighting ability of the Australian soldier.

The second tradition, again beginning with Bean but not often apparent again before the last decade (though Warren Perry has long carried a torch for the study of generalship) considered the importance of command in determining Australia's military successes. Its notable practitioners include Alec Hill, David Horner, Peter Pedersen, Brett Lodge and Chris Coulthard-Clark. There has been a tendency, perhaps, to stress one factor at the expense of the other. The most likely explanation for Australia's military achievements lies of course in the unique combination of the two: Australia's forces, often — in fact usually — composed of committed volunteers imbued with an awareness of their own ability, have usually been fortunate to be led by commanders who understood their men and possessed the gift of military competence. There is another view that ascribes our military failures to British command, but that's one argument which I don't want to enter today. My point is that while the 'digger' strand has helped us to appreciate the character of Australians in war, and the 'command' school has helped us to appreciate the quality of their leaders, let us not forget that just as both served together, so they must be studied together.

What of 'war and peace'? Most of Australia's 'military history', to judge by what's been written of it, has in fact been 'war history'. The military history of Australia in peacetime has been unfortunately neglected in comparison to that of the more exciting war years. There is still only a handful of published studies of our colonial military forces — only one book on the forces of a colony, Queensland, in Ross Johnson's *Volunteers at heart*. Published studies of the formation of the Australian army and navy in the decade after federation are slightly more plentiful, but there is still no sible book on the forces between the world wars, and the period after 1945 is just as barren, despite the

great interest in Vietnam. One of the few areas in which progress has been made is in the appearance of several unit histories in recent years — notably of the Victorian and New South Wales Scottish — which have begun to provide a detailed picture of the history of the armed forces in war and peace. This is a trend which I hope will continue. The imbalance is nevertheless real and, to say the least, unfortunate, and has probably been apparent for long enough for me to merely raise the matter and express the hope that future studies will redress the imbalance.

The next two oppositions which I'd like to discuss — those between 'operational' and 'non-operational' history and 'amateurs' and 'academics' are related, but I'll deal with them in that order.

Australia has magnificent traditions not only of participation and achievement in war but also of writing about war. The official histories of Bean, Long and O'Neill are the most obvious manifestations of this, but the tradition is also evident in our richness of unit histories, memoirs and other writings on war. For the most part, though, these works deal with military, naval or air operations; they may be described as 'operational' history. The effects of war on Australia as a whole have been treated less lavishly, even by the official history, and many important aspects of Australia's war experience not directly connected with operations — for example, the Red Cross and other voluntary organizations, the Civil Constructional Corps, war industry, the management and administration of the forces or the women's services — have been treated less extensively and usually inadequately. Only recently, with increasing academic interest and a thesis machine hungry for feasible topics, has the so-called 'home front' begun to receive the attention it has been denied.

I'll give only one example of this imbalance. One unfortunate aspect of this neglect of 'non-operational' history, it seems, was the relatively slight interest which prisoners of war received until recently. Despite the huge losses which Australia suffered in prison camps during the 1939–45 war — and remember about a fifth to a quarter of war deaths occurred in captivity, nine out of ten under the Japanese — the experience was accorded little attention. Even the official history devoted only appendices to the subject. The deficiency, at least for prisoners of the Japanese, has been powerfully redressed in the last decade by writers such as Hugh Clarke, Catherine Kenny, Joan Beaumont, and, pre-eminently, by Hank Nelson. Prisoners of the Germans and Italians continue to await their second liberation, in print.

Much of the 'non-operational' strand can be regarded as 'social' history, a term and an approach about which many traditional military historians have reservations. I should make clear here that I'm considering the field of Australian military history as a whole, not the interests of members of the Society.

By way of qualification I would point out, too, that

social history doesn't necessarily refer exclusively to what is called the 'home front'. Social history is fundamentally based on the conviction that what people are and how they relate to each other is as important as what they do. In relation to military history, social historians ask questions not only about a force's operational performance, but also about its social, regional or religious composition, the circumstances of its formation, its discipline and morale, its members' opinions of themselves, their allies or enemies, their behaviour in and out of battle, their relations with civilians and the influence of their service on their lives. Many of these considerations clearly influence a force's performance in battle.

But such questions are not a recent development in Australian military history. Let me quote from a writer applying the social historian's concerns to the history of the formation of the first AIF:

Some who had been officers in the militia entered the force as privates. Many a youngster, who could have had a commission, enlisted in the ranks and remained there in order to serve beside a friend. There were in the Australian force no special corps in which university or "public school" men enlisted apart from others. . . . [F]or the most part the wealthy, the educated, the rough and the case-hardened, poor Australians, rich Australians, went into the ranks together unconscious of any distinction. When they came into an atmosphere of class difference later in the war, they stoutly and rebelliously resented it.

That piece of social history comes from the first volume of Charles Bean's official history.

Bean's example notwithstanding, I often detect a lack of sympathy for what is called 'social history' among those whose interests are more directly found in 'operational' or traditional military history. This disturbs me, because I see Australia's military history, as my selection of the passage from Bean suggests, as an integral part of the wider history of the nation.

One of the continuing pleasures of my job is that I come into contact every day with those actively involved in the field of Australian military history. Often enough in these encounters I've heard social historians described dismissively as mere 'academics', whose historical writing is marginal to the practice of 'real' military history — by which is meant operational history. And I have often heard those interested in battles — or worse 'buttons and badges' — dismissed by academic historians for whom history is synonymous with sophisticated social analysis. In general the academics are criticized by those who are often called 'amateurs', and the amateurs by 'academics'. I'll use these broad and inexact names and ignore for the moment the fact that a fair few academics are also interested in operational history.

Before discussing the views each has of the other, though, I think that it is worth emphasizing that

military historians occupy a unique position. The humanities is one of the areas of human endeavour in which amateurs and professionals mix on a more or less equal footing, and of the humanities probably painting, music and history would have the highest rate of participation by amateurs. In history, family history is also entirely the province of amateurs, and local history is largely amateur. On the other hand labour, economic or political historians are largely academics. Only in our field, military history are the two groups found together. This is one of the reasons why I've chosen to tackle these questions today.

I usually find comments such as I've described — from either side — embarrassing and irritating, because they often grossly misrepresent the other faction and usually relate to someone whom I know. Some of you may recall me mumbling defensively in response to such comments.

Criticisms of this kind perplex me. I have fairly catholic tastes in military history and I like to think that I can discuss with, or at least listen to intelligently, military historians of most persuasions, from the most antiquarian button and badge man to the most esoteric academic. I usually find that I can learn something, and take pleasure in applying what I've learned in my work within and outside the Memorial.

I'd like to explain my disagreement with this crude distinction between 'amateurs' and 'academics'. It's a distinction which isn't clear cut. In fact it's blurred to the point of being meaningless, in two ways. Firstly, looking around this room I can see a number of so-called 'amateurs' whose command of their subject is authoritative, easily equalling and perhaps exceeding, the expertise of many who are employed in museums or universities. Circumstance and opportunity, though, have taken their lives and careers in other directions. Second, there are many active in our field who possess all the attributes of formal historical qualifications but who aren't lucky enough to work as professional historians. To describe these people as 'amateurs', in the sense of being less proficient, is clearly misleading. At the Memorial we're beginning to talk about 'non-institutional historians'.

And yet it would be misleading to pretend that there are no differences between historians of varying backgrounds — there are correlations between qualifications, interests and approaches. And in spite of the belated recognition that not all historians who work outside institutions are 'amateurish', I'd argue that we can still legitimately continue to refer to amateur military historians, though when I use the term 'amateur' in this sense I refer only to their qualifications and employment, not their quality. The best of this, the 'classic' amateur can be seen in the membership of this and similar societies. There are people here who have devoted years to studying their chosen subjects, who have established an authority all the more admirable for having been achieved in their spare time and at their own expense. The amateur's

strengths are a command of details and a persistence to find and establish facts. The amateur's weakness are the reluctance to look beyond the detail or to build upon the facts to reach an understanding of the subject's wider significance, a tendency to focus on subjects rather than on questions, and often a failure to come to grips with the complexities of handling evidence and interpretation.

The best example I can think of to illustrate the best of the amateur is the late Brigadier 'Bunny' Austin. Brigadier Austin, a long standing member of this society until his death in 1986, devoted his life to a scholarly study of the British army in Australia which he pursued with a knowledgeable diligence which I can never approach. I was privileged to know Bunny in a deferential sort of way, and since his death have regretted not seeking to learn from him directly. He assembled a mountain of material, much of which has since passed to the Memorial, but though he produced a number of articles and a detailed study of the army in this country in the 1840s, he was unfortunately unable to synthesize his unrivalled knowledge into a work which surveyed the topic as a whole. Perhaps he simply left his run too late after a full military career — perhaps his was the inevitable fate of the historical pioneer — but his work demonstrates the magnificent contribution which so-called amateurs can, have, and will continue to make.

At the same time, I would not wish to denigrate academic history or its practitioners. If qualifications made no difference I've wasted a lot of time over the years and clearly they *do* help to make better historians. Formal qualifications equip historians not so much with knowledge, which, as we know, is equally the province of the dedicated amateur, but, more importantly, with research skills, analytical concepts, methods in research, interpretation and writing and an awareness of the richness and complexity of the demands and potential of historical scholarship. That's not to say that amateurs can't possess these skills or insights, but they are of course more readily acquired and developed through the discipline of formal study.

Despite these benefits I can understand those who look askance on the recent entry — some might say intrusion — of academics into what was for so long an amateur preserve. There are academics who seek to write military history because the field offers opportunities for quick articles based on inadequate research. Some academics will write without having adequately familiarized themselves with military terminology or technicalities. Some write from intellectual ideological perspectives which many old hands will find unfamiliar or objectionable.

But these faults can be attributed to a few academics, I would argue strongly that the academic influence on the practice of military history in this country has been overwhelmingly positive. From academic pens have come works of such excellence as *Chauvel of the Light Horse*, *The Broken Years*,

POW: Australians under Nippon, *The Limits of Hope*, *The Australian People and the Great War*, *Lords of Death* and *Monash as Military Commander*. Increasing academic interest has given us new questions, sharpened our debate, broadened our horizons and enriched our understanding, and those who think this undesirable should think again.

As will have been evident throughout this address, I have a foot in both camps. I am academically trained and professionally employed, but I find pleasure and instruction in the company of those who are not so fortunate as to be able to pursue their interest at the cost of the Australian taxpayer.

At the risk of sounding idealistic I'd like this address, but begin this symposium by making a case for the fusion of the virtues of each group. Both bring to the practise of history their own strengths. Each depends on the other, and will — or should — draw on the work of the other. The amateur — that is, the amateur of the 'classic' type — often lays the details groundwork — establishing chronology, statistics or biographical details, say — which academic writers drawn on in synthesizing more ambitious works of interpretation. The 'academic', in presenting the bigger picture, draws together and re-interprets the subject, helping us to understand the subject as a whole. The academic sets standards of scholarship and expression, while the amateur keeps the academic up to the mark in matters of accuracy and details.

But the co-operative relationship between the two is more than a matter of the amateurs supplying the raw material for the 'real' historians for *both* are ultimately working to achieve the same goal, to enlarge our knowledge and extend our understanding of this country's military history. Their approaches and intentions may differ, their concerns and methods may vary, and conclusions and interpretations may be radically opposed, but all are engaged in contributing to the one great enterprise, and we should recall this unity of purpose before criticizing each other.

The best illustration of what I'm trying to convey here can, I think, be seen in the way the centenary of the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan was observed, in 1985.

Four books were published to coincide with the centenary: the society's *But little glory*, Col. Ralph Sutton's *Soldiers of the Queen*, Ken Inglis's *The Rehearsal* and Malcolm Saunders's *Britain, the Australian Colonies and the Sudan*. Together, these four books demonstrate how 'academic' and 'amateur' researchers, even when working independently, can complement each others' efforts and contribute to a diverse but comprehensive coverage of a topic.

Dr Saunders's book was a detailed, scholarly monograph which treated the episode in the context of the relationship between the Australian colonies and Great Britain. Professor Inglis's *The Rehearsal*, as the title implied, looked at the Sudan involvement as the

first of a series of larger contributions to imperial wars. He asked, how and why did Australians become involved in this distant adventure; what were to be its effects? Professor Inglis answered these questions in a book which examined this seemingly minor military involvement as a way of exploring Australia's colonial and national character.

Colonel Sutton's *Soldiers of the Queen* was published by our sister society in New South Wales. It is a big, lucky-dip of a book, strong on fact and rich in detail, a product of the classic amateur approach to a military historical subject.

The Society's own book, *But little glory*, which I had the privilege of editing, contained contributions from eight writers. It dealt with the context of Britain's involvement in the Sudan, the contingent's formation, its service in the Sudan, its uniforms, weapons, medals and medallions, and included a comprehensive medal role and bibliography — all for only \$5 to members.

The point I want to make — my final point — by immodestly referring to a publication with which I was associated is that the contributors to this book were a mixture of the types of historians who I've discussed today: those who I think would be proud to be called amateur military historians — John Price, Mike Downey, Don Wright; those who fit into the 'non-institutional' category we've had to invent — Chris Coulthard-Clark and Lindsay Cox; and the professionals who are or were my colleagues at the Memorial — Peter Burness, Jim Heaton and Paul Macpherson.

Each contributed to the book the authoritative fruits of their research, each added to our knowledge and understanding of our history. That, in my view, is how military history in this country ought to proceed, co-operatively, with a tolerance of the diversity of our interests, approaches and conclusions. Whether it will be so is up to us.

Vale Jack Strickland

On Friday 28 October 1988, members of the Victorian Branch had the sad duty of attending the funeral service at St Agnes' Church, Glenhuntly, for long time member Jack Strickland who had died suddenly on the previous Monday evening, aged 56 years.

A quiet and reserved man, Jack surprised members earlier this year by his expert delivery of a talk on the unusual subject of Lodges in the Army, about which he displayed a depth of perception and knowledge that surprised even his closer friends. He will also be remembered for his negotiations which resulted in members being able to acquire copies of old Victorian military photographs held in the State Library. Jack was also an accomplished footballer and cricketer, having played football for South Melbourne, and cricket for St Kilda.

An accountant and auditor by profession, he was employed by the Australian Wheat Board, and had contact with Russian ships in the grain trade; his

studies of Russian proved useful, and he was able to converse in a mixture of Russian and English with crew members.

Jack suffered misfortune, when his first wife tragically died from cancer, leaving him with two small children to raise. In due course he married a lady from his Church, who had also suffered the loss of her partner. To the two children which each had by their first marriages, they added two more; but the marriage broke down, and they were recently divorced. He accepted this calmly and with fortitude.

Jack found a suitable house in East Bentleigh, in which he and his eldest son Grant planned to live, and where he intended to spend more time on his collecting and studies of military history. It was not to be, and he died without being able to effect the final settlement on his house.

The passing of Jack Strickland is a sad loss to the Military Historical Society of Australia.

MHSA Federal Council

As a service to all members the Constitution of the Military Historical Society of Australia is reproduced here in its entirety. This will enable members to consider the proposed amendments in comparison with the existing provisions and in relation to the entire Constitution, and provides a quick reference on the aims and organization of the society.

The Military Historical Society of Australia Constitution and Rules as at 1 June, 1973

PART I — CONSTITUTION

1. NAME:
The name of the Society shall be "The Military Historical Society of Australia".
2. OBJECTS:
 - (a) The objects 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.
 - (b) For the purposes of aforesaid the Society may through its duly appointed officers, representatives and trustees hold property and enter into legal transactions to the same extent as an adult natural person of sound mind, except insofar as limited by this Constitution and Rules.
 - (c) The Society shall be non-profit making. Its capital and income shall be devoted wholly to the purposes aforesaid, and no payments of surpluses or distribution of capital shall be made to members.
 - (d) Should the Society be wound up, its surplus assets after satisfaction of all debts shall be disposed of according to the wishes of the remaining members, ascertained by the retiring Federal Council.
3. HEADQUARTERS:
The Headquarters and Registered Office of the Society shall be in the Australian Capital Territory, at the address of the Federal Secretary for the time being.
4. STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT:
 - (a) The structure of the Society shall be:
 - (i) A Federal Council;
 - (ii) Branches formed by properly constituted meetings of Society members in suitable localities, and which have properly elected Branch Committees, and which have the authority of the Federal Council to function as such; and
 - (iii) Corresponding Members who either do not wish, or are unable to enjoy Branch membership, and who shall be administered by the Federal Council.
 - (b) The Federal Council shall comprise:
 - a Federal President;
 - a Federal Vice-President;
 - a Federal Secretary;
 - a Federal Treasurer;
 - and Federal Councillors appointed by Branches (to be their representatives), on the basis of 1 Federal Councillor to each Branch.

Should a Branch not desire to appoint a Federal Councillor in any year, the Branch Committee is required to notify the decision in writing to the Federal Secretary.

The welfare of Corresponding Members shall be the responsibility of the Federal Secretary.

In the event of an even number on the Federal Council, the President shall have the casting vote.

All Offices shall be honorary.
 - (c) The Federal Council shall be responsible for:
 - (i) The conduct of the business of the Society, except insofar as it is delegated to Branch Committees.
 - (ii) The publication of the Society's Journal.
 - (iii) The public relations of the Society.
 - (iv) Establishing the bona fides of newly forming Branches.
 - (v) The co-ordination of the efforts of the Society and Branches in achieving the Society's objects.
 - (vi) Encouragement of recruitment of members.
 - (vii) Administration of Corresponding members.
 - (viii) All decisions of the Federal Council shall be final and shall remain in force unless and until varied, amended or annulled at a subsequent meeting, or ballot of the Federal Council, or by a plebiscite of members of the Society.

Powers and Duties of the Federal Council are detailed in Part II — Rules.

- (d) Each Branch Committee shall comprise a minimum of 3 members, including —
A Branch President
and the offices of Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer, which may be combined in one person if circumstances so dictate.

All Offices shall be honorary.

- (e) Each Branch Committee shall be responsible for:
- (i) Recruitment of members to the Branch and the Society.
 - (ii) Expulsion from the Branch of members in certain circumstances.
 - (iii) The collection of subscriptions from Branch members, and accounting therefore to the Federal Council in accordance with "Rules for Finance".
 - (iv) The maintenance of a satisfactory relationship with the public, kindred organisations, and official bodies in the area concerned. Branches may form affiliations in their area without committing the Society to affiliation at Federal level.
- (f) Members of the Federal Council shall not be prohibited from serving on a Branch Committee.

5. SUB-COMMITTEES:

- (a) Sub-committees may be formed by the Federal Council or by the Branch Committees for the purpose of handling matters which the existing Committees may not be equipped to handle.
- (b) Sub-committees shall be headed by a Chairman, who shall appoint a Secretary from the remaining members to take Minutes, deal with correspondence, etc.
- (c) Each sub-committee shall be fully briefed as to the scope of its activities.
- (d) Each sub-committee shall report within a given time to the Committee responsible for its formation as to the results of its activities.
- (e) Non-members of the Society may be invited to serve on sub-committees in cases where their knowledge or skills so justify.

6. MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Membership of the Society shall comprise Ordinary Members, Corresponding Members, Branch Cadets and may include Honorary Members.
 - (i) Ordinary Members shall be financial members of the Society who are aged 18 years or over, and who are also members of a Branch of the Society.
 - (ii) Corresponding Members shall be financial members of the Society who are

aged 18 years or over, and who are unable or unwilling to become members of a Branch of the Society.

- (iii) Branch Cadets shall be persons aged up to 16 years who do not wish to be financial members of the Society, but who wish to take part in Branch activities with little or no financial obligations. (See Rules for Formation of Cadet Branches in Part II — Rules.)
- (iv) Honorary Members shall be persons nominated by Branch Committees in exceptional circumstances for Honorary Membership of the Society and a Branch. If the Federal Council confirms the nomination, the Honorary Member shall receive the Society's Journal gratis.
- (v) Every financial member of the Society, except Branch Cadets, shall have a vote at meetings or absentee on any matter which is put to a poll.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

- (a) The membership subscription of the Society shall be due on joining, and thereafter on the 1st day of July in each year, at rates to be determined by the Federal Council from time to time.
- (b) Members whose subscriptions are 3 months in arrears shall not receive further publications of the Society until their subscriptions are brought onto a current basis.
- (c) Members whose subscriptions are 12 months in arrears shall be removed from the membership lists of the Society and Branch (where applicable).
- (d) The Subscription rate may be amended from time to time in conformity with price trends, and the rate shall be notified in the Society's Journal at least 3 months before the commencement of the financial year in question.
- (e) Notwithstanding anything contained above, Branches of the Society may, at their discretion, charge a Branch Membership Subscription in addition to the Society Subscription.
- (f) The Subscription includes and may not by amendment of the Constitution and Rules be less than an amount per year which will cover the price of the Society's Journal as specified in Section 9 of this Constitution and Rules for the purposes of complying with postal regulations.

8. FINANCE:

- (a) The Society's funds shall comprise:
 - (i) That portion of members' subscriptions not allocated for the use of Branch Committees;
 - (ii) Sums donated to the Society for the accomplishment of its objects;
 - (iii) Sums raised by the Federal Council for

the accomplishment of the Society's objects; and

- (iv) Sums remitted to the Society as a result of the winding up of Branches.

The Federal Council shall be responsible to the Society for the Society's funds in accordance with "Rules for Finance — Part I" appended.

(b) Branch Funds shall comprise:

- (i) That portion of Branch Members' subscriptions which is allocated by the Federal Council for the use of Branch Committees;
- (ii) Sums donated specifically to Branches (to be specified by the donor) for the accomplishment of Branch objectives;
- (iii) Sums raised by Branch Committees for the accomplishment of their respective objectives.

Branch Committees in each case will account to the Federal Treasurer for all members' subscriptions received in accordance with "Rules for Finance — Part II" appended. Branch Committees will notify the Federal Council of details of any donations received by Branches specifically for Branch use.

- (c) Liability: In the event of the Society being wound up the liability of the members shall be limited to the unexpired portion of their subscriptions, and it shall be the responsibility of the Federal Council to ensure that funds available for the purposes of a possible winding up shall be adequate and set aside in a fund for this purpose.

9. PUBLICATIONS:

- (a) For the purpose of complying with the Postal Regulations, the Federal Council may from time to time by resolution amend this clause by including therein any provisions required by the Postal Regulations to ensure the transmission by post under the most advantageous conditions of any publications of the Society. Until the making of any such resolution, the objectives of the Society shall include the publishing of a periodical to be known as "SABRETACHE". Issues shall be made at least quarterly and all copies shall be posted to the postal address of members or contributors regularly. The price of this periodical is included in the annual subscription and it shall be separately accounted for in the annual balance sheet and be duly audited. The Federal Council may in its discretion publish or assist in the publication of books, journals and papers relevant to the objects of the Society.
- (b) A member upon joining, shall receive back

copies of the Society's periodical for the financial year in which he joins.

- (c) The Federal Council may sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of the Journal and other publications of the Society at such price per copy or on such subscription bases as it shall determine, provided that the postal regulations referred to in this Constitution and Rules, are observed.

10. OFFICERS:

- (a) All officers of the Federal Council and Branch Committees shall retire annually, but may be re-elected.
- (b) The election of the Federal Council shall take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in accordance with "Rules for Elections — Part I" appended.
- (c) The election of Branch Committees shall be held on a date to be decided by each Branch concerned, and this date shall be notified to the Federal Council as a Minute in the proceedings of the first meeting of the Branch Committees concerned. Proceedings shall be in accordance with "Rules for Elections — Part II" appended.
- (d) The names of office bearers shall be advertised in each issue of the Society's Journal.
- (e) The duties of office bearers of the Federal Council are detailed in "Powers and Duties of the Federal Council" appended.
- (f) No officer may exceed the powers specifically vested in him unless authorised by a Minute in writing of the Federal Council.

11. PATRONS:

- (a) The Federal Council (with the concurrence of the Branch Committees, or, in the event of disagreement, with the concurrence of the majority of the Branch Committees), may invite suitable persons to accept the positions of Patron, and Vice-Patrons to the number of two, of the Society for a period of 3 years.
- (b) The Patron and Vice-Patrons (if any) shall be eligible for Honorary Membership of the Society.

12. VACANCIES:

- (a) If, in the interval between Annual General Meetings any office on the Federal Council falls vacant, the position may be filled temporarily until the date of the following Annual General Meeting by invitation of the Federal Council.
- (b) Casual vacancies on Branch Committees may be filled by the Branches concerned, but no Branch Committee may continue to act unless a minimum of 3 members are in office.

13. DISMISSAL OF FEDERAL COUNCIL AND BRANCH COMMITTEES:

1. The Federal Council may be dismissed if:
 - (i) a referendum for the dismissal of the Council is called for by a petition of 2/3rds of the Australian financial membership.
 - (ii) Such a referendum is conducted by an independent Returning Officer nominated by the petitioners through their duly elected representatives.
 - (iii) Such a referendum is conducted through the Australian financial membership of the Society. (Branch Cadets excepted.)
 - (iv) Referendum papers are received by the Returning Officer and opened and counted before a General Meeting called for the purpose, in an area to be fixed by the petitioners.
 - (v) The count is in favour of dismissal of the Federal Council.
- (b) In the event Federal Council is dismissed, the Returning Officer shall conduct an election for the purpose of appointing a temporary Federal Council to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Branch Committees may be dismissed on the result of a vote of 75% of the financial membership of the Branch present at any Branch Meeting or at a meeting convened specially for the purpose.
- (d) Individual Committee members may be dismissed and replaced in accordance with the relative procedures set out above.

14. MEETINGS:

- (a) The Federal Council shall meet at least once in each calendar quarter, but no less frequently than is necessary for the efficient conduct of the Society's business.
- (b) Branch Committees shall meet as frequently as the Branch members may require them to do for the efficient conduct of the business of the Branch.
- (c) Branches shall meet preferably at regular monthly intervals, but in any event no less frequently than once in each calendar quarter for the adequate maintenance of contact between members.
- (d) Meeting times and places determined for each Branch shall be advertised in the Society's Journal.
- (e) Persons nominated by Branch Committees may, with the consent of the Chairman, take part in the discussions at Federal Council Meetings, but shall have no vote thereat.
- (f) Federal Conventions may be arranged for the purpose of more effective liaison between Branches and Headquarters, provided that

there shall be no obligation on the Society to reimburse the expenses in whole or in part of any person attending the Convention.

- (g) Annual Meetings shall be held by each Branch of the Society on the date fixed by the first elected Committee of each Branch, as notified to the Federal Council.
 - (h) An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in a place to be fixed in each year by the Federal Council, and in respect of which at least 30 days' clear notice is given to the members in writing in the Society's Journal.
 - (i) "Rules for Procedures at Meetings" are appended.
 - (j) An attendance of 25% of members of any Branch shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of businesses of the Branch.
- ### 15. AUDITORS:
- (a) Federal Council and Branches at their Annual General Meetings shall each appoint an Auditor or Auditors to hold office for the forthcoming year.
 - (b) The Auditors shall report to the members in the next issue of the Journal, on the accounts examined by them and the report shall state whether or not they have obtained all the information required, and whether in their opinion the Accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs.
 - (c) The Federal Auditor shall not be a member of the Society.
- ### 16. LIBRARY:
- (a) The Federal Council may establish and maintain a Library under the control of a Librarian appointed for the purpose.
 - (b) The Librarian shall be responsible to the Federal Council for the contents and maintenance of the Library.
 - (c) The Librarian shall be a member of the Society, whether Honorary or otherwise.
 - (d) The object of the Library shall be the preservation of reference material which otherwise might be lost to the Society.
 - (e) Library acquisitions shall comprise:
 - (i) Donations; and
 - (ii) Books which are purchased with the approval of the Federal Council after receiving a recommendation from the majority of the Branch Committees in favour of the purchase. Purchases may be approved in accordance with this sub para only if the material to be purchased is not readily available to individual members from normal supply sources.

- (f) Library purchases shall be available for loan for a limited period to Branch Committees on payment by each Branch Committee concerned of a refundable deposit representing the cost of the book or article plus the cost of registered postage to the Branch concerned.
- (g) The Federal Council may restrict the lending of other Library acquisitions in any degree necessary to preserve the contents of the Library.
- (h) The Librarian shall prepare and maintain a serially numbered catalogue of all Library contents, indicating those books which are available for loan under para 6 above, and those which are "for reference only".
- (i) The Librarian shall endeavour to establish adequate indices to facilitate ready reference to material contained in the Library, and shall be supplied by the Federal Council with suitable materials for this purpose.
- (j) The Librarian shall advertise in the Society's Journal all recent acquisitions of the Library.
- (k) The Librarian shall be prepared to conduct reasonable research for information on behalf of members, but in view of the part time character of the office shall not be expected to provide extensive research nor lengthy copies of the material. Where such extensive research is possible, the Federal Council may fix a suitable fee to cover the cost of same, and may recoup the costs of any copies which it may be possible to supply. Any request for research shall be accompanied by a stamped self addressed envelope supplied by the member making the enquiry.
- (l) The Librarian shall give members of the Society reasonable access to the Library, and with the approval of the Federal Council may fix suitable times for reference thereto.
- (m) Non-members of the Society shall not avail themselves of the Library facilities.
17. AMENDMENTS:
- (a) No amendments to this Constitution and Rules shall be made unless three months notice of the proposed amendment has been given to each member of the Society in writing.
- (b) If no objection is received, the amendment shall be incorporated in the Constitution and Rules at the expiry of the said 3 months.
- (c) If an objection is lodged, the matter shall be put to a vote of financial members of the Society, and the result thereon shall be determined within 3 months of sending out the voting papers.
- The result will be notified in the next issue of the Society's Journal.

Constitution and Rules as at 1 June, 1973

PART II — RULES

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

1. The Federal Council shall, subject to control by the members as hereinafter mentioned, have the management and control of the affairs of the Society and in particular shall have power:
- (a) To direct the policy of the Society in all matters.
- (b) Subject to (i) below to make amend and rescind Rules
- (i) Amendments may be made to the Rules of the Society, or new rules made, or any rule may be deleted, or deleted and replaced by a new rule, by a resolution of Federal Council carried by a two-thirds majority of members voting. On a motion to alter any rule, or to make a new rule, or to delete a rule, all Councillors present shall vote.
- (c) To close or suspend any Branch of the Society not acting in conformity with the rules of the Society, and to remove any officer of the Society or of any Committee thereof.
- (d) Subject to (i) hereunder to affiliate with any other organisation or body —
- (i) Providing that the affiliation results in the formation of a non-political consultative and/or advisory body Federal Council may be resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of Councillors voting affiliate the society with another Association or Associations having like aims or being of such a kind that the interests of the members and the objects

of the Society will be advanced by such affiliation.

No other affiliations shall be effected unless and until a ballot of the financial members has been taken and the majority of members voting in such ballot favour such affiliation.

- (e) To hear and determine all appeals from Branches and members.
- (f) To appoint any person to represent the Society before any Court, Board, Tribunal or other authority.
- (g) To appoint a Federal Auditor or Auditors and to fix his or their remuneration.
- (h) To submit any matter that in its operation is of sufficient importance to the members for decision by ballot.
- (i) To settle all disputes and to act as an Arbitrator in disputes between Branches.
- (j) To keep or cause to be kept a register of members showing their names, the dates upon which they became members and so far as known their postal addresses and a list

of the names, postal address and occupations of the members of the Federal Council, and of its occupations of the members of the Federal Council, and of its Executive and Trustees.

- (k) To delegate its authority on all routine or other matters to the Federal Council.
- (l) To set up any Special Committee and delegate to that Committee such powers and duties as it may from time to time determine.
- (m) To co-ordinate the activities of all Branches of the Society.
- (n) To appoint from time to time a member of the Society to act in place of any officer during a temporary absence of any such officer.
- (o) To elect in the manner prescribed in the Schedule to these Rules trustees of the Society and by resolution to remove them or one or more of them from office.
- (p) To invest the funds of the Society in any security authorised by the law of any State for the investment of Trust Funds.

RULES FOR FINANCE — PART I

1. The Federal Treasurer shall be responsible to the Society through the Federal Council for the establishment and maintenance of adequate records of all receipts and payments of the Society's funds.
2. He shall present on demand, and at least once per year at the Annual General Meeting, an audited statement of Receipts and Payments and a Balance Sheet for the preceding financial year.
3. He shall be in a position to state on demand at Society or Council Meetings the financial state of the Society in regard to —
 - (a) Bank balance
 - (b) Cash in hand
 - (c) Arrears of subscriptions (if any)
 - (d) Current financial commitments.
4. He shall report immediately to the Federal Council any matters which may affect the normal financial position of the Society.
5. The Federal Council will not enter into any financial commitments in excess of the net available cash funds of the Society after providing for publication and despatch of the current year's Journals. Should it do so in contravention of these Rules, the deficit shall be made good by the Federal Council.

RULES FOR FINANCE — PART II

1. Branch Treasurers shall arrange with their respective Branch Secretaries for the issue of membership cards to financial members. Membership Cards signed by the Federal Secretary shall be issued to Branch Secretaries for this purpose.
2. Subscriptions shall be collected from new members on application, and thereafter on or before 1 July in each year.
3. Each Branch Treasurer shall notify the Federal Treasurer through his Branch Secretary by 31 July in each year of any subscription outstanding in respect of Branch Members.
4. Each Branch Treasurer shall remit to the Federal Treasurer through his Branch Secretary on the 1st day of each month in respect of each subscription received by him, an amount as fixed by Federal Council from time to time representing the cost of Society Journals due to each financial member.
5. Branch Committees are not empowered to commit the Society for any expenditure, but

- may submit recommendations in this regard.
6. Branch Committees may not commit their Branches for any expenditure in the aggregate in excess of cash currently on hand, and should they do so in contravention of this Rule, the deficit shall be made good by the Branch Committee and/or members independently of Society Funds.
 7. Branch Treasurers shall keep complete records of receipts and disbursements, and shall keep Branch funds in a bank account approved by the members of their Branches.
 8. Signatures of at least two Branch Committeemen shall be required on all Branch cheques and withdrawal slips.
 9. Branch Treasurers shall report to Branch Meetings on demand, and at least once per year at the Annual General Meeting, the state of funds of the Branch.
 10. Subject to the foregoing responsibilities to the Society, Branch Committees may frame such rules and procedures as they see fit for the handling of their funds to the satisfaction of their Branch Members.

RULES FOR ELECTIONS — PART I

1. Nominations for officers of the Federal Council will be called for in the issue of the Society's Journal published at least three months prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
2. Nominations will close at least 1 calendar month prior to the Annual General Meeting.
3. An independent Returning Officer will be nominated by the Federal Council to receive and advertise nominations.
4. Nominations in each case will be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee to stand for election.
5. The Returning Officer will prepare and distribute 21 clear days before the Annual General Meeting voting papers showing candidates for the Federal Council.
6. Where a position is contested, voting will be on the preferential system.
7. Where a position is not contested, the nominee who signifies acceptance will automatically be elected.
8. Voting papers for contested positions will be received by the Returning Officer, who will open them and conduct a count in the presence of the Annual General Meeting.
9. Notification of the names of officers elected will be advertised in the following issue of the Society's Journal. Branch Secretaries shall be immediately notified by mail.

RULES FOR ELECTIONS — PART II

1. Procedures for the elections of officers or Branch Committees will be determined by the Branch Members concerned in each case, unless, in the case of disagreement, Federal Council is asked to lay down rules.
2. Notification of names of officers elected shall be forwarded to the Federal Council by the Branch Secretary in each case immediately the new Branch Committee assumes office.

RULES FOR PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS

1. At all meetings of the Committee the President, or in his absence a Vice-President, shall be Chairman. In the event of the President or Vice-President being unable or unwilling to preside at any Meeting, the Committee may elect one of its number to be Chairman.
A member of the Committee may at any time, and the Secretary shall upon the request of a member of the Committee, convene a meeting of the Committee. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes, and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
2. A resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Committee shall be as valid and effectual as if it has been passed at a meeting of the Committee duly called and constituted.

RULES FOR FORMATION OF BRANCHES

1. Where members in a locality decide that their numbers justify the formation of a Branch of the Society, and that they would derive mutual pleasure and benefit therefrom, they may hold a meeting for the purpose of forming such a Branch.
2. A Chairman and a Secretary shall be elected for the duration of the meeting.
3. The Secretary shall take minute of the meeting, and shall forward a copy thereof, signed by the Chairman and by himself, to the Federal Secretary under cover of a letter notifying the Federal Council of the proposal to form a Branch of the Society.
4. A proposed Branch Committee shall be elected.
5. The Minutes of the Meeting shall include the names of those members of the Society who are present at the Meeting, and will record the number of votes for and against the proposal.
6. A name for the proposed Branch will be included in the Minutes.
7. The Federal Secretary shall immediately acknowledge receipt of the proposal to form the Branch, and shall submit same within seven days to a meeting of the Federal Council, who shall consider the proposal and the Minutes.
8. The Federal Council shall, if satisfied as to the propriety of the proceedings of the aforementioned meeting, signify provisional approval of the formation of the Branch, and shall direct the Federal Secretary to inset in the next edition of the Society Journal a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of members, together with the provisional approval of the Federal Council.
9. The Federal Council may however query any item within the Minutes of the meeting proposing the formation of the Branch, including the name chosen, but must submit in writing any such query, or any objection, to the Secretary of the meeting within seven days of the Federal Council meeting.
10. If, within 14 clear days following the distribution of the issue of the Society Journal containing the provisional approval, there is no objection to the formation of the Branch by members residing in the area, the Federal Council shall confirm the formation of the Branch to the Secretary of the proposed Branch Committee, who shall notify the subscribing members of the new Branch accordingly.
11. Following the formation of the Branch, the Branch Secretary shall claim from the Federal Treasurer the proportion of subscriptions due for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, and on receipt of same shall forward it to the Branch Treasurer for the purpose of opening a Bank account.

RULES FOR FORMATION OF CADET BRANCHES

1. Cadet Branches may be formed *within Branches of the Society*, if the Branches so desire. Such Cadet Branches would comprise those young persons aged up to 16 years who do not wish to be financial members of the Society, but who wish to take part in Branch activities with little or no financial obligations. In this case the Cadet Branch, if formed, would be required to be a financial member of the Society, by remitting the cost of one adult membership to cover all the Branch Cadet Members who, in return, would receive one copy of each issue of 'Sabretache' for circulation amongst themselves. The matter of any Branch subscriptions would be a matter for the Branch concerned to determine when it formed a Cadet Branch. Any proposal for the formation of a Cadet Branch to be approved by Federal Council on the Branch recommendation. Members of Cadet Branches to be referred to as "Branch Cadets". These members are not to be confused with junior members of the Society who may wish to subscribe at any time under the future rule permitting Junior Memberships.

RULES FOR CLOSURE OF BRANCHES

1. Where circumstances so warrant, members of a Branch may decide to terminate its existence, and may decide to revert to Corresponding membership of the Society. In this event, members of the closing Branch shall forward to the Federal Council through the retiring Branch Secretary a copy of the resolution for the closure, and shall satisfy the Federal Council that all outstanding business of the closing Branch has been satisfactorily disposed of.
2. Where the Federal Council considers that the activities of a Branch are prejudicial to the best interests of the Society (e.g. by reasons of malpractice, involvement in undesirable political activities, etc.), it may by proclamation to the Committee and members of the Branch call for the closure of the Branch, or for reasons why the Branch should not be closed, and the Committee of the Branch shall within 30 days advance reasons why the Branch should not be closed, failing which, within a further period of 30 days, the Federal Council shall, unless requested by the Branch to conduct a ballot, cause notice of the closure of the Branch to be sent to all erstwhile members of the Branch, together with an option for Corresponding membership of the Society or resignation or expulsion, as the case may be. Notice of the Closure of a Branch shall be promulgated in the next edition of the Society's Journal, and shall be notified by the Federal Council immediately in writing to the appropriate official bodies.
3. The retiring Secretary of a Branch which is closing down shall forward to the Federal Secretary all books and records of the Branch, and shall be reimbursed the cost of postages incurred in so doing.

Proposals to Amend the Constitution

In accordance with Sub-section 17.1 of the Constitution of the Military Historical Society of Australia notice is given of the following proposals to amend that Constitution:

1. Paragraphs 6(a)(i) and 6(a)(ii) — Membership:
Delete the words 'who are aged 18 years and over, and'.
2. Paragraph 6(a)(iii) — Membership:
Delete the words '16 years' and insert the words '18 years' in their place.
3. Sub-section 14(e) — Meetings:
Insert after the words 'Persons nominated by Branch Committees' the following words 'other than Federal Councillors appointed by Branches in accordance with Sub-section 4(b)'.
4. Sub-sections 17(a) and 17(b) — Amendments:
Delete the words 'and Rules' which immediately follow the word 'Constitution'.

Explanatory Memorandum

The Federal Council commends to the members these proposed amendments to the Constitution. They are believed necessary to remove anomalies and potential uncertainties in the drafting.

The first proposed amendment deals with the exclusion from membership of persons 17 years of age. While preserving the provision of Branch Cadets for those who wish that form of membership it allows full membership to any person, irrespective of age, on payment of the prescribed subscription.

The second proposes to raise the upper age limit of Branch Cadets from 16 to 18 years. With many young people staying longer at school some may not be able to afford a subscription but would want affiliation with the Society. On the other hand young persons may prefer full membership and this would be allowed by the first proposal.

The third makes it clear that Federal Councillors appointed by Branches, in accordance with sub-section 4(2), have the same voting rights as other members of Federal Council.

The final proposal recognises the power of Federal Council to amend, make, or delete Rules, contained in the existing Rules. The provisions of section 17 not only conflict with this but are considered to be too cumbersome for this purpose.

All of the proposed amendments will, in the opinion of Federal Council, further the objects of the Society.

David Hodgson, *Letters from a Bomber Pilot*, Thames Methuen, London, 1985. 96 pages, illustrated. \$12.95.

The personal impact of Bomber Command's losses is one aspect of the Allied strategic bombing offensive which has been omitted from the campaign's recent histories. Bob Hodgson's letters, which are the core of this short book, to his family offer such an insight.

Bob Hodgson was the eldest son of a large family who was fascinated by flying. His early letters during training relate several humorous incidents. After his posting to a bomber squadron the letters stress the importance of the personal loyalty evident in his crew, together with the belief that surviving the first dozen or so operations gave the crew a better chance of completing the tour of thirty.

On the night of 29/30 March 1943 Bob Hodgson and his crew were posted as missing. Although his death was confirmed by the International Red Cross in May 1943, his father found it difficult to accept the circumstances of his son's death, this confirmation accidentally discovered by other family members near Christmas 1943.

David Hodgson's tribute to his eldest brother is a human account of one of the 55 000 men who died in the strategic bombing offensive.

Felicite Nesham, *Socks, Cigarettes and Shipwrecks: A Family's War Letters 1914-1918*, Alan Sutton, Gloucester, 1987. 275 pages, illustrated. \$19.95.

The survival of a substantial number of meticulously kept letters to Gertrude Berryman from four of her five surviving sons provide an unusual insight into a family's experiences during the First World War. On the eve of war the family members were scattered across the globe offering a varied perspective of the war.

The letters range in subject from the early days of the war in India, through experiences on the Western Front, including an eye witness account of the Christmas 1914 truce, participation in the Battle of Jutland, to active service in Mesopotamia. The book's title refers to numerous requests for various items to make frontline life more tolerable and the shipwrecking of two sons during the war.

Felicite Nesham in her editing of the letters has provided unobtrusive interlinking narrative to give background information where required. These letters are recommended to anyone who is interested in the human aspects of the Great War. One wonders how many other such treasures are hidden gathering dust in unknowing attics.

Stephen Willard

Notes on Contributors

Peter Stanley is Head of the Historical Research Section at the Australian War Memorial, member of the MHSA, author of *The remote garrison*, and frequent contributor to *Sabretache*.

Clem Sargent is a former Federal Secretary of the society, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Corps of Survey, and is currently researching the history of the 48th the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Leigh Edmonds is currently researching allied aircraft defensive tactics in the SWPA as part of a PhD thesis. He was awarded an Australian War Memorial research grant-in-aid in 1988 and 1989 for his project 'Tactics of survival in the air'.

Chris Fagg is a prolific contributor to *Sabretache*, and has a special research interest in Australian medal recipients.

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T.W. Ball
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5 Breerton Street
Garran, ACT 2605

Dear Sir

I was very pleased to represent the Society at the recent launching of Martin Buckley's book *Sword and Lance* at Lismore.

The afternoon's proceedings began with a wreath laying ceremony at the Lancer statue in Spinks Park attended by 250 people. Wreaths were placed on the monument by the official party but the most moving part of the ceremony was when the descendants of the early cavalymen came forward with their small posies or floral tributes.

The remembrance ceremony ended with the playing of the Last Post, recitation of the Ode and the playing of Cavalry Reveille.

The Official Launching was held at the nearby Lismore RSL Club and was performed by the Mayor of Lismore, Ald. H. Fredericks who is also president of the 15th Light Horse and Motor Regiment (AIF) Association.

The book proved very popular and a good supply soon ran out and more had to be obtained. I would not attempt to review the book but would say that it has great appeal for relatives but equally as much or more for students of NSW cavalry history. It contains a wealth of black and white photographs in large clear format. The majority have not been previously published. Original handtinted photos of C.H.E. Chauvel and another of his son in Upper Clarence Light Horse uniform provide valuable information for the uniform specialist as do the colour pages of Lancer uniforms.

Lt.-Col. P. Vernon, author of *The Royal New South Wales Lancers* has given Martin invaluable assistance for years and has made all the resources of the Lancer Museum's Archives available for this excellent book.

The book is practically worth the price just for the photographs but the text is equally as interesting. The author said that Lt.-Col. Vernon read every chapter, making corrections and suggesting improvements where necessary, before final printing. This has added to its correctness of every military detail.

The afternoon was a pleasant occasion and a successful launch and the attendance of relatives and guests from as far as Canberra and Brisbane gives an idea of the interest the book has generated. I wish it every success.

Yours faithfully,
T.W. Ball

Dear Sir

Recent exchanges in *Sabretache* on just what British soldiery wore in the Australian bush recall comment by one Martin Cash in his biography. Cash left his country for his country's good in 1827, and in the best convict tradition did time on Norfolk Island and at Port Arthur, as well as graduating to accomplished bushranging in Tasmania. Cash had little respect for the civil constabulary, but it seems he did have respect for the soldiers, and that this feeling was reciprocated. For example, on one occasion he languished in the condemned cell (he was subsequently reprieved) where he was visited by Major Ainsworth of 'Her Majesty's 51st King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry', who presented his solicitations. In describing action to evade a military patrol, Cash writes '— I espied a man dressed in prison clothing —. He was followed by others, of whom I counted eleven, all armed with guns. I was perfectly aware they were soldiers, as they generally assumed that disguise when in pursuit of absconders.' In a preface to a 1961 edition of the biography, the Publisher, J. Walch & Sons, Hobart, state 'Since this narrative was first published in 1870 ... not a single fact narrated by Martin Cash has been disproved; sufficient evidence of his truthfulness.'

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