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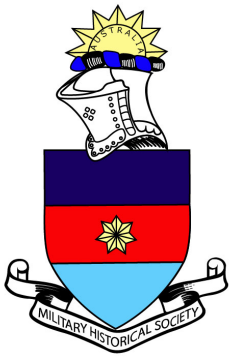
Sabretache



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SABRETACHE

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SABRETACHE

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

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

JANUARY-MARCH 1984
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SABRETACHE

Grenada Medals

The US Defence Department said 8612 medals will be awarded to servicemen for action on Grenada—which is strange considering the department's insistence no more than 7000 troops served in the invasion. Fifty medals will go to officers who never left Washington for *"effective leadership"*, but 1562 others are unaccounted for.

Gallipoli Veterans

The Australian War Memorial, Canberra, has launched a search to locate Australia's remaining Gallipoli veterans.

The Memorial is compiling the names and addresses of the veterans in order to invite them to the opening of the renovated Gallipoli gallery later in 1984.

It is not known exactly how many Australian servicemen served at Gallipoli. However, reliable research sources estimate that there was a total of approximately 60,000 who saw action on the peninsula.

There could be as many as 1,000 veterans within Australia. However as records are unclear it is impossible to say definitely how many remain. Most veterans would be at least in their eighties and some in their nineties.

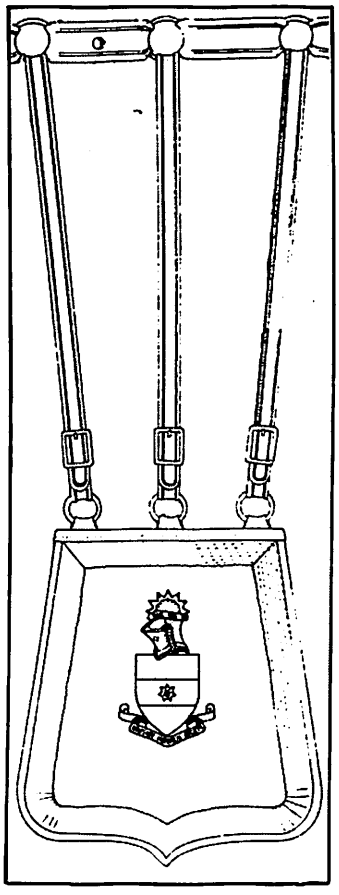
The War Memorial has sought the assistance of Returned Service Leagues, Gallipoli Legion Clubs and other organisations throughout Australia compiling the register of veterans. However, not all those who served in that theatre are members of returned servicemans' associations.

Gallipoli veterans who would like to attend the opening ceremony or who simply would like to add their names and addresses to the list of veterans are asked to contact their regional or state Returned Services League office.

Yalta Conference

It is 39 years since the historic Yalta Conference of the Big Three of the Allied Powers.

The end of World War II was in sight. A few days earlier Winston Churchill had told the House of Commons that the Military might of the Western nations was at its greatest in its existence.



Sabretache 1984

In the last issue I mentioned that during 1984 *Sabretache* would endeavour to cover a much wider field in the study and research of military history. This aim is in response to member requests to cover more specific subject areas and partly in recognition that *Sabretache* has an important contribution to make in fostering and documenting Australia's military history.

Contributions in *Sabretache* take several forms: from lengthy major articles, around 7000 words with photographs, to pithy notes and anecdotes on pages 2 and 3 of each issue. The journal also publishes book reviews, minor historical articles, society notes and provides advertisers space to reach a growing specialized audience.

Contributions are welcome for all sections. Preferably your manuscript should be typed, but neat hand written copy will do. For those with access to wordprocessors or micro computers, we will gladly accept floppy discs as copy (check first with us for compatability). We can obtain photographs for your articles if you can identify sources and have a limited capability to produce maps.

Look forward to hearing from you. Forward contributions to, 1 Nardoo Crescent, O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601.

Unit Histories

The library of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, is establishing an index of Australian, New Zealand and Papua New Guinean military unit histories for all three services.

The library is interested in contacting anyone with unit histories, published or unpublished, either to acquire the item or to record its existence. It is to the benefit of anyone interested in the military history of Australia and its neighbours to assist in this project.

If you have any unit histories, please contact Ms Jan Blank (062) 663763 or Mr Lyn Hard (062) 662788, c/o The Royal Military College, Duntroon, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Nothing over us

A history of the 2/6th Australian Infantry Battalion entitled 'Nothing over us' is to be published by the battalion association.

The work has been undertaken by a committee headed by Sir David Hay, and has been supported under the research Grants Scheme of the Australian War Memorial.

The 2/6th was generously supported during the second world war by the management and staff of G. J. Coles because of the happy coincidence of the battalion's number with Coles' motto 'nothing over 2/6d'. Coles has also given financial and practical help in the research for the battalion's history.

Information on the history is available from the Honorary Secretary of the association, Frank Gillen, 1 Parer Street, Burwood, Vic. 3125.

Lone Pine trees

Stephen Mutch from Hillwood, Tasmania writes that members of the Military Historical Society may be interested to know that the Lone Pine tree at the Australian War Memorial is not the only tree grown from the original on Gallipoli. At Launceston Church Grammar School we have an avenue of pine trees grown from seedlings taken from the Lone Pine at Anzac. The avenue, leading to our

chapel from the main school buildings, is called the *Avenue of Remembrance*. The seedlings were brought to the school by an old boy who served on Gallipoli.

Bomber for memorial

The American B-25 Mitchell bomber which flew to Australia recently will find a permanent home at the Australian War Memorial.

Search for war relics

Memories of service in Korea and/or South Vietnam are vivid for some veterans and fading or vague for thousands.

Retention of many such memories is bound to be aided by collections of photographs, letters, diaries or other documents that tell the story of the two theatres.

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra is seeking the assistance of soldiers, ex-soldiers, families or friends who have any such items that they are prepared to donate, loan or allow to be copied.

Korea and Vietnam are two areas of which the War Memorial's collection of relics and records is relatively scarce; but they are always keen to obtain items from all periods of Australia's military history.

Clayton's Gong

With characteristic wit the Australians serving in the Sinai call it the *Clayton's Gong*.

The medal they receive but are not allowed to wear is the MFO Medal awarded for service with the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai, monitoring troop movements under the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The Anzac unit comprises about 109 Australians and 35 New Zealanders, who service and fly 10 Iroquois helicopters at El Gorah, the MFO's north Sinai base.

The Queen's permission is required for Australians and New Zealanders to wear foreign military awards. When the Australian Government sought approval in 1982 for Australians to wear the MFO medal the Queen's permission was not forthcoming.

Australians can accept the MFO medal as a commemorative medal which cannot be worn.

Navy Memorial

Fourteen designers will be invited to submit proposals to Australia's National Capital Development Commission for the first stage of the competition to design a national memorial for the Royal Australian Navy in Canberra.

The proposal chosen by the panel will be submitted to the Canberra National Memorials Committee for approval.

Ribbon Bar

Readers may be interested by a recent enquiry by a member of the Defence Force requesting consideration for reducing the total numbers of ribbons worn on a single bar. He argued that many of those eligible for new long service awards already wear the ribbons for the two Vietnam medals, and the National Medal.

The Dress Manual directs that these Servicemen will now wear their ribbons on a single four-ribbon bar.

A four-ribbon bar is the same width as a shirt pocket, and liable to be bent when marching, sitting at a desk, fixing a seat belt, and so on.

A three-ribbon bar is comfortable, convenient, and less likely to be damaged.

No change, however, can be anticipated. The method of wearing ribbon bars was reviewed by the Army Dress Committee in November, 1983.

No action is envisaged pending the outcome of trials of the new male uniforms.

Boer War VCs

It was during that almost forgotten war, the Anglo-South African war—that Australian troops won their first Victoria Crosses.

More were to follow from other conflicts, such as WWI, the North Russian Force, WWII, and Vietnam.

The distinction, however, of winning two of the six VCs in the Boer War, belongs to Tasmania.

The recipients, Guy George Wylly and John Hutton Bisdee, have their names written in the annals of the nation's military history and glory.

Tasmania in 1899 was still an independent colony, and though small in population, it was prosperous and happy.

Tasmania was to eventually send four contingents to the Boer War.

The State also contributed half a company to the First Australian Commonwealth Horse; a company to the Third; and a squadron to the Eighth.

Creswell, RAN

Admiral Sir William Creswell, deserves the title *Father of the RAN*.

Born into a British Colonial service family in Gibraltar, he was, like so many of his contemporaries, packed off to school *at home*—and into the Royal Navy, joining BRITANNIA as a cadet in 1865.

In 1878, somewhat disenchanted at slow promotional prospects, he resigned and migrated to Australia.

While on a visit to Adelaide in 1885, it did not take his old shipmate, Commander John Walcot, Naval Commandant South Australia, very long to persuade him to join as a Lieutenant Commander.

This saw the beginning of his quite amazing 37-year career spread over the various Naval forces of firstly the Australian Colonies, and lastly of the Commonwealth.

In 1886 he commenced advocating for an Australian Navy; a cause which he espoused on all possible occasions, and one which, in spite of various earlier setbacks and challenges, eventually came to fruition with the establishment of the RAN in 1911.

In the intervening years Creswell served successively in the Queensland Naval forces, the Boxer Rebellion in PROTECTOR, the Victorian Naval forces, and in 1904, the Commonwealth Naval forces, forerunner of the RAN.

Creating a new Navy for a new nation was not easy, but on the outbreak of World War I, the RAN was *ready in all respects*—and over the next four years acquitted itself with great distinction in various theatres.

That it was able to do so, reflects very creditably on Creswell's planning and hard work.

He was awarded the CMG in 1897, the KCMG in 1911, and the KBE in 1919.

He remained in the RAN until 1922, after which he farmed at Silvan; his death in 1933 became the occasion for a State funeral.

Peter Stanley

BRITISH INFANTRY REGIMENTS OF THE LINE AND THE EMPIRE 1840–69: AN INTRODUCTORY SURVEY

How was the British empire garrisoned during the first half of Victoria's reign? This survey attempts to fathom the workings of the War Office's 'overseas roster' from an examination of *Hart's Army List*.

THIS survey was undertaken to reach an understanding of the movements of the infantry of the line around the empire during the mid-nineteenth century.

The end of the period covered is more easily explained than the beginning. The Character of the old long-service British army of the first half of the century began to change during the 1870s into the short-service, locally-recruited army of linked battalions which lasted until Mons. 1870 also saw an alteration in the army's strategic deployment in that the regiments garrisoning the European colonies were brought home, leaving them to be defended by locally-maintained forces.

The study opens in 1840 for no better reason than the National Library of Australia's collections of *Hart's Annual Army List* begins with that year. Happily, this is only two years after Victoria's ascension, allowing the study to coincide with the first half of her reign.

It deals only with line infantry regiments[1]. Cavalry served at home, in India and rarely anywhere else than with the Crimean army and at the Cape. The Guards left Britain only to fight in the Crimea; the phrase 'scarce as a Guardsman's sweat in India' was not gratuitous abuse. It was left to the infantry of the line to garrison the empire, in the unhealthy West Indies, in Canada, 'that paradise of soldiers', in remote Australia and New Zealand and in a dozen other stations. Many postings brought hardship and the prospect of war, affected the health and career of every soldier and cost the lives of many. How did the regiments come to move across the empire? Was it haphazard? Were destinations a lottery? Some of the answers may be found from an examination such as this.

Peter Stanley is senior research officer in the Historical Research Section of the Australian War Memorial. He edited ***Sabretache*** *in 1981 and is a member of the society's editorial sub-committee.* ***What did you do in the war, Daddy?****, a visual history of propaganda posters, for which he wrote the introduction, appeared in 1983. A book of photographs from the Memorial* ***Australians at War 1885–1972*** *(with Michael McKernan) will be published in April.*

Hart's Army List is not an ideal source, but it was handy. The War Office's monthly states or enough sufficiently detailed regimental histories were unavailable and unwieldy for such a work as this. There are problems in working with *Hart's*. It appears that the compilers wrote to the adjutants, either of the battalions or of their depots, relying upon their reports to give the units' location during the year for which the list was current. This meant that some reports were detailed—one finds list of stations reading 'Bombay, Kurrachee, Peshawar, Kussowlie, Jullundur'—while others read simply 'East Indies' or 'Bengal' for several years in succession.

Because most overseas reports must have been at least four months old for most of the period subsequent editions of the list often correct the previous years' information. The 1856 list, for example, has the 58th Foot on passage home from New Zealand but then for the next two years shows the regiment still in New Zealand until it eventually returned in March 1859. Evidently postings were anticipated or, as is more probable, were not congruent with the year of the book. Thus where a regiment serving in India is shown as being at Jackatalla in 1863, it may have left that station in March. The next year it is described as being at Bellary, but in the meantime may have spent the summer in the hills at Dugshai which escaped the compiler's notice altogether.

This survey it must be understood, is a very rough guide. For the larger stations it may be one or two battalions out owing to irregularities in the ways in which the information was recorded.

There are some anomalies created by the system of recording the information. The 41st Foot, for example, returned from the Crimea on 15 July 1856 and left for Jamaica on 3 April 1857. The system of recording adopted has it spending 1856 in the Crimea and 1857 in Jamaica, even though it spent nine months in Britain in between. Despite these discrepancies, this article is intended to be an introductory exploration of the relationship between British regiments of foot and the empire which they guarded.

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1. The word 'battalions' is used rather than the more usual 'regiments'. Although for most regiments during most of the period 'battalion' and 'regiment' were effectively identical because most regiments had only one battalion and a depot, the existence of two-battalion regiments makes the use of the word 'regiment' inaccurate.

In 1840 Britain possessed 103 battalions, from 99 line regiments, the Rifle Brigade's two battalions (which since they served as line units will be treated as such) and two second battalions, the 2/1st and 2/60th the King's Royal Rifle Corps. A few regiments had 'reserve battalions' at foreign stations in the 1840s, but since the listing of officers for these battalions is the same as the single battalions, their existence has been ignored pending a closer investigation of their nature.

Six out of ten regiments (58%) served in colonies other than India and only one in five (18%) were at home. This was both more in the colonies than at any later date and less at home for any year in the period except during the crisis of 1854–56. The balance, about a quarter (24%), were serving in India.

The major overseas stations, in order of size, were North America, (18 battalions) the West Indies (13) the Mediterranean (12) the Cape of Good Hope (5) Australia (4) and Mauritius (3). Canada had recently experienced a rebellion in Quebec and would never again carry such a large garrison, nor would the West Indies account for more than 13 in the next three decades. The Mediterranean stations were scattered from Gibraltar in the west to Corfu in the east. Regiments in this region were shifted from one station to another—Corfu to Malta, to Cephalonia and back—so the area is regarded as an entity. A curious feature is Mauritius which throughout the period, except for the mutiny year of 1857, retained two or three battalions.

The period between 1815 and 1840 was one of long postings. In 1840 26 battalions—a quarter of the infantry—had been abroad for more than 10 years. The longest serving was the 16th Bedfordshire Regiment, which had embarked for foreign service in 1819 and did not return to Britain until 1841.

The simple facts of the stations at which battalions spent any given year can be interpreted to tell a great deal about the early-Victorian army and its role in defending or extending the British empire. The 1840s shows the system of alternate postings home and overseas working more smoothly than it was to do until the introduction of the Cardwell system. The disasters of the Crimean war (1854–6) and the Indian mutiny (1857–8) spoilt the roster and, incidentally, brought an expansion of the number of infantry battalions, which numbered 143 by 1861.

The system which determined how battalions moved about the empire was called the overseas roster. Its workings were relatively simple. Battalions arriving home were put at the bottom of the list and replacements were posted from the top of it. The relieving battalions were apparently posted in time to arrive before the

homeward bound units left. That this was the case can be seen from an examination of the movements of two groups of battalions in the 1840s, the 1st to 25th and 74th to 99th Regiments. Comparing the order of their arrival in and departure from Britain shows that in each case, with only one exception, they embarked in exactly the same order in which they arrived, and that exception overstayed its departure by only a couple of months.

Their stays at home averaged 4½ years, varying from 3 to 7 years. This indicates that the roster was not a way of allowing each battalion an equitable period to recuperate but was simply a way of determining the order of departure from a varying pool of units on home service.

Before returning home the battalions' tours overseas averaged 18 years for the 1st to 25th and 10 years for the 74th-99th. After their spell at home their overseas tours averaged 13 and 12 years for the two groups respectively. This means that those battalions which had, say, served for 15 years in India could not necessarily expect a short and relatively pleasant Mediterranean posting of seven or eight years, but may be required to serve another fifteen before relief.

Home postings therefore depended on the need for troops overseas, and presumably departures from overseas stations were subject to the same constraints. Evidence for this is found in that while no regiments left India in 1857 the first battalions to leave after the mutiny were those which had served longest there.

A study of the postings of the British army's infantry battalions reveals that there were a number of well defined trooping routes. They were not rigidly followed, but the following are a reasonable guide to the travels of the early-Victorian army:

1. Home to India and return. From India battalions could move, temporarily, to Burma, Aden, Persia, Ceylon, Abyssinia or China. 10–15 years was an average stay for battalions posted to India.
2. Home to West Indies or North America and return. These two stations exchanged forces frequently, probably to allow battalions to recuperate from the arduous Caribbean climate. Average posting 4½ years.
3. Home to Australia. Battalions posted to Australia also served in New Zealand until 1861. After leaving Australia after an average posting of about 6 years they went on to India for an average of a further 7.
4. Home to Mauritius. Some battalions moved on to the Cape or to India from Mauritius, but most stayed for up to 10 years and returned home.
5. Home to the Mediterranean. Units could leave the Mediterranean for almost anywhere, but most either came home or moved on to the West Indies or North America. Some battalions sent from the Mediterranean to the Crimea were then moved to India in 1857. Mediterranean postings lasted an average of 5 years.
6. Home to the Cape. Postings to the Cape of Good Hope averaged about 9 years. St Helena was garrisoned from the Cape and in 1857 battalions went directly to India from South Africa.

These schedules were frequently interrupted, especially in the late 1850s, such as when the 77th arrived in Sydney in 1857 only to leave for India the same year. Some units spent only a year at home between the Crimea and the mutiny, or were sent on to India from the Mediterranean or the Cape.

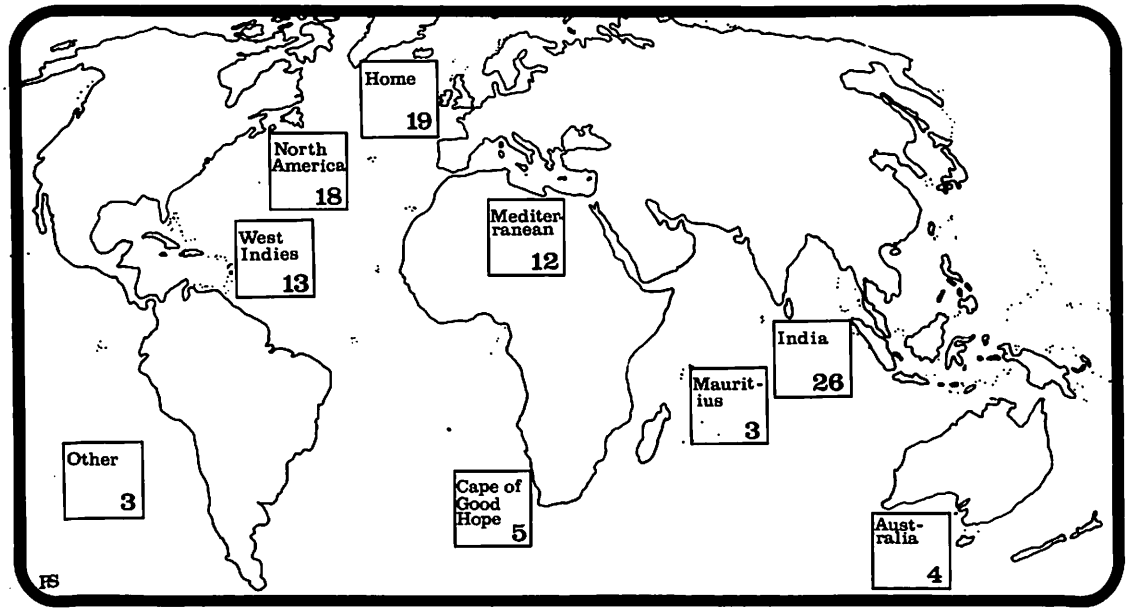
Because the empire was expanding throughout the period and calls on the army became greater the infantry never saw more than 45% of its battalions at home in any single year, 1849. As a result most battalions spent most of their time overseas. A posting 'home', of course, could entail service in Ireland. For many regiments this could resemble participation in an army of occupation rather than a peaceful home posting. During the thirty years in question no battalion spent more than 14 years at home. The most fortunate was the 41st Welsh Regiment, the unluckiest the 1st battalion of the Royal Scots, which was at home for just over two years during the period. The average length of time spent at home was 8 years out of 30, though more battalions spent 10 years at home than any other figure.

The outstanding feature of the statistics is the importance which India assumed in the defence of the empire. Numerically India accounted for 26 battalions in 1840 and never held more than 29 before the mutiny. The low point was 1848 when only 20 battalions were stationed there. 1858 saw 75 battalions in India, the largest British garrison the sub-continent ever claimed. This huge increase was possible only through the creation of 26 second, third or fourth battalions in 1857–58 which assumed responsibility for garrisons in Britain and in the Mediterranean.

From having claimed a quarter of Britain's line battalions in the 1840s India's share increased in the 1860s to over 40%. During the 1860s the number fell from 58 to 49, averaging 54 battalions, still twice as many as the 1840s.

These calculations do not, however, answer the crucial question of how battalions were selected for particular stations. Were they allocated pleasant or unpleasant stations fairly? That the first battalion of the army's premier line regiment, the

British infantry battalions and the empire, 1840



Royal Scots, served abroad for 28 of the 30 years under study suggests that the roster did not discriminate unfairly in favour of prestigious corps. More work is needed, however, on who decided which regiments went where and for what reason. It is said, for instance, that during the 1860s the second battalion 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment was sent to Mauritius as a sign of disfavour following an altercation with a volunteer unit. The thirteen battalions in the West Indies in 1840, to take an example of an unpleasant station, do not appear to have been conspicuously socially prestigious. And it is perhaps odd that of the twenty-five line regiments which were sent to Australia between 1810 and 1870 none were highland or rifles, only two were light infantry and fusiliers and only five (including the former two) were 'royal' regiments. The majority were run-of-the-mill line battalions of county regiments.

The destination of units leaving Britain was influenced by several considerations. The needs of the moment were often paramount, such as in sending forces to wars, as in 1854 and 1857, or to anticipated wars, when extra battalions were sent to Canada during the American civil war. Other influences were traditional trooping patterns—which meant that posting to Australia involved another to India with the prospect of returning many years away—and simple luck.

Warren Perry

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY: Why was he a controversial soldier?

The year 1984 is the centennial year of the birth of Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey in New South Wales. He was born on 24 January 1884 at Lake Albert, today a suburb of Wagga Wagga. He served with distinction in the War of 1914-18 and attained the rank of brigadier-general. He served again with distinction in the War of 1939-45 and attained the rank of full general. Later, on 8 June 1950, he was promoted to the rank of field-marshal. He died at Heidelberg in Melbourne on 27 May 1951, aged 67 years. A State Funeral took place on 30 May 1951. According to estimates, it was witnessed by over 300,000 people—the largest funeral seen in Melbourne since the death of Blamey's Old Chief, Monash, twenty years earlier in October 1931.

THE centenary of the birth of Field-Marshal Blamey is a memorable occasion in the history of Australia for several reasons. It is a time to remind ourselves of the facts of his career and of his services to Australia. It is a time to reflect on the obstacles he was obliged to overcome or to contend with in serving the nation. It is a time to re-assess more dispassionately than was done in his lifetime his character, his achievements and his military reputation. His achievements made little if any impression, during his lifetime, on most people in Australia. But this unappreciativeness was not due to any qualities of insignificance in these achievements; it was due to the general cultural level of these people themselves. Things should be different today for the military features of his life are matters of profound interest to statesmen, to soldiers and to the public because of the lessions that can be learnt from a dispassionate study of his life for future guidance in matters connected with relations between soldiers and statesmen, between higher commanders and their subordinate commanders, relations with Allied commanders, and the higher command problems which arise in major wars, especially when Australia is a partner co-operating with Allied forces.

In life Blamey was villified and maligned in ways unusual even in Australia. His contemporary detractors were a daily reminder of the truth of Lord Macaulay's statement in his famous essay on Lord Bacon that: *"No reports are more readily believed than those which disparage genius and soothe the envy of conscious mediocrity."* Probably the only things Blamey was never accused of were drug addiction and homosexualism—neither of these recreations were fashionable in his time. It is not now surprising therefore that the popular picture of Blamey which has persisted is a distorted one. It is now time, therefore, that this distortion was corrected and his picture brought into proper focus to correspond more closely with reality.

Warren Perry, BRE, ED, MA(Melb), BEc(Syd), FRHSV. Sometime Federal President of the Military Historical Society of Australia; and formerly Editor of The Victorian Historical Journal.

A recital of more than a few of the main facts of Blamey's life is not possible here. He left school at the age of 14 years in 1898 to become a pupil teacher. After a successful but a somewhat disappointing career of eight years duration, as a State school teacher at first in New South Wales and later in Western Australia, he resigned to begin another and a very different career in which he ultimately reached the top and received a Field-Marshal's baton.

In November 1906 he became, at 22 years of age, an officer of the Permanent Military Forces when he was appointed to the Administrative and Instructional Staff with the rank of lieutenant and posted to the appointment of Staff Officer (Cadets) in Victoria. By sheer hard work, mental as well as physical, he soon got out of the ruts of his profession and attracted the attention of more senior officers.

In December 1911 he left Melbourne to attend the Staff College at Quetta. At the conclusion of the course in December 1913 he was reported on favourably by the Commandant, Brigadier-General W.P. Braithwaite of the British Army, who later became General Sir Ian Hamilton's principal General Staff Officer in the Gallipoli campaign. Blamey, after leaving the Staff College, was attached to the Indian Army for further training in regimental and staff duties. He sailed from India, probably in May 1914, for training in England with the British Army.

When war began in August 1914 Blamey was serving in a staff appointment with a Territorial division on Salisbury plain—an area which became familiar later to the A.I.F. By this time Blamey had attained the rank of major and the right to place after his name the coveted letters *"p.s.c."*. About a week after the outbreak of war he was attached to the War Office, London where he was employed on Intelligence duties in the Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence. When he arrived there he met Captain J.D. Lavarack, R.A.A. who had been a student at the Staff College, Camberely until it was closed down for the duration of the war. Blamey gained valuable training and experience at the highest level during this attachment. It was probably in December 1914 that he left the War Office, London to join the A.I.F. in Egypt.

In Egypt he was posted to Bridges' 1st Australian Division, where he became the officer-in-charge of the Intelligence Section. His G.S.O.(I) was that brilliant Australian staff officer Lieutenant-Colonel C.B.B. White, who had the distinction of having been the first Australian officer to become a Staff College graduate. The divisional commander, Major-General W.T. Bridges, was also the G.O.C. of the A.I.F. Sometime before the division sailed for Gallipoli, Australia's Official War Correspond-

Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey

ent, Mr C.E.W. Bean, was attached to Blamey's Intelligence Section just to give him a "home" so that he could carry out his own duties.

During the Gallipoli campaign there was a major casualty and some changes in allotments for duty which affected Blamey. In May 1915 Major-General Sir W.T. Bridges was mortally wounded while commanding 1st Australian Division. Major-General J.G. Legge was sent from Australia to replace him as GOC, 1st Australian Division and G.O.C. of the A.I.F. In the following month Legge was reported to command the 2nd Australian Division and he relinquished the appointment of GOC of the A.I.F. He returned to Egypt, where he completed the training and equipping of this new 2nd Australian Division. He took Blamey with him as his G.S.O. (II). In September 1915 Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood, who was then commanding the Anzac Corps, became GOC of the A.I.F., an appointment which he held until September 1920. It was probably early in September 1915 that Legge reached Gallipoli again in command of the 2nd Australian Division. In that same month Blamey was reposted within Legge's headquarters from G.S.O.(II) to A.A. & Q.M.G., an appointment which carried the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In December 1915 the troops of the A.I.F. were evacuated from Gallipoli and they returned to Egypt.

In Egypt the A.I.F. was re-organised, expanded, re-trained and re-equipped. On the completion of these tasks Birdwood's 1st Anzac Corps and Godley's IInd Anzac Corps moved from Egypt to the Western Front in Europe where the character of the war was very different from what the A.I.F. had experienced in the Gallipoli campaign. During all these changes Legge remained in command of the 2nd Australian Division and Blamey went to France with him in his appointment of AA & QMG.

It was probably soon after Blamey's arrival in France that he was re-posted, in July 1916, back to 1st Australian Division where he became G.S.O. (I). Towards the end of that year Blamey gained some command experience. On 3 December 1916 he was appointed to command the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the 1st Australian Division. Then on 28 December 1916 he was appointed to command temporarily in that same division the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade. He held this command only during the absence of its permanent commander, Brigadier-General N.M. Smyth, V.C. of the British Army. It is understood that the GOC, 1st Australian Division, Major-General H.B. Walker of the British Army, found Blamey to be indispensable to him as his G.S.O. (I). Therefore, when General Smyth returned to the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade, Blamey returned to Headquarters, 1st Australian Division. He was reposted there to be G.S.O. (I) again to date 14 February 1917 and he remained in this posting until 31 May 1918.

During this time the A.I.F. in Europe was again re-organised. The 1st Anzac Corps and the IInd Anzac Corps were disbanded and, as from 1 January 1918, the A.I.F. members of these two corps were formed into the Australian Corps under the command of Lieutenant-General Birdwood. General Sir Alexander Godley returned to duty in the British Army and he took with him the New Zealand Division. Then, on 1 June 1918, Monash was appointed to command the Australian Corps, vice General Birdwood, with the rank of lieutenant-general. General Birdwood was appointed to command the re-formed Fifth British Army and he took with him, from the Australian Corps, Brigadier-General C.B.B. White who became M.G.G.S. of the Fifth British Army with the rank of Major-General. The vacancy thus created in the Australian Corps was filled by appointing Blamey to it with the rank of Brigadier-General to date 1 June 1918. Blamey was then 34 years of age. He had come a long way in the twelve years since he had first joined the Permanent Military Forces in Melbourne in 1906 as a subaltern.

This staff appointment of B.G.G.S. of the Australian Corps was the senior staff appointment of the A.I.F. on the Western Front. When the Armistice came in November 1918 Blamey had discharged its duties in an outstandingly efficient manner and to the satisfaction of his corps commander.

After the cessation of hostilities Blamey stayed on in the Australian Corps. But Monash was soon diverted to other duties. On 30 November 1918 he relinquished officially the command of the Australian Corps and on the following day he became, officially, the Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation with headquarters in London.

Lieutenant-General Sir Talbot Hobbs replaced Monash as GOC of the Australian Corps. This command was diminishing daily in size and importance because of the movement of troops to England for return to Australia.

In due course Blamey left the corps also when, in April 1919, he was posted to Headquarters, A.I.F., London to take up duty as Chief of Staff to its Commander, General Sir William Birdwood, vice Lieutenant-General Sir Brudenell White who returned to Australia for duty. Blamey held this appointment for the next five months. No information has been discovered about the exact nature of his duties during this period. He relinquished his post officially at Headquarters, A.I.F., London on 18 September 1919. By that time the scheme for the repatriation of the A.I.F. to Australia, for which Headquarters, A.I.F. London had no responsibilities, had reached its peak and was beginning to wind down.

Blamey sailed from England, at Devonport, for Australia, on or about 6 September 1919, in the military transport *Euripides*. He landed in Melbourne on 20 October 1919 and with other officers was met on arrival by District Commandant of the 3rd Military District, Brigadier-General C.H. Brand, who had been Monash's successor in the command of the 4th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F. on the Western Front. Blamey had been absent from Melbourne for almost eight years—since he sailed for India in December 1911. His appointment in the A.I.F. was terminated on 19 December 1919. A week later, on 26 December 1919, his former corps commander, General Monash, arrived in Melbourne after an absence of five years overseas on war service.

In the meantime Blamey had resumed duty in the P.M.F. On 19 November 1919 he was posted to the General Staff at Army Headquarters, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne in the appointment of Director of Military Operations. The Chief of the General Staff at this time was Major-General J.G. Legge, who had been the original commander of the 2nd Australian Division. On 1 April 1920 Blamey became Deputy Chief of the General Staff at Army Headquarters, Melbourne. On 1 June 1920 Major-General Sir Brudenell White became Chief of the General Staff vice Major-General J.G. Legge who became the Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

Blamey remained Deputy Chief of the General Staff for almost eighteen months and during this period he survived the savage retrenchments of 1922 which were a consequence of the Washington Naval Disarmament Treaty of 1922. His next posting took him back to London.

His appointment in London became effective on 1 August 1922 and it was a dual one—Colonel, General Staff at the Office of the Australian High Commission, London and Australian Representative on the Imperial General Staff at the War Office, London. It is presumed that he was accommodated in the Office of the Australian High Commission and visited the War Office whenever he was required there. During Blamey's tour of duty in this dual appointment in London the Australian High Commissioner was the Rt Hon. Sir Joseph Cook and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff at the War Office was Field-Marshal The Earl of Cavan. During Blamey's absence from Australia on this occasion there was an important change at Army Headquarters. Major-General Sir Brudenell White, relinquished the appointment of Chief of the General Staff on 10 June 1923 and was transferred from the P.M.F. to the C.M.F. and appointed to the Unattached List to Date 11 June 1923. He was succeeded in the appointment of Chief of the General Staff by Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Chauvel. Blamey's dual appointment in London terminated officially on 1 January 1925 and he returned to Australia.

He resumed duty at Army Headquarters, Melbourne on 7 March 1925 in the appointment of Second Chief of the General Staff—an appointment to which he had been posted officially on 15 November 1923. On the 16 July 1925 he was given a seat on the Military Board as an Associate Member.

These post-war years had been lean years for Australia's permanent officers. Their pay and prospects for promotion were extremely discouraging and already some officers had been obliged for these reasons to seek employment in civil occupations. Blamey followed these officers when, in August 1925, he resigned from the P.M.F. and was transferred to the C.M.F. with retention of his army seniority and appointed to the Unattached List.[1]

Henceforth, Blamey's employment, as an officer of the C.M.F., was part-time. He was appointed to command the 10th Infantry Brigade on 1 May 1926 and he held this command, which was located in Victoria, until 31 May 1931. During this period he was appointed, on 24 August 1927, A.D.C. to the Governor-General who was then His Excellency The Rt Hon. Lord Stonehaven who was succeeded, in October 1930, by His Excellency The Rt Hon. Sir Isaac Isaacs. The GOC of the 3rd Australian Division, Major-General H. E. "Pompey" Elliott, died on 22 March 1931—during Monash's absence in India on official duty for the Commonwealth Government. On 1 June 1931 Blamey was appointed to command the division with the substantive rank of major-general. The original GOC of this 3rd Australian Division, when it was first formed in the A.I.F. in 1916, was General Sir John Monash. Soon after Blamey took up this command, with headquarters in Melbourne, Monash died. Blamey attended his State Funeral in Melbourne on Sunday 11 October 1931 as a pall bearer.

As a divisional commander Blamey was responsible to the Military Board which had discharged the functions of a Commander-in-Chief since it was created in 1905. Its First Military Member since 1909 had been the Chief of the General Staff, who was normally the chairman of its formal meetings. Major-General W.A. Coxen had been Chief of the General Staff since May 1930 when he had

1. Brigadier-General T. A. Blamey was appointed Chief Commissioner of Police in Victoria on 1 September 1925. He was knighted in the King's New Year Honours List for Victoria in 1935. He resigned the appointment of Chief Commissioner of Police in Victoria on 9 July 1936.

succeeded General Sir Harry Chauvel in the post. The year 1931, some readers will be able to recall, was one of deep depression in Australia and a "standing order" of the Army at that time was to reduce expenditure wherever and whenever possible. Major-General W.A. Coxen relinquished the post of Chief of the General Staff on 30 September 1931 and was hurried on to the Retired List the following day. He was succeeded in the post by Major-General Sir Julius Bruche. Bruche was the officer to greet Blamey when he reported for duty at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, in November 1906 when he arrived there from Western Australia to begin his career as an officer of the P.M.F. They were two men with little in common, either professionally or culturally.

In April 1935 Major-General Sir Julius Bruche, one of the best educated officers of the P.M.F. of his time, having reached the age for retirement, was placed on the Retired List. Colonel J.D. Lavarack succeeded him in the post of Chief of the General Staff with the temporary rank of Major-General. His seniority, in relation to that of Blamey did not therefore change. This fact in itself was a cause for dissatisfaction on the part of Lavarack because, when Blamey first joined the P.M.F. in November 1906, Lavarack had already been an officer of the P.M.F. since August 1905.

Blamey relinquished the command of the 3rd Australian Division in May 1937 and he was transferred to the Unattached List. As an officer of the Unattached List Blamey remained on the Active List and so he retained his Army seniority. However, he was not employed again, militarily, until after the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Blamey reached the zenith of his career in the War of 1939–45. His career in this war has been covered elsewhere in some detail and space does not permit it to be examined critically and at length here.

When Australia went to war in September 1939 its Government had neither useful plans of an adequate character nor sufficient and effective military preparations to discharge the responsibilities it had undertaken. So improvisation was the "Order of the Day".

In October 1939 Blamey was seconded to the A.I.F. in the rank of lieutenant-general and he was appointed to command the A.I.F.[2] as a whole as well as its one division—the 6th Australian Division-and its ancilliary troops. This was a repetition of the organisation introduced for the A.I.F. in August 1914.

In due course Blamey left Australia by air and arrived in the Middle East in June 1940. There he became responsible, operationally and in accordance with a Charter given to him by the Australian Government, to the C-in-C of the British Land Forces in the Middle East who was at that time, General Sir Archibald Wavell. After the ill-fated Greek campaign Blamey became, on 23 April 1941, Deputy C-in-C of the British Land Forces in the Middle East. But in this post he still retained command of the A.I.F. on behalf of the Australian Government. Despite what has been said about Blamey's appointment of Deputy C-in-C of the British Land Forces in the Middle East having been made an "empty title", it was, on the contrary, an important post for Blamey and for Australia. It gave Blamey an overall view of the war in the Middle East at a higher level, it brought him into higher level conferences and into direct contact with political, diplomatic and military people who he would not normally have met as G.O.C. of the A.I.F. His occupancy of this post also raised the status of Australia and its military forces in the community of Allied nations.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck of the Indian Army arrived in Cairo on 30 June 1941 to replace General Wavell as C-in-C. They were both outstanding officers but they were different in experience, outlook and personality. Each was educated beyond the limits of the normal professional training of regular officers and while Auchinleck was a painter, Wavel wrote poetry. In the following month Auchinleck, in response to a request from Churchill, went to London for talks. During his absence Blamey acted as C-in-C in accordance with a signal from Churchill, dated 23 July 1941, to Auchinleck which read: "*...In your absence...Blamey will act for you.*"[3]

But problems soon arose between Blamey and Auchinleck over the employment of the A.I.F. with the result that Blamey's relations with Auchinleck were not always as harmonious as they had been with Wavell. At one stage Auchinleck tried unsuccessfully to have Blamey recalled to Australia.

On 24 September 1941 the Australian Government very properly and very wisely promoted Blamey to the rank of full general. He was the fourth Australian officer to attain this rank. Any officer with less rank, representing Australia, militarily, in the Middle East at that time would have lowered the status and the prestige of the nation.

2 This appointment of G.O.C., A.I.F. has to be interred from the poorly drafted Order-in-Council promulgated in C.A.G., No. 104, dated 12 Oct., 1939, p. 2130.

3. John Connell, *Auchinleck*. Cassell, London, 1959, p.265.

One of Blamey's great achievements in the Middle East has probably not been given the recognition it deserves. He stood successfully against attempts by the British High Command to fragment the A.I.F. by "using it up" in "small parcels" here, there and anywhere.

The long suspected entry of Japan into the war took place when, on the night 7/8 December 1941, it attacked simultaneously, and without prior diplomatic warning, Malaya and Pearl Harbor This aggression brought the U.S.A. into the war and it brought to the notice of the people of Australia that the war was getting closer to home. The British forces in Malaya, including the Australian component, surrendered on Sunday evening 15 February 1942, and General Bennett escaped to Australia.

Blamey, who had no responsibility for the defeat in the Malayan campaign, was recalled from the Middle East to put Australia's "military house" in order so that it could withstand any attempts to invade Australia. He arrived in Melbourne on Thursday 26 March 1942 from the Middle East via South Africa. The following day he was in Canberra and after talks with the Government there the Minister for the Army announced to the press that same day, Friday 27 March 1942, that General Blamey had been appointed C-in-C of the A.M.F., that the Military Board would cease to function, and that its Military Members would become the principal staff officers of the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief thus became the sole Military Advisor to the Australian Government.

By adopting this new system for advising the Australian Government and for commanding its military forces, wherever they may be and however they may be employed, this Government did two things. It ignored the advantages of the division of labour and it took the nation a step backwards to a system which, on the recommendation of the Esher Committee, had been discarded at the War Office, London in 1904.

Blamey did not recommend this Commander-in-Chief system to the Government. It had been decided by the Government to appoint him to the post of Commander-in-Chief before he himself knew anything about it. But once the Government introduced the system it was difficult to change it during the course of the war and especially while Blamey remained in the post. Blamey, because of his capacity and his personality, made this new command machinery operate effectively if not always perfectly. This command machinery resembled in one respect the machinery of Government for the German Empire from 1871 to 1918. Bismarck was able to operate this machinery effectively, but none of his successors in the post of Imperial Chancellor could. But Blamey, unlike Bismarck, had no successors. When he vacated the post, the machinery for the command and administration of the A.M.F. soon returned to what it had been before the 27 March 1942.

Blamey's tendency to concentrate power in his own hands, his unwillingness to delegate powers to subordinates and his reluctance to train higher commanders, who might have become a threat to his own position, were matters which the Curtin Government should have been aware of at the time it appointed him Commander-in-Chief. This Government should have insisted on the creation of the appointment of Deputy Commander-in-Chief and on its being filled by a suitable officer. This organisation would have reduced the workload of the Commander-in-Chief, and it would have provided relief for the Commander-in-Chief, if he should have become ill or if he were absent from Australia on official business in say London or Washington. Earlier, the career of Napoleon had indicated plainly that sound military institutions are more desirably for the lasting welfare of a nation than one supreme military leader of genius.

This command machinery which Blamey operated was further complicated, for the Curtin Government and for Blamey, after the arrival of General Douglas MacArthur in Australia. On 18 April 1942 MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the S.W.P.A. That same day MacArthur announced his Commander of Allied Land Forces in the S.W.P.A. was General Blamey.

Blamey now had two masters. As Commander-in-Chief of the A.M.F. he was responsible directly to the Australian Government and he was also that Government's Military Advisor. As Commander Allied Land Forces in the S.W.P.A. Blamey was a subordinate of MacArthur and MacArthur seems to have kept the relationship that way. They were men who differed in social origins, in general education as well as in professional training and experience, in outlook and in personality. Another anomaly in this relationship, full of indignities for Blamey, was that Blamey and MacArthur were of equal rank until December 1944, when MacArthur was promoted in the U.S. Army. But Blamey seems to have tried, at all times for the general good, to reduce to a minimum in this relationship possible areas of friction.

Blamey's unenviable position in having to serve two masters was glaringly illustrated by the Kokoda Trail incident in 1942—an incident illustrated at considerable cost to Australia and to its land forces in status and in prestige. The details of this incident have been recorded elsewhere, and so they need not be repeated here.

It will suffice to say that initially Blamey was satisfied with General Rowell's tactical handling,

in unusually difficult terrain, of the very difficult military operations on the Kokoda Trail. He had expressed confidence in General Rowell's ability to bring the operations to a successful close. Blamey, in the circumstances had no wish to go himself to New Guinea to create any impression that he was "interfering" with the commander on the spot. Nevertheless, because of promptings by the Cabinet in Canberra and the Advisory War Council, Blamey did in the end go to New Guinea. He arrived in Port Moresby on 12 September 1942, he had amicable talks with Rowell and confirmed his satisfaction with Rowell's handling of the situation. Blamey returned to his Advanced Headquarters in Brisbane on 14 September 1942. MacArthur, at this stage had not been to New Guinea, and so he had no first hand knowledge of the difficulties under which the Australian forces were operating. He soon got into a state of mind where he wanted Blamey to return to New Guinea "to energise the situation" and he communicated this feeling of anxiety through the Prime Minister to the Australian Government.

Blamey was soon instructed by the Prime Minister to return to New Guinea to take command in the area and to conduct the military operations personally. Like any other soldier Blamey had to obey an order, although he did not like this particular order, and he did not regard it as a good order. He could foresee General Rowell's reaction to it. Nevertheless, he did his best to defuse the situation by sending in advance, by his A.D.C., Captain R.E. Porter, a "safe hand" letter to General Rowell to explain the reasons for his second visit to New Guinea so soon after his previous one. Later events showed, however, that General Rowell did not receive the letter and act upon it in the same spirit as Blamey had sent it.

By issuing this order the Prime Minister, although acting in good faith but not being a Churchill, made a mistake. He issued it to Blamey, in deference to the urgings of General MacArthur, and against the advice of his own C-in-C, Blamey, who had not long before been in New Guinea.

The Prime Minister had two proper courses open to him. But neither of them were easy to take in the difficult position in which he found himself, because Australia was the junior partner in the Alliance with the U.S.A. for the prosecution of the war in the S.W.P.A. He could have told General MacArthur, in a diplomatic way two things. First that he rejected his advice to send Blamey back to New Guinea. Second, that he accepted instead Blamey's advice that he should not go to New Guinea again so soon after his previous visit there, because General Rowell was doing satisfactorily all that could be done to bring the situation under effective control. Alternatively, he could have made a decision which he had the power to do, provided he had his Cabinet behind him, but it was a decision which even Churchill never made against military advice to the contrary. He could have overruled Blamey and instructed him to replace General Rowell with another suitable subordinate commander. Having taken this action he could then have informed General MacArthur of this action. This information alone would have plainly indicated to General MacArthur that the Prime Minister had not accepted either his advice or that of Blamey, but instead had made his own decision.

The course which the Prime Minister did in fact follow was a third one which was a mistake. He should not have instructed his Commander-in-Chief, as he did, to go into the field to do the work of a subordinate commander. The precedent established earlier in the Middle East when General Auchinleck took over the command of the Eighth Army from General Ritchie was not a good one to apply in this Kokoda Trail incident because the two cases were not identical.

Blamey landed at Port Moresby on Wednesday evening 23 September 1942. He relieved General Rowell of his command on Monday morning 28 September 1942. This decision arose in fact out of a clash of personalities. A feature of this clash was a failure on the part of the subordinate commander, General Rowell, to co-operate with his Commander-in-Chief, General Blamey. The reasons for this dismissal had therefore nothing whatever to do with General Rowell's ability to conduct the Kokoda Trail operations efficiently and successfully. Why General Rowell behaved as he did in this situation is probably a task for a psychologist rather than a historian to explain.

The first and only meeting during the War of 1939–45 of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London took place in May 1944. The Australian Prime Minister, Mr John Curtin, left Sydney on Wednesday 5 April 1944, accompanied by a small party of advisers and assistants in the U.S.S. *Lurline*, to attend this conference. This party included: the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr F.A. McLaughlin; the Secretary of the War Cabinet, Sir Frederick Shedden and his Personal Assistant, Mr Samuel Landau; the C-in-C of the A.M.F., General Sir Thomas Blamey and his Personal Assistant, Major D.H. Dwyer. The party landed at San Francisco and, without delay, they travelled to Washington where Mr Curtin had talks with President Roosevelt. General Blamey took the opportunity, presumably, to call on the Head of the Australian Military Mission at Washington, Lieutenant-General Sir John Lavarack, for talks.

After their business in Washington was completed, Mr Curtin and his party, then travelled to London. There the Australian High Commissioner, Mr S.M. Bruce, joined the Prime Minister's party as an

adviser. When Blamey arrived in London on this occasion it was his first visit to that city since he left it 19 years earlier, in 1925, to return to duty in Melbourne. His additional role in London was to speak for Australia on military matters discussed at the official level, as distinct from the ministerial level.

During this visit Blamey spent much time in Committees of one kind and another, with British and British Commonwealth military representatives, and then reported results back to Mr Curtin. Blamey also had some useful discussions with General Sir Alan Brooke (CIGS). They soon found each other "easy to get along with". Brooke said that when Blamey called on him on 10 May 1944, he "remained a full hour and a half" and "we discussed many of the Pacific problems".[5]

Blamey had time in England, during this visit, for other things of interest also. He visited Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force; he saw something of the magnitude of the preparations for the invasion of Normandy which began less than a month later, on 6 June 1944; and he called on Montgomery, who, he discovered, was wholly uninterested in the war in the Pacific.

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London closed on Tuesday 16 May 1944. Mr Curtin and his party returned to Australia by the same route as they had come to London, via Washington.

Blamey returned to L.H.Q., Melbourne on or about Tuesday 20 June 1944. During his absence Morshead had commanded New Guinea Force, Berryman had commanded IInd Australian Corps and Lieutenant-General H.G. Bennett had relinquished his command and returned to civil life.

For Blamey however, after his recent valuable and stimulating experience in the United Kingdom, it was "business as usual" again. On 6 October 1944 Bridgeford's 3rd Australian Division of Savige's IInd Australian Corps opened its headquarters at Torokina in Bougainville. United States forces invaded Leyte on October 20 1944, and headquarters of the 6th Australian Division was opened at Aitape on November 8 1944.

President Roosevelt's death on April 12 1945 was a great loss to the Allied cause. But the war flowed on. Troops of the 26th Australian Infantry Brigade landed on Tarakan Island on May 1 1945. A week later, on May 8 1945, known as VE Day, the German forces in Europe surrendered unconditionally. The Prime Minister, Mr John Curtin, died at The Lodge, Canberra on July 5 1945. His place was taken temporarily by Mr F.M. Forde. Then on July 13 1945 Mr J.B. Chifley became Prime Minister for the remainder of the war and afterwards. This change affected Blamey adversely. His relations with Mr Chifley were different and less cordial than they had been with Mr Curtin. Moreover, Mr Chifley gave no evidence, as Mr Curtin had done even before the outbreak of war in September 1939, of a desire to fill in the many gaps in his knowledge of, and experience in, the role of a Prime Minister in conducting a major war. Nor did he take up Mr Curtin's portfolio of Defence, but relegated it to Mr J.A. Beasley.

On August 15 1945, known as VP Day, all Allied offensive action against Japan ceased and on September 2 1945 Blamey was one of the signatories of the Allied Instrument of Surrender which was signed on board the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. By this action the long and devastating war—almost another Seven Years' War—came to an end officially. Thoughts were now turned in Australia to demobilisation and speedy return to peacetime conditions.

Blamey himself relinquished his command of the A.M.F. at midnight on Friday 30 November 1945. He spent the next two months in writing his final Despatch for the Government. Then, on February 1 1946, he was transferred to the Reserve of Officers and went into military retirement. He was allowed to go by the Government of the day in a graceless and ungrateful manner without any public ceremonies and without any other forms of public recognition of his difficult and strenuous but successful services to the nation throughout the War of 1939–45. Hughes set the precedent, after the War of 1914–18, by his Government's treatment of Monash.

The fourth Menzies Government succeeded the Chifley Government on December 19 1949. It was due to the personal efforts of the new Prime Minister that Blamey was restored to the Active List of the A.M.F. and, on June 8 1950, promoted to the rank of field-marshal. Six days later Field-Marshal Blamey was entertained at a private dinner by nineteen close friends at the Hotel Australia in Melbourne as a mark of esteem on the occasion of his promotion.

Five days later, on Monday 19 June 1950, Blamey was admitted to a hospital in East Melbourne. Later he was transferred from there to the Repatriation General Hospital at Heidelberg. In time he recognised that he would not recover. On Saturday morning September 16 1950 at a moving and unique ceremony at the hospital at Heidelberg His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir

5. Arthur Bryant, *Triumph in the West, 1943–1946.* Collins, London, 1959, p.188 and p.195.

William McKell, presented Field-Marshal Blamey with a Field-Marshal's Baton on behalf of King George VI. Eight months later on May 27 1951 Field-Marshal Blamey died in hospital at Heidelberg.

A State Funeral took place in Melbourne on Wednesday afternoon May 30 1951. It was estimated that the funeral ceremonies were witnessed by more than 300,000 people. It was the largest funeral in Melbourne since that of General Monash twenty years earlier, in October 1931.

Field-Marshal Blamey was properly described at the time of his death as "Our No. 1 Soldier".[6] It was a surprise, therefore, to at least some of those who had served under him to be told thirty years after his death that: "Blamey will . . . be remembered as the foremost Australian general of the Second World War, but he will never be remembered as the greatest."[7] Sir Rober Menzies, who knew Blamey well when he was at first a State Minister and later when he was Prime Minister, said that: "Field-Marshal Blamey was a magnificent soldier, a devoted servant of his people, a man in whom patriotism, great ability, strength of mind, and force of character were blended in massive proportions", that "His military record in two great wars was unique"; that "At all stages he compelled respect and admiration"; and that "Some of the greatest virtues were his in abundance—courage, clarity, firm decision, coolness and an abiding sense of duty." This is indeed an epitome of the highest military virtues. Close friends of long standing have testified to his many kindnesses to them, to his deep sympathy with them in times of private grief and sorrow. His loyalty to those who gave it to him is also widely acknowledged.

Blamey's strength lay in his clear and rapid perception of facts, in his knowing exactly what he wanted and why he wanted it, and in his ability to communicate effectively with his subordinate commanders, with his superior officers, and with his ministers. He showed a remarkable buoyancy in adversity; and in all that he did he was imbued with a deep sense of duty to all those he served up and down the chain of command. But he made no personal efforts to capture the public imagination and his failure to do this was often injurious to his own interest.

Hostile opinions of Blamey have touched almost every extreme. It is probable that he suffered severer ordeals at the hands of detractors than any other public figure of his time. The innermost recesses of his private life were at times investigated with the same inquisitorial zeal and malignity, as was devoted to the private life of that great British admiral, Lord Nelson, more than a century earlier.

It should be stressed in conclusion that the making of a balanced and judicial estimate of the character of Field-Marshal Blamey demands that he be judged as a whole person. Too often in life he was caricatured by those with an "axe to grind". These people selected certain features in his character and they suppressed others in order to create a particular effect to serve some special purpose of the moment. In this way he was often falsely portrayed and he was thereby grossly and unjustly misrepresented.

6. *"Our No. 1 Soldier Dies"*. The *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 28 1951, p.2.

7. *Journal of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia*, Vol. 4, No. 1. April 1981, p.76.

Military History Seminar The NSW Military Historical Society and the Army Museum Society (Victoria Barracks) are planning a Military History Seminar which will be held on Saturday, 7 April 1984 at Victoria Barracks, Paddington.

The theme of the Seminar is "The Colonial Forces of Australia".

Readers are invited to attend the Seminar.

Readers are also invited to submit titles and synopses for talks they may wish to deliver in relation to the Colonial Forces.

Further enquiries should be directed to the Seminar Chairman, Mr Ray Cooper, c/- 12 Irvine Crescent, Ryde. 2112.

Michael Fogarty

TOWARDS AN OUTLINE OF R.A.N. HISTORY SOURCES:
A guide to those published works describing the history of the Royal Australian Navy

For many years there were very few books available on the birth and development of the R.A.N. Now that balance has been corrected. The purpose of this survey is to briefly review the books concerned. It is not meant to be comprehensive. The books are readily available commercially and representative of the field. There are many small works available on the various types of ships. *The Corvettes* by Iris Nesdale (a recent work) is a worthwhile addition. Furthermore, a visit to any major bookshop will show you the type and range of titles available. May it every grow!

Due to limitations, there are obvious disadvantages in attempting so broad a task. Many of the works suffer from repetitiveness. Similarly, attention has been given to narrating common facts which are well known and reproduced elsewhere. Mistakes are often made in the rush to produce. More attention should be paid to this. In all, the bibliographies show just how wide the range of sources is.

OF NAUTILUS AND EAGLES, A HISTORY OF THE R.A.N., Peter Firkins, Cassell Australia, Sydney, 1975. (269 pages) (Illustrated, Appendices and Bibliography)

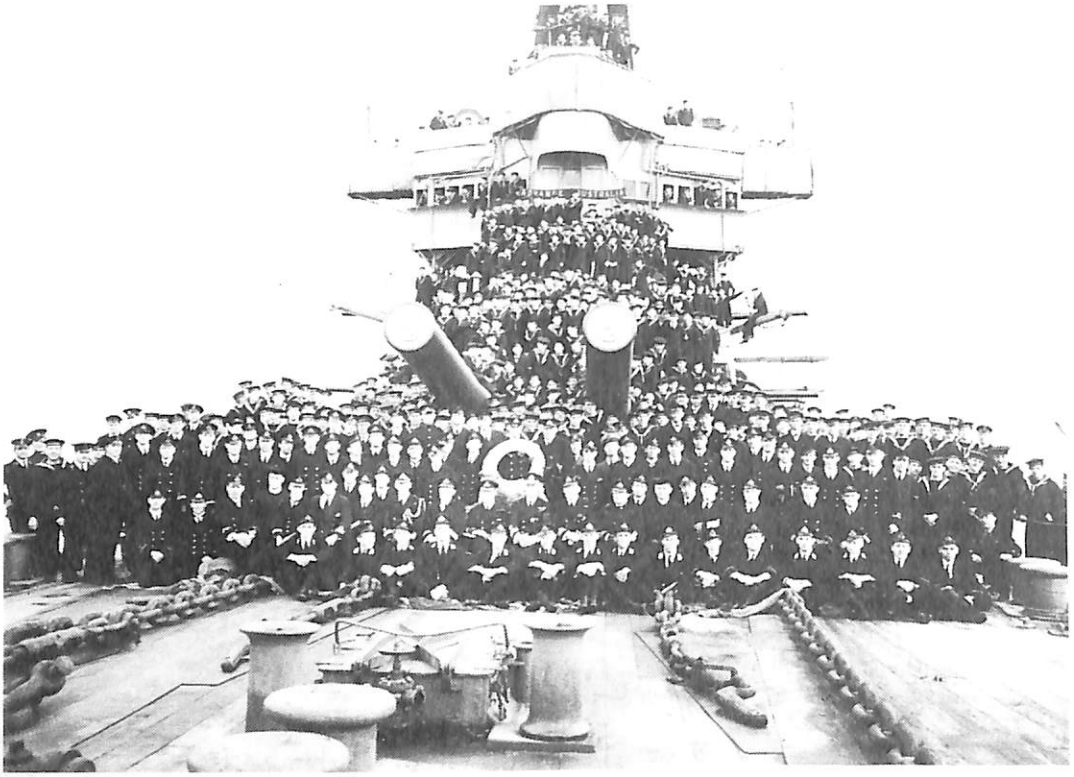
In reviewing this book it is only fair to comment that a 1983 updated edition has recently been published by Hutchison for $17.95. For those wishing to enquire further their attention is drawn to Ivan Chapman's review in The *Australian* of 31 December 1983. Firkins is a highly competent author of military history who has several well praised previous works to his name. He has not failed in his current venture.

Peter Firkins took on a highly ambitious project to describe over 70 years of history in such a length as he did. To his credit, he outlined the historical roots and political factors involved. It is difficult to see the wisdom of the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty which Australia felt obliged to follow. The hapless HMAS *Australia* was sunk outside Sydney Heads in deference to arcane decisions on 'Ratios".

Much attention is given to the "side shows" of World War II. That is; the coast watchers, mine and bomb disposal and early aviation operations. By necessity, some of the commentary is reduced to terse statistics in the form of miles steamed, shells fired and days at sea.

Mike Fogarty served in the R.A.N. for six years before becoming a public servant in 1972. He lives in Canberra and has recently completed a course at the College of Advanced Education.

His interest in military history is restricted to political-military events from 1939 and onwards—especially the modern wars of South East Asia. A special interest is reserved in Australian participation in these operations and particularly the awards of decorations and campaign medals to those who served.



HMAS Australia, Firth of Forth, December 1918. *Photograph: AWM. EN.1*

To be fair, a large part of the work has to be taken up with an explanation of naval terms into simple language. Also, the development of technology takes up much of the work. That this is often at the expense of describing personal achievements is unfortunate. While it is interesting to note the names of flag officers and the various ships in commission more attention should be given to the other side. For example, why not include a break-down of honours and awards granted to all members which would certainly be available from official navy archives? The Fairfax official history on the R.A.N. in Vietnam corrects this imbalance—if only for one war.

HISTORIC NAVAL EVENTS OF AUSTRLIA DAY-BY-DAY (Ships, Men, Battles and Great Moments) Lew Lind, Reed, Frenchs Forest, 1982. (272 pages-folio size) (Appendices, Bibliography and Photographs)

Similarly, Lew Lind leads the field. He has taken on a great project with much sincerity. It is to his credit that he has included; biographical insets, ships lost in war, great sea battles, glossary of nautical terms, and a bibliography. Obviously, tremendous effort went into collating all the many photographs and drawings. He has done well to cover the array of events in a satisfactory chronology. It is good to see as many photographs of the other ranks as well as officers.

However, the work contains some glaring errors which careful checking would have corrected. The next edition should show a better effort. There are many serving members of the R.A.N. who would have been delighted to check the dates. While one can recognise the need for speedy publication it must not be at the expense of sacrificing accuracy.

Some of the errors include:

p. 17 Sadly, LCDR P. Vickers had the unfortunate honour of being the first R.A.N. Officer to die in Vietnam (see P.45)

p. 27 He should have received the OBE but was awarded the MBE.

p.30 RADM Stevenson was appointed F.O.C.A.F. early in 1970 and not 24 January, 1972 as stated.

p. 77 HMAS *Hobart* served three and not four deployments in Vietnam (whilst programmed to serve, the withdrawal decisions of 1971 prevented this). Also, see Odgers p.182.

p. 88/92 Did CDT 3 return to Sydney before completing service or did a rear guard stay? On 5th May it was said that only three divers were wounded yet on 10 May 1971 it says that one was wounded.

p. 112 Is it Lieut. Griffin or Giffen?

p. 148 Is he referring to the *Voyager* or should the date be 1969?

p. 180 Whilst an OBE was deserved only an MBE was awarded (some of the M.I.D.s should really have been DSCs!)

P. 192 Should be Waddell-Wood who actually was the senior R.A.N. officer with 9 squadron RAAF. Apart from several wrong initials for other officers it is REX not ROX.

p. 233 HMAS *Teal* was said to be involved in an action on 13 December, 1964. We assume a DSC was awarded to Lt K. Murray, RAN some time afterwards. As a comment, an R.N.Z.N. officer also won a DSC during confrontation.

p. 237 An entertainment tour for our troops in 1974? Most units were withdrawn by late 1971.

p. 238 Again, Lieutenant Murray; does that suggest an almost immediate award? (OR 1965). Also, Malaysian is correct and not Malayan.

p. 239 Bob Dagworthy's 'y' was elided.

Obviously, it is easier to criticise than to attempt a similar feat. Overall, the book has achieved its purpose. Until a better work comes out it remains a very interesting and informative book on the history of the R.A.N. by dates.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY An illustrated History, George Odgers, Child and Henry, Hornsby, 1982.

This folio size coffee-table book stands out from the crowd. A "glossy" work it was written by Australia's greatest living military historian. The author takes the familiar route in describing the history by:

Part 1—The beginning.
Part 2—The Navy in World Wars.
Part 3—After World War II.
Part 4—The Navy today.

The myriad of photographs greatly adds to the text. Many paintings are no doubt from the Australian War Memorial. In many ways it is also a social history in its attempts to describe the conditions and significant changes in the progress of the service as it affected its personnel. He has done well to obtain many previously unpublished photographs. This distinguishes the book's originality. The maps are an admirable asset to tacticians and naval strategists. The ships' crests are a colourful addition to the insets.

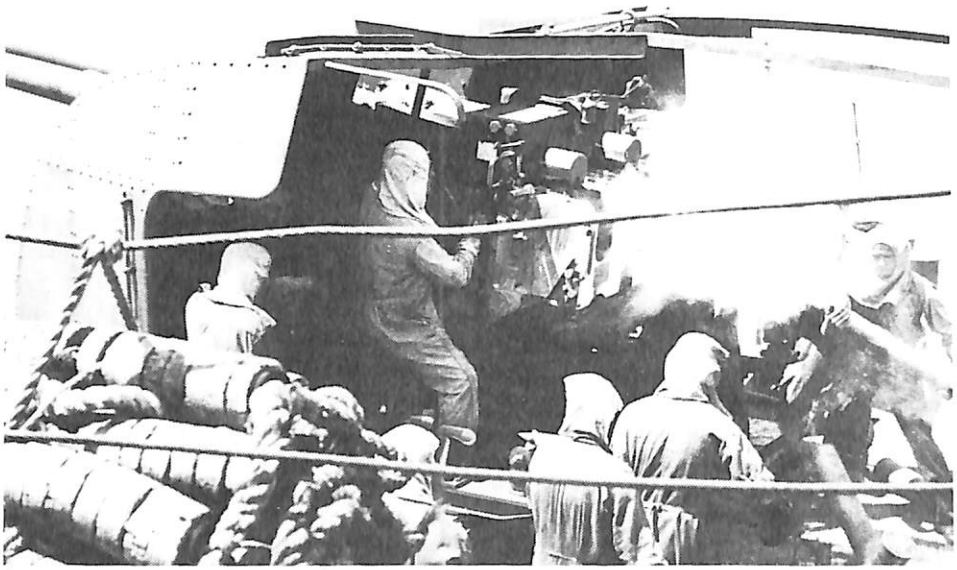
The quality of the paper is first-class as it allows the text to appear boldly and easy to read. More than anything else he has attempted to locate the political significance of many naval battles. The book is pitched to an accessible market. The prose suits a wide ambit of readers—from school boys to admirals. At the same time, it attempts to cover the historical aspect in its full significance relating it to other events in the period.

The lists are complete. Casualties are shown in addition to honours and awards. Mr Odgers has done well to chronicle the strength of the R.A.N. in its ships and personnel at important periods of its growth. Many photographs are included showing mess-deck life and not merely portraits of bearded Admirals.

The chapter on Korea is remarkable. In many ways it shows how badly we await the forthcoming official history of the Korean war-military, naval and air operations. In as much as several officers received foreign awards it would have been helpful to show them—for example the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star which were awarded to several of our officers.

The work though shares a common weakness with Firkins' book. That is, more information is needed on the role of the R.A.N. in the Malayan Emergency. Whilst the R.A.N. only played a small role it would be interesting to know of the significance of its contribution. Similarly, the extent of our involvement in Confrontation needs to be spelled out. For example, *HMAS Melbourne* was involved (to a limited extent) at one stage and the scope of its flying operations must have had some significance even in a support/surveillance role but these issues were not addressed.

Even so, whilst the book is not an official history there could be a need to show the role of officers attached with the R.N. on exchange or loan. For example, no doubt some officers were involved in Suez or the Middle East yet there is no account of this. For example, we know that no R.A.N. member was involved in the Falklands campaign of 1982. There were some naval pilots with the Harriers on board the carriers but they were withdrawn before her departure. Even so, if we were to believe the television footage of the period we would have felt the R.A.N. was involved—one Harrier showed the name of its erstwhile R.A.N. pilot on the fuselage for all the world to see!



HMAS Swan in action off But, New Guinea, February 1945. (79323)

The Vietnam war is well covered. However, much of this is fairly descriptive and one needs to turn to the Fairfax history for a more thorough account. But then, this is an unfair criticism in that the author makes no claim in providing a comprehensive history. In view of this Odgers' book cannot attempt to describe the activities (even briefly) of the other personnel who served in varied roles.

The final (part 4) section shows some very beautiful colour photographs. The line up of Admirals on p.190 is a special treat! He has done well to describe the change in the administrative/operational structure of the R.A.N. The Navy order of battle is quite informative. The inclusion of *HMS Invincible* is perhaps misplaced but then we were all to believe, at one stage, that she would soon be ours. The chapter on personnel is very important as it is educative in its attempts to explain the need for highly specialised training. It is perhaps unfortunate that the last photograph in the text describes a guard commander as a Lieutenant when he is clearly shown to be wearing the rank of a Lieutenant-Commander.

Notwithstanding the nitpicking and the small errors they in no way detract from the utility of this work. It is long overdue and fills a great need. *An illustrated history of the R.A.N.* is a worthy contribution to Australian naval history.

HERALDRY IN THE R.A.N. Alfred N. Festberg, Silverlead Publications, Melbourne, 1981.

All in all, a valuable addition to his own stable. He is to be commended for bringing such an esoteric study to the reading public. No doubt he received much assistance from the Department of the Navy. It is sad though that this book is not produced in colour. But then, given the small interest in the topic, the market could probably not support such a venture.

But then there is a great sense of protocol attached to an understanding of such a topic. After all, this book will be of some interest to newly recruited officers and men as a suitable training aid. His attempt was ambitious and he has given every indication that his efforts have succeeded. However, p.183, CEREBUS or CERBERUS?

It is strange though that the "Ton"- Class minesweepers were not awarded battle honours for their participation in 'Confrontation'. After all, *Teal* was involved in a battle of sorts and her Captain was decorated. Are we to believe that was a *'Clayton's War'*? It was not for the R.N. midshipmen who were killed.

Both HOBART and PERTH were awarded the United States Navy Unit Commendation for Vietnam service. Several personnel served on both Perth and Hobart and as such were eligible to receive, in a sense, two commendations. Yet there is no reference to the rules describing how the commendation ribbon should be worn by those doubly qualified. Are we to believe a "V" (for "valour") can be worn by the eligible holders or is that stretching the analogy too far?

Many years ago the names of the destroyer squadrons were changed to a more workable form, i.e. 1, 2 and 3. One wonders whether it is worthwhile to do the same to the Fleet Air Arm. It is very reassuring to know we have squadrons in the 800 series. However, we only have a few (unfortunately). No doubt the history of the old squadrons was a source of some inspiration. However, it would seem more sensible to start at 1 and go up. On R.A.N.H.F.V.'s crest there is no reference to "GET THE BLOODY JOB DONE". This brings home the point that there are "official" crests and "unofficial" crests. The author makes a good point about the Korean presidential citation and its applicability for the R.A.N.

This work is, and remains, the bible of R.A.N. Heraldry. It seems to replicate much of the official regulations, etc. It is pleasing to see we have established our own control over this matter. No doubt there is still some unofficial wearing of crests on uniform jackets. We could probably turn a blind eye in some circumstances as it does good to foster elan and esprit de corps, one only has to see the amount of ships 'T-Shirts' about. If this subject is your field then "Heraldry in the R.A.N." is highly recommended.

WARSHIPS OF AUSTRALIA, Ross Gillett, Rigby, Adelaide, 1977 (Illustrations, Appendices and Index of ships)

The author states that this is the first book to include under one cover the history of the warship in Australia since the birth of our nation in 1788. The book is divided into two main parts, the first being an overall historical account from the early times through to the period up to and including the 1970s. The second and larger part of the book is a history of the warships of Australia. Each part provides statistical and technical notes for each warship used in the defence of Australia. (This information was extracted from the introduction to his book.)

Again, a useful work. The style and layout could have been improved in that it all seems rather cramped. It does not attempt to go into the historical sice too much only barely describing the outline. This book is pitched more towards the technically-minded. For example, it describes the change in aircraft complement for the carriers. p.133 shows the different types of aircraft over the years.

The colour photographs are of surprisingly good quality. The edition is too early to cover the new frigates recently received from the United States. The section on submarines, makes up for deficiencies in other books previously reviewed. The section of drawings on the Fleet Air Arm aircraft is very useful. In fact the chapter on Fleet Air Arm 1948–76 is a hallmark of the work. All in all, a handy reference work which supplements the existing histories.

In general, all the books are very worthy additions to naval history. That some were printed in Hong Kong shows the economic problems of the printing trade. More works on the R.A.N. are no doubt forthcoming. There is a growing market of enthusiasts in all their esoteric fields. We should thank the authors for the display of dedication they showed to provide a fine body of works for the reading public. To do the authors credit we should think in terms of buying their books. After all, there are a lot of sea dogs around who would love such a present on their birthday or at Christmas time.

Paul Rosenzweig

BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDAL ZOOLOGY

Surprisingly, the range of wildlife depicted on British campaign medals is somewhat limited. So far, only nine animals and five mythical beasts have appeared since their debut in 1746, and of these, a mere three have appeared more than just once or twice.

ANIMALS have long been used to symbolise power or nationhood, yet surprisingly few have appeared on the campaign medals of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. The commonest use of animals in heraldry is national representation, and by far the most abundant animal on campaign medals is the lion, appearing as the traditional symbol of British might on a total of thirteen medals. Other such animals are the tiger (denoting India), the springbok (South Africa), the sable antelope (Rhodesia) and the mythical sphynx (Egypt). In addition, the national animals often appear in, or in support of, the arms of the nation, such as the emu and kangaroo on the 1939–45 Australian War Medal.

On the Culloden medal of 1746, a dragon was first used to represent the defeated enemy, and since that time animals have been used, although somewhat sparingly, to represent the forces of good and evil. Of the 13 appearances of the British lion, three have seen him in the form of a victor, defeating or standing over the vanquished foe, which has variously been a tiger, an elephant and a dragon.

Much rarer are the animals which actually appear as animals, with no symbolic connotations. The horse first appeared in 1746, and has appeared three times since, while the elephant is the only other animal to so appear in its natural form rather than as a symbol.

THE ANIMALS

Lion (Panthera leo)

Lions are found in Africa south of the Sahara, and in India, although their range there is now very restricted. The thickly maned male hardly seems deserving of his title *"King of the Beasts"* as he is large and cumbersome, slow on his feet, and very conspicuous with the thick bushy mane. As a result, nine out of ten kills are made by the lithe and agile females, although the male still gorges himself first before the lionesses and cubs are allowed to indulge.

Despite this, the lion appears as the traditional emblem of British power and strength rather than the lioness, even though Brittania is depicted as a female, on the following medals:

1. Seringapatam medal 1799.
2. Military General Service 1793–1814.
3. Peninsula gold cross and medal.
4. Burma medal 1824–26.
5. South Africa medal 1834–53.
6. Indian Mutiny medal 1857–58.
7. South Africa medal 1877–79.
8. East & Central Africa medal 1897–99.
9. British North Borneo Co. Medal 1897–1937.
10. Ashanti medal 1900.
11. Sudan medal 1910.
12. African General Service medal 1902–56.
13. War medal 1939–45.

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

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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The Directory of Members is distributed to enable members with similar interests to make contact by correspondence. The Directory will be brought up to date annually in the January-March issue of *Sabretache*.

As in previous Directories members' interests have been coded in accordance with the key shown below. Where members have not advicsed a specific coding their interest has been shown as Military History — General.

Members wishing to amend the coding of their interests may do so in the January-March 1985 issue of *Sabretache* by advising the Federal Secretary of their desired amendments before 1 January 1985.

All Society members are not shown in the Directory as some have requested that their names not be shown.

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	30	Antique
	70	Other (specify)

Uniforms and Equipment UE

UE	01	General
	10	Australian
	20	British and Commonwealth
	70	Other (specify)

Prints, Books and Memorabilia PBM
PBM

Models F
F

RESIGNATIONS:

Mr R A Allison
Lt Col J L Benton
Mr R A Bergman
Mr J Bradley
Mr P A Bryans
Lt Col B W Gloughey
Mr W H Connell
Capt G C Cooper
Mr S Danaher
Mr A Farkes
Lt W Gardiner
Sqn Ldr J Hammond
Mr H Hansen
Mr J W Hardie
Mr A P Hasting
Capt H Johanson
Cpl P G Johnson
Mr T Jubb
A Kaplan & Son Pty Ltd
Mr R V Kennett
Lt Col S Kuusk
Miss M Lincolm
Mr R Lindmarch
Mr D M Lovell
Mr J D Machette
Mr P B Murphy
Mr F McArdell
Mr M Neil
Mr A J Organ
Mr D J Parkin
Mr E J Parkin
Mr D Paterson
Capt J C Phillips
Mr J B Pigkin
Mr V Pylypenko
Mr P Riches
Mr G Ross
Maj L Scheuch-Evans (RL)
Mr J W Schmidt
Mr R Stephens
Mr L Stillman
Maj J M A Tamplin (TD)
Mr J Thompson
Mr R Thompson
Mr R Ruswill
Mr G Berney
Mr H J Vesty
Mr H Wayte
Mr J Wegb
Sgt J C Whateley

In addition, the lion appears as a heraldic symbol on the following medals:

1. Cape of Good Hope GSM 1880-97.
2. Defence medal 1939-45.
3. Canadian Volunteer Service medal 1939-47.
4. South African medal for War Services 1939-46.
5. South African Korea medal 1950-53.

On only one other medal does a lion appear, this being the British South Africa Company's medal (1890-97) where the charging lion depicts the strength of the native tribes, although its chest is accordingly pierced by a spear.

Horse (Equus caballus).

The noble horse, upon which the British Army has relied so heavily even to the present day, has featured on five medals. Its first portrayal was on the 1746 Culloden medal, bearing the Duke of Cumberland, and it has subsequently borne Major General Sir Walter Gilbert (Punjab medal 1848-49), mounted troops in India (Afghanistan medal 1878-80) and Saint George (British War medal 1914-20). Its other appearance is as a heraldic support of the blazon of arms on the Cape of Good Hope GSM 1880-97.

Tiger (Panthera tigris)

The tiger, the largest of the living cats, may reach up to 4m in length including the tail, and up to 270 kg in weight. Although its range includes Siberia, China and South-East Asia, it is typically considered to be an Indian specialty, and has long been used to symbolise India. Hence it appears on the 1799 Seringapatam medal, portraying the Tippoo Sahib being defeated by the British lion. More recently, it has appeared on the Indian General Service medal 1936-39 as the symbol of British India.

Indian Elephant (Elephas maximus).

The Indian elephant inhabits the deep forests of India where it is continually shaded from the overhead sun, unlike its African relative of the plains and savannahs. It does not have, therefore, the crucial problem of keeping cool, and for this reason has smaller ears than the African elephant, the ears being the major organ of heat loss. It has been used as a beast of burden for centuries, and is thus depicted on the Afghanistan medal of 1878-80, where it accompanies the mounted troops, bearing a gun. The elephant's other appearance is on the Burma medal 1824-26, on which the rather timid elephant of Ava is cowering before the defiant British lion.

Springbok (Antidorcas marsupialis)

The springbok of South-Western Africa has lyre-shaped horns and can reach a maximum length of only 0.8m. Its name relates to its unique habit of *"pronking"*, or leaping vertically with the legs held stiff, back curved and head down. This pronking en masse produces nothing but confusion in the eyes of a predator. As the national symbol of South Africa, the springbok appears on the Africa Service medal 1939-45, although here it is leaping peacefully rather than pronking. It also appears supporting the coat of arms of the Republic on the South African War Service medal 1939-45 and the South African Korea medal 1950-53, and supporting the arms of Cape Colony on the Cape of Good Hope GSM 1880-97.

Sable Antelope (Hippotragus niger)

The Sable inhabits woodland savannahs and thickets, and can attain a maximum shoulder height of 1.4m, while its backwardly arching horns may reach 1.6m in length. Its range is South-Eastern Africa encompassing what was known as Rhodesia, of which it is representative on the Rhodesia medal of 1980.

Red Kangaroo (Macropus rufus).

Like the preceding species, the kangaroo appears once only, supporting the Australian arms on the War Service medal 1939-45. The "boomer" of the Australian inland, with a height of up to 1.8m, can maintain a cruising speed of 25 kph over long distances, although it can easily accelerate up to 50 kph.

Emu (Dromaius novaehollandiae)

The emu is one of the flightless running birds known as Ratites, the wings being much reduced and rarely exceeding 20 cm. The long and powerful legs, however, enable it to attain speeds of up to 50 kph. The only bird to appear on British campaign medals, the emu accompanies the kangaroo on the Australian Service medal 1939-45.

Sheep (Ovis aries)

The domestic sheep is the most recently portrayed animal, appearing in the chief of the arms of the Falkland Islands on the 1982 South Atlantic medal. It represents the dependence of this remote British outpost upon sheep farming, an activity engaged in by most of the 1800 inhabitants of these southerly isles.

MYTHICAL BEASTS

Dragon

The dragon was the first beast to appear on a campaign medal, lying at the feet of Apollo pierced by an arrow, on the Culloden medal 1746. It appeared again more recently on the War medal of 1939-45, representing the evil forces of the axis powers being trampled by the British lion, defiant in victory.

Hydra

The epic efforts of Hercules to overcome the many-headed Hydra seems a fitting representation of Britain's efforts to subdue the resurgent forces of communism encountered in Korea in 1950–53. The hydra and the dragon are the only reptilian animals included in the fauna of British campaign medals.

Sphynx

The mythical sentinel, the sphynx, appears on the Egypt 1882–89 medal, as well as the Khedive's Star, as the symbol of Egypt and the Nile, the scene of much bloody campaigning. The sphynx, with the body of a lion and head of a man, would only allow travellers to pass if they could answer a question, otherwise they were eaten.

Unicorn

Although a relatively common feature in coats of arms, the unicorn appears once only, on the reverse of the Canadian Volunteer Service medal 1939–47, supporting the Canadian arms. The legend of the unicorn is thought to have arisen from the spiral tusk of the narwhal (*Monodon monosceros*), which is often washed up on beaches. This tusk, actually a greatly enlarged upper left incisor, is reputed to be the remnants of the unicorns which refused to enter the ark during the Biblical floods.

Seahorse

The equine equivalent of the mermaid has appeared twice, in each case supporting a naval personification of Brittania. The Naval General Service medal 1793–1840 features a trident-bearing Brittania astride one seahorse, while on the NGS of 1915–62 she appears with her Union shield being borne upon two of these mythical beasts.

* * *

Of all the campaign medals issued by Britain and the Commonwealth since the defeat of the Armada in 1588, only 32 have borne an animal in the design, with a total of only 14 creatures being depicted. Of this faunal assemblage, eleven animals are incidental only, seven appearing just once and another four appearing on two occasions. The mere three animals which are relatively common are the springbok, the horse, and the lion.

The springbok owes its relative preponderance to the two medals issued by South Africa for WW2 and the Republic's Korea medal on which the Union's arms are displayed for the second time. The horse has appeared on five occasions, including one heraldic showing. As the second most common animal on British campaign medals, the horse is probably the most important single animal in the history of the British Empire, without which many of the campaigns would not have been fought, and indeed, many would not have been won. It is interesting to wonder how many campaign medals and bars owe their existence to the horse of the British Army.

The lion is by far the most common beast, being featured a remarkable nineteen times. In thirteen of these appearances, the lion symbolises the gallant tenacity and daring spirit of the Empire in its colonial endeavours in India and Africa, as well as the widespread confrontations during the Peninsula Wars and WW2. In these modern days, as the Empire is dwindling, and former colonies gain their independence, the ageing British lion is not heard of too often, although there is no doubt that it is still capable of responding when required. As John Hamilton reported in The *Advertiser* in the early days of the Falklands crisis, while speaking of the British response:

> "The old British lion may be a bit bent and bowed and missing a lot of teeth, but, by jingo, it can still roar."*

*The *Advertiser*, 2 April 1982.

Postscript

Although not a true campaign medal, it is worth mentioning the Australian ANZAC medal, which comes as a large cased medal and a smaller lapel badge. It features a donkey (*Equus asinus*) which was used by Simpson to transport casualties at Gallipoli until he too was wounded.

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Stephen Stuckey

SOURCES OF MILITARY HISTORY IN AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

The following paper, by a member of Australian Archives Sydney Staff, was presented at the Military History Workshop sponsored by the Military Historical Society and held as part of the 1984 Australian War Memorial History Conference.

AUSTRALIAN Archives has two major roles within the Commonwealth Government. It is a central service agency, providing for the broad management of Commonwealth records, including disposal, that is, temporary or permanent retention, storage, conservation and a lending service. In addition, it is a cultural institution, identifying records that have permanent value to the Government and citizens of Australia, and regulating access to them. To this end we provide finding aids and a reference service, a library, access clearance, and research facilities. These services are provided in all capital cities, and Townsville.

Governments do not keep records for posterity or the convenience of future researchers, but for the efficient administration of their functions. A Government archives ends up holding these records generally in the order and context in which they were created, along with their indexes and registers. Thus, you do not find a subject index to Australian Archives' holdings. We are not a library, and to have a subject index would be impractical, and very misleading for researchers.

Archives identifies the agencies of Government that existed from time to time, and allocates its own control numbers to the records created by those agencies. A series of records may not change its system of control, or contents, just because a new agency is created. A number of agencies may have used the same series of records, later agencies adding to an earlier one's files. As far as Archives is concerned, these files are from the same series, and we would list this one series under each of the agencies that helped create it.

I would like now to turn to some of the records that relate to military history that are held in the extensive holdings of Australian Archives. To give you a full listing would take up far more than my allotted time, your patience, and my stamina. I will give you some idea of the major series, then some particular subjects in convenient chronological slices. I should point out, however, that a subject as broad as "military history" includes material scattered widely through the records of the Commonwealth Government.

As you may be aware, the operational records of the armed forces during times of conflict are generally held by the Australian War Memorial. Australian Archives holds the records of Departments of State, Australian-based military establishments, and those many agencies created during war-time, or in peace-time to support the armed forces. It is important to remember this three tiered structure: Departments and such organisations as the Military or Air Boards, and Cabinet, determine policy; the armed forces and their Australian units operate in peace and war; and finally, many activities of Government, such as rationing, civil defence, arms production and censorship exist as adjuncts to purely military agencies, and probably had more effect on the social development of Australia.

It should also be remembered that a conscious Commonwealth archives policy has only been in existence since World War II. The further back in our short history you go, the fewer resources tend to exist. Often what remains does so only because of a few dedicated individuals, or forgetful ones who stuffed things in cupboards or offices to be found years later. It is sad and frustrating to reflect on the amounts of Australian historical evidence that has rotted away or gone up in smoke at the direction of tidy-minded officials and officers.

There have been a number of Departments of Defence in Australia, commencing in 1901. All of them have had both general correspondence filing systems, and classified filing systems. The first Department of Defence inherited some of the records from the Defence administrations of the Colonies, and top-numbered them into their own records. Its files handled military, naval and general defence correspondence and registered papers on all the various aspects of running defence forces in the one correspondence system. Separate classified filing systems began in 1905, and this arrangement continues to this day.

The first major re-organisation took place in April 1911 when a separate registry was established to deal with navy papers, expanding in 1915 with the establishment of the Department of the Navy.

During World War I there were a number of filing systems used in Defence, one for military administration within Australia, a "War" series, and an A.I.F. series. All these series, and the Navy ones, are held in our Victorian Regional Office.

There are a number of matters to remember when using these older Defence files. They have all been subject to heavy and often illogical culling. Material was kept that was of administrative use at the time of the culling, resulting in more material on such matters as rifle ranges and drill halls than there is on conscription. Top-numbered papers can mean that 19th century matters are often found on files created many years later. Inaccurate file titles can be misleading, some of them very broad, others remarkably obscure. The very fragile condition of some of the records also needs to be remembered, both because of heavy use and the inferior nature of some paper, especially during war-time.

In about September 1924 a new correspondence system for the Department of Defence began. Those files that remain are in our ACT Regional Office, and they deal with general defence matters, both policy and administration. Army Headquarters in Melbourne continued to use the old system for the administration of the land forces, until it began a new system in 1930.

For ease of control, Defence and the armed forces tend to create different series of classified files and these are, generally speaking, of more value to the researcher seeking policy decisions and their implementation. Intelligence and other reports from overseas, correspondence with the War Office, defence schemes and plans, strategy, mobilisation and war plans, and internal matters of concern (especially during war-time) are among the topics covered. During war-time, discussions on operations and policy decisions about emergency measures are included.

In 1923 the Navy began a new series of general and classified files, and this system continued to be used until 1950. In 1923 also, Air Services Branch files commenced, and they were split into a classified series in 1936.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, the Departments of Defence Co-ordination, Army and Air were created and began new filing systems.

In researching military history, the records of the other major Departments are invaluable. Prime Minister's, External Affairs, Attorney-General's, Treasury, Home Affairs, Cabinet and the Governor-General's Office all hold material on Australia's military policy, posture and preparedness, and external relations. Departments overseeing arms and munition production, and the provision of bases, fortifications, barracks, airfields and naval establishments should not be overlooked.

There are some surviving discrete records from pre-Federation. There are plans and drawings of forts and installations in Victoria, NSW and SA. There are also some muster rolls, correspondence registers and Council of Defence records. On the Navy side, Sydney holds a very good run of log books of war ships, from 1851 to the present, supplemented by smaller holdings in other States. There are some annual returns of naval resources, muster rolls, and records of the Imperial Squadron, Australian Station.

Records relating to the Boer War are better than one might expect, and incude lists of the NSW, Victorian, Queensland, and WA contingents. There are pay ledgers, reports on fighting conditions, returns of personnel killed or died, and in NSW some interesting letters from young men wishing to volunteer.

Also from pre-Federation there are some papers dealing with contingents to the Sudan, New Guinea, and the Boxer Rebellion.

It is important to remember that once Australia is at war, the effects on society increase, and consequently so does the range of material on official files. Customs becomes interested in trading with the enemy, the PMG becomes interested in telephone tapping and postal censorship, food production becomes important etc. More than one researcher has become overwhelmed in studying archival resources on a subject as broad as "The Social Effects on Australia of World War I"!

Apart from the material held on the files of major Departments and agencies, and offices interested in war production, other interesting records from the period before Versailles include: defence schemes up to 1914, decisions of the Military Board, intelligence reports, intercepted letters and censorship, Lord Kitchener's reports on Australia's defences, nominal rolls and pay lists for the armed forces, the Army medical services, internment (there is a register and photographs of all World War I internees in Australia, held by our Sydney office), military inventions, war artists, records of individual units, aliens registration, and so on.

As could be expected, there is an increased amount of material available on military history for the period 1918 to 1939. There is Army command correspondence for NSW, Queensland, South Australia

and Tasmania, although it has been heavily culled. There are Naval Intelligence Reports from 1924 to 1939, and Admiralty Fleet Orders. The Flag Officer Commanding began ordinary and classified filing systems from 1923, and these, held in Sydney, are in a better state of completeness than might be expected. They deal with Navy Operations, and increase in size and scope with the expansion of the fleet in the thirties. In addition, the naval commands and dockyards records are extensive, especially in Sydney, and include naval intelligence and ship construction. Navy records for the inter-war years are also held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

With the increase in tension in the thirties, the records of Prime Minister's Cabinet, and External Affairs—including the High Commission in London—become more crucial when studying military matters. The growth of radical political movements in Australia was of much government concern, and the records of Attorney-General's and the Commonwealth Investigation Service should be consulted in this regard. Scattered records on these activities are held in most Archives Regional Offices.

There is naturally an enormous amount of material relating to the 1939–45 conflict in Commonwealth records. A reference guide, *"Selected items covering topics relating to the Second World War"* was produced by Archives in 1972, and is an invaluable place to begin. Although it does not provide an exhaustive coverage of the field, if offers a good indication of the type of material available.

Apart from policy and administrative material of Defence and the armed forces, and the records of civilian agencies in times of "total war", interesting records with major holdings include espionage and sabotage, the Civil Construction Corps and the Australian Women's Land Army, Aliens Tribunals, Directorate of Prisoners of War (including a lot of material on the Cowra break-out), rationing, civil defence, ABC war correspondents and field units records (including audio-visual material), civilian censorship (which is very important material, touching as it does on all aspects of the military and home campaigns), records of the attacks on Northern Australia, including lists of evacuees, held in Darwin, and some personal papers (such as those of Blamey and Shedden).

At this point I should mention the individual servicemen's dossiers. These are held by the Central Army Records Office in Melbourne, not by Australian Archives. Access to these is restricted for a lengthy period except with the permission of the servicemen or, if he or she is dead, to their direct descendants.

Under the Commonwealth Government's access policy, records up to and including 1953 are now available. This includes extensive material on the occupying forces in Japan, Australia's early involvement in Malaya, and the early Indo-Chinese problems, and Korea. Luckily, there is a much wider coverage of holdings of military material as we get closer to the present. The existence of an Archives representative in most States since the early 1950's has meant less destruction. Some has unfortunately still gone on, and there is also the problem of material that should be publicly available still being held by agencies. The Archives Act does ensure, however, that permanent material over 25 years old should be transferred to Archives.

Researchers wishing to use material in Australian Archives should first make an approach in writing. This will enable Archives staff time to prepare a non-exhaustive source analysis of material most likely to be of benefit. You should remember that Archives does not send original material around the country, so it is a case of the mountain approaching Muhammed.

Access to Commonwealth records is currently determined by a decision of Cabinet, but from its proclamation next month will be regulated by the Archives Act. The policy states that most records over 30 years old are available for public access, with some exceptions. These exceptions include: records the disclosure of which would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal information, certain records the release of which would prejudice Australia's defence or foreign relations and sources of intelligence, records given in confidence, matters prejudicial to law enforcement, matters that would adversely affect the financial or property interests of the Commonwealth, trade secrets, and commercial-in-confidence material. The list seems long, but in reality the overwhelming majority of Commonwealth records contain no sensitivity after thirty years.

The Archives Act contains a number of avenues of appeal for the public. Once a request for access is made, giving a return address, Archives has a maximum of 90 days to respond to that request. Inside this time a researcher may appeal to the Ombudsman. Should an item not be made available after a request for review—and reasons are given by Archives as to why it cannot—an appeal can be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, unless a Ministerial certificate is given.

The Archives Act cannot be used to get around the provisions of the FOI Act, which currently applies to records created after December 1977.

Although the test is still to come, Australian Archives remains hopefully confident that it will meet all requests for access within the 90 days, and will not have to set up permanent camp outside the Ombudsman's Office and the AAT!

The Archives Act also sets out provision for access within the 30 year period. There are two avenues: accelerated release, where entire classes of non-sensitive records can be made generally available, and special access which is granted to individuals in exceptional circumstances, with certain conditions.

Australian Archives holds vast quantities of records in many formats that relate to the popular subject of military history and its associated social effects. The Archives is a public institution, financed by the people of Australia. It is not just a collection of dusty old records and hoary old archivists. It has modern facilities—soon to be enhanced by a large computer facility—that are there to be used by the people of Australia. It is only a relatively young institution, historically starved of resources. But as Australians continue to increase their interest in our heritage, and use Archives resources, its value to the nation will be shown.

Colin Simpson

CORDITE—NOT ONLY A PROPELLANT

"...how extraordinary and unlooked-for may be the by-products of war."
Lieutenant-Colonel R.J.S. Simpson (1911).

DURING the period between the invention of firearms until the latter part of the nineteenth century the available propellants were varieties of *"black-powder"* which, on ignition, were characterised by copious quantities of smoke.

The history of the development of other types of explosives began in the early nineteenth century. In 1837 T.J. Pelouse discovered that cotton could be converted into a violently flammable substance by the addition of nitric acid. Eight years later C.F. Schonbein demonstrated that this substance (named nitrocellulose or guncotton) could be used as an explosive, however initial attempts to stabilise it for use as a propellant were unsuccessful, often disastarously, because of two factors. Firstly the material was unstable owing to the reactions of residual acid in the cotton fibres; and secondly, the raw fibrous nitrocellulose presented an excessive burning area to the flame front and thus the rate of burning could not be controlled. Stability was eventually achieved by better washing and chemical removal of the acid, and the excessive burning problem was solved when Schonbein found that nitrocellulose could be dissolved in alcohol and ether to form a sticky fluid (collodion) which dried to a tough film. This material could be moulded and shaped to particular dimensions with specific surface area and thus controllable ballistic characteristics could be achieved. Collodion was a single-based and virtually smokeless propellant.

In 1890 three British chemists Abel, Dewar and Kellner jointly developed a double-based propellant consisting of two explosive materials (nitrocellulose and nitroglycerine) and a stabiliser (mineral jelly). This explosive material could be extruded into long cords and was named cordite.

At about that time also the British military authorities were investigating reducing the calibre of the service longarm from .45 inch to a smaller size. This resulted in the acceptance of the .303 inch calibre which was adopted for service with a black powder propellant on 20 February 1889. On 3 November 1891 cordite was approved for service as a replacement for black powder, and heralded the introduction of a propellant type that remained in service for over 60 years. The original cordite (Cordite Mark 1) manufactured by the Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey, England in 1890 contained 57.5% nitroglycerine, 37% nitrocellulose, 5% mineral jelly, and 0.5% acetone. The nitroglycerine content resulted in a high temperature of explosion when used as a propellant and caused considerable barrel erosion, particularly in big guns. Despite this deficiency cordite had a stable composition and a long storage life and was considered an acceptable smokeless cartridge load. In 1901 a

modified composition cordite (Cordite M.D.) was introduced with 64% nitrocellulose, 30.2% nitroglycerine, 5% mineral jelly, and 0.8% acetone, this had a lower temperature of explosion and thus had less barrel wear than its precursor[1]. Basically this modification interchanged the proportions of nitroglycerine and nitrocellulose, a factor which has some bearing on the following narrative. During the 60 year service of cordite other changes to the composition were made, for example during World War II the nitroglycerine was replaced by other organic nitrates. Nevertheless *"cordite"* in its various compositions, was used as the prime propellant for British .303 rifle cartridges in service from 1891 to 1954[2].

In the era of black powder the smoke produced on firing allowed assessment of both the disposition of the enemy and their likely strength, concealment of troops on the field of battle was not considered to be significant. The adoption of the ballistically more powerful, smokeless propellants was to revolutionise warfare, and saw the introduction of concealment and guerilla tactics that had not previously been employed. Even eight years after the introduction of cordite by the British Army most officers did not appreciate the implications of the offensive and defensive tactical changes which the use of smokeless powders demanded. The South African war of 1899-1902 was the first major conflict in which the British used, and also faced opponents equipped with, smokeless propellants. In the first three months of the war the Boers inflicted severe reversals on the British. Those reversals can be attributed almost totally to the failure of the British officers to appreciate that they were fighting a new style of warfare, brought about by the use of smokeless powders.

The South African war, which the British forces fought with cordite loaded cartridges, also saw a new and totally unexpected medical problem—*"cordite eating"*. Fortunately the practice was not widespread but it was sufficient to cause concern among medical officers.

It is not clear when the practice of cordite eating first came to the notice of officers, it was practiced by some troops during the first six months of the war[3]. Apparently a shortage of matches led to the use of cordite sticks as igniters so that several cigarettes or pipes could be lit from one match. The standard rifle cartridge used by the British during the war was the Mk 2 .303 cartridge which contained approximately 60 strands of cordite, each strand being about 32mm long and 1mm diameter. (Certainly at the outbreak of the war Mk 2 cartridges were loaded with Cordite Mark 1, i.e. high nitroglycerine content, though Cordite M.D. may have been used in the latter stages). When cordite is ignited in a confined space it explodes, however in an unconfined space it burns relatively slowly and once ignited it could be used in lieu of matches. Troops on active service in South Africa lacked many personal comforts and matches were often in short supply. Several contemporary publications mention such shortages, one book shows a photograph of an orderly resorting to using a *"burning-glass"* (magnifying glass) to light his pipe[4]. It is believed that through using cordite as "matches" smokers became aware that cordite fumes affected the head. Some took to consuming cordite in other ways; eating strands, boiling them in water or tea, or mixing them with beer[3]. At the time it was also suspected that the lack of alcohol, which was not available in the field, may have contributed to the consumption of cordite as a stimulant.

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4. Wilson, H.W., 1901—*With the flag to Pretoria.* Harmsworth Bros. London. Vol. 1, p203.
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Two officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps conducted a special enquiry into the matter of *"cordite eating"* or the *"cordite habit"* as it became known[5]. One of the officers found that sucking a quarter strand of cordite was sufficient to result in the most racking, splitting, headache he had ever experienced[3]. Some few troops, especially those with a past history of narcotic consumption, indulged in the taking of large doses of cordite (the contents of one or more cartridges). Of one of these the medical officers reported that the consumer's *"...face became hot and flushed, and he felt as if his head was beginning to swell...he was sound asleep in about half or three-quarters of an hour..."*. On awakening he suffered an intense headache and thirst[3]. Such poisoning symptoms are now recognised as typical of nitroglycerine (or glyceryl trinitrate as it is commonly known in medical texts). The officers went on to report that prolonged indulgence in the cordite habit resulted in *"optical and mental delusions, timidity, weakness, and general breakdown, moral and physical"*[5]. At least one medical officer was suspicious that among some hospitalised troops cordite ingestion was connected with disordered action of the heart though he had not discovered anyone actually eating it. In another instance a regimental officer reported that some of his men were supposed to have taken cordite to produce heart palpitation in an effort to get invalided home[3]. In both these cases the suspicions were well founded for in the medical profession nitroglycerine has been used for some years now as a short-acting vasodilator which has the effect of increasing the heart-rate and reducing blood pressure.

Though no specific medical reports have been found, anecdotes from returned servicemen suggest that instances of deliberate cordite ingestion (particularly to get onto sick parade), have probably occurred in all the major conflicts since the South African war. At least the medical officers in subsequent conflicts had the advantage of the South African experiences to draw upon. In the South African war, as with preceding wars, British forces suffered more deaths from diseases and other causes than from battle casualties. Enteric fever, dysentry, diarrhoea, malaria, various unspecified diseases, and other causes (including heat apoplexy, sunstroke, accidents, poisoning, even lightning strike), accounted for almost three times as many deaths as did military engagements. Indeed to the British medical officers the relatively foreign environment and climate of South Africa presented problems enough, without the complications which could be introduced by an unknown and unsuspected drug carried in the ammunition pouches of all front line troops. A situation rather appropriately summed up by the former Staff Officer to the Principal Medical Officer South African Field Force, in his written comments on *"cordite eating"*[5], and quoted at the beginning of this article.

Election of Officers to Federal Council: In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, Part 1 10 (1) and Rules for Elections — Part 1, nominations for the following office bearers are called, to take up office at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in Canberra on 16 July 1984:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Nominations are to be in the hands of the Federal Secretary no later than 1 May 184.

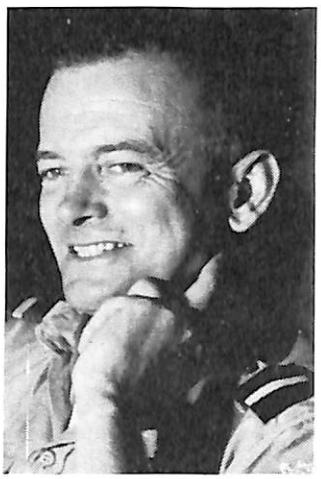
Nominations may only be submitted by financial members of the Society and those nominated must also be financial members.

Nominees must indicate their acceptance on the letter of nomination.

T. C. SARGENT
Hon. Secretary

SCHERGER

A biography of Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger will be published by the Australian War Memorial in April.



Scherger.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger, KBE, CB DSO AFC, died on 16 January 1984. Eighteen years after his retirement as Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (1961–66) the impress of his work and indeed of his personality can be seen veined through today's Australian Defence structure. As a defence planner he was entirely pragmatic, accepting that in a democracy the purse-strings in the final analysis must be held by the political arm. The first "four-star" airman of the RAAF, and as Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, he was always ready to acknowledge that national defence must be planned as a national unity. Nevertheless, as Chief of Air Staff (1957–61) he argued very effectively that Australia had to have a balanced air force. During his oversight the RAAF introduced heavy transport aircraft and helicopters into service, and his influence was paramount in the choice of Mirage fighters and F111 strike aircraft, along with Air's introduction into missilry, both surface-to-air and air-to-air; the RAAF was also the first to utilise electronic data processing into its administration. He never deviated from this emphasis on air power, and over thirty years ago had gone on record as saying, "Any air force, large or small, must never forget that its primary and most vital task is to gain air superiority. When that is done you may with impunity fly anything over enemy territory with anti-aircraft and weather as your only enemy." (*Aircraft* April 1951). Scherger was always something of a controversial figure. Born of German grandparents, a ten-year-old in 1914 in a small Victorian country town when war broke out; a cadet at the Royal Military College in the early 'twenties, when any suggestion of a teutonic background was suspect, on occasions he had to face the inherent insularity among an essentially colonial people. Lieutenant Scherger transferred from the Army to the Air Force in 1925, and quickly won prominence as a dashing pilot; early he was marked for significant promotion. Following the Japanese raids on Darwin in 1942 he had been relieved of his post by a Royal Air Force chief of the Australian Air Force, while in later years his seeming support for the purchase of American aircraft sometimes brought snide comments that he was anti-British. Scherger did get on well with Americans; he had commanded joint American and Australian squadrons during operations in the New Guinea campaign, but on the other hand he was sought by the British to become Air Officer Commanding, RAF, Malaya, for two years during the Malayan Emergency. He headed the Chiefs of Staff when Australians were first sent to operate alongside Americans in Vietnam, along with the consequential, and controversial, re-introduction of a form of conscription which was introduced under the euphemism of National Service Training. Always a strong supporter for an Australian aircraft industry, it was not unexpected that following his retirement, on his 62nd birthday, the Government would appoint him chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission (with its oversight of TAA) and within a short time he was also to become chairman of directors of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. The expansion of TAA's air routes and the rationalisation of its passenger aircraft types were important issues which were set in train during his stewardship. On occasions Scherger could be the severe disciplinarian, but he was essentially a gregarious and social individual, a popular figure among both servicemen and civilians. He effectively used that personality, along with his talents, on behalf of the Defence Force in his dealings with politicians and bureaucrats; he was an able negotiator for Australia at the international level. A legend in his lifetime, his legacy remains with the Australian Services, and especially within the Royal Australian Air Force.

Harry Rayner

Christopher Fagg

DUTCH RESISTANCE MEMORIAL CROSS (1980)

ON 29 December 1980, Queen Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands, instituted by Royal Decree, Number 104, a decoration known as "Resistance Memorial Cross".

The decoration was introduced on the 35th anniversary of the liberation of those people who participated in the Dutch Resistance against the occupation of their Kingdom by Germany, during the second world war.

The decoration consists of a silver maltese cross. The obverse—at the top of the dross is the crown of The Netherlands. Written in raised relief, on a scroll, running the full length of the horizontal arm of the cross are the printed word "De Tyranny Verdryven". Running up the vertical arm, is a sward, enclosed in flames. The flames comihe Netherlands.

The cross is suspended from the ribbon by a ring suspender.

The ribbon consists of vertical stripes. From left to right, the colours are, black, red, white, blue, orange, black. The black stripes are of equal width. The red, white and blue are all equal, but narrower than that of the black, while the orange is a fairly thick band, three times the width of the other colours.

The medal may be awarded posthumously, can be worn officially with all other Dutch awards, and may be worn when in uniform.

The conditions of eligibility for the award, and the persons to whom the award is open to are:

a) persons who belonged to recognised resistance groups.

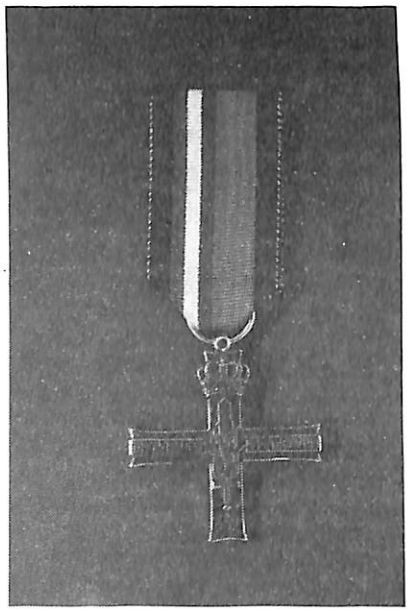
b) persons who are recognised as participants in the Dutch Resistance. (combatants)

c) persons who have been recognised as having spent time under arms in the resistance.

d) servicemen of the Netherlands forces of the Interior in occupied territory.

e) persons who participated in manifest actions of resistance against the enemy in the East Asia on Japanese occupied territory or Japanese territory.

It is not known how many Australians have qualified for this award. However, three (3) Tasmanians have been presented with the decoration, while a fourth is believed in the pipe line.



Dutch Resistance Memorial Cross (1980). Obverse view.

Mr C. Weeda, of Ulverstone, Tasmania, was the latest recipient of the award. He joined the Dutch Airforce in 1931 as a gunner. After the fall of the Netherlands, he joined the Dutch Resistance, and was active in hiding Dutch youths, members of the allied forces, and destroying records and minerals vital to the German war effort. He was arrested in 1943 by the Germans and sentenced to Dachu concentration camp. He was one of the 10 per cent of Dutch prisoners to survive Dachau.

References

1. Royal Decree No. 104
2. Secretariat of Honours Netherlands
3. Netherlands Consulate General
4. Advocate Newspaper (TAS).

Peter Stanley

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 7-11 FEBRUARY 1984

UNLIKE in previous years I have not been involved in the organization of the Memorial's annual history conference and so, for the first time, I am able to report on the conference for Sabretache.

The conference has become an established feature among those interested in Australian military history. The 1984 gathering attracted over 250 people, more than twice as many participants as the first conference in 1981. A noticable feature of the conference was the presence of over 25 members of the MHSA, including several who had travelled some distance.

The conference followed the lines which have become established in previous years, including the work-in-progress session introduced in 1983. Fifteen papers were presented, by a range of amateur and academic historians. Complaints had been made in previous years that the conference programme was too heavily weighted toward 'academic' or 'social' historians. This bias, if it existed, was not deliberate, but was the result of the type of papers offered for presentation.

This year, however, a much wider selection was offered, enabling the conference organizers to choose a well balanced programme of operational and social history by amateur and academic historians. Notable paper-givers were the MHSA's honourary federal secretary, Clem Sargent, who spoke on the 48th Regiment in Van Diemen's Land and Victorian member Max Chamberlain who delivered a paper on the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles and the Wilmansrust affair. Colonial history was also well served by the presence of John Moore, a Toowoomba school teacher, who spoke on the marines at Sydney Cove 1788-91.

Notable papers included Lloyd Robson's entertaining account of the arrest and trial of Captain the Reverend T. J. O'Donnell, AIF, in 1919, and David Kent's controversial and well supported analysis of C.E.W. Bean's partisan editing of *The Anzac Book*. Alec Hill's paper 'Generally speaking . . .' brought the neglected subject of command in battle under scrutiny while John McCarthys discussion of RAAF crew and lack of moral fibre during the 1939-45 war was a dramatic and sensitive study of a classification which has never been thoroughly explored.

One of the highlights of the conference was the paper jointly presented by Tim Bowden of the ABC and Hank Nelson of the ANU. Their account of interviewing former prisoners of the Japanese was moving and highly impressive.

On the last day of the conference two workshops were held which were sponsored by the society and organized by the Memorial. One dealt with sources for military historical research, the other with the care of historical objects. Reports from these workshops will appear in *Sabretache*, as will some of the written material circulated by the speakers.

The work-in-progress session produced an interesting range of researchers who each spoke for ten minutes on their research interest. The speakers comprised:

Dr Robin McLachlan	British Colonial Garrisons at Bathurst, Hong Kong and Pietermaritzburg.
Mr Reg Torrington	Royal Navy Squadron in Australia 1850-1900.
Ms Pat Richardson	Nurse 'Queenie' Avenell, 1914-18 war.
Mr Peter Sekuless	Mr Tasman Millington, OBE (Anzac veteran who worked with the Imperial War Graves Commission).
Mr Anthony Hastings	5th Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment.
Dr Rupert Goodman	Queensland nurses in all wars
Mr Stuart Menzies	North Russian Relief Force.
Professor Bryan Gandevia	The Melbourne respirator.
Dr Ken Inglis/Ms Jan Brazier	Australian war memorials.
Mr Don Charlwood	Growing up between the wars/Bomber Command
Mr Arthur Kennedy	Anti-aircraft artillery 1926-39.
Sister Barbara Williams	Australian Army Nursing Service 1939-45.
Mr Brian Clerehan	Milne Bay.
Ms Joyce Thomson	Womens Auxilliary Australian Air Force 1941-45.
Mr Robert Scott	2/6th Battalion unit history.

John Lennox

REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP ON THE CARE OF HISTORICAL OBJECTS, BURGMANN COLLEGE, ANU, CANBERRA, 11 FEBRUARY 1984

I HAVE long been aware of the importance of care and preservation of items in both private and public collections. I therefore decided to attend the Conservation Session, of the two workshop sessions conducted at the Military History Conference.

The session was presented in three parts:

(a) Cleaning, mounting and storage of medals
(b) Cleaning and storage of textiles.
(c) Cleaning and storage of edged weapons

As a non-medal collector, I found that Bill Roberts' presentation in relation to medals was the better presented of the three sections, in that I came away with sufficient knowledge to clean and attempt the court-mounting of medals.

That observation is not intended to demean the presentation of the following speakers, whose subjects covered a wider range of materials, hence their inability within the short time allotted to provide no more than basic guidelines.

Wendy Dodd demonstrated the cleaning of a uniform and discussed the storage and care of edged weapons pointed out the many difficulties in conserving various types of metals from original condition through to the badly corroded.

All speakers stressed that each item is approached depending upon the result required by the curator. Whilst the workshop was attended by only a small number of people there were many questions, the more technical being answered by the Head Conservator Jennifer Edwards.

I found the session informative and came away with a desire to do better for my collection and to this end the Australian War Memorial Staff recommended the Handbook for Small Museums as a good reference book.

Finally on behalf of the MHSA I extend my thanks to Jennifer Edwards and her staff who gave freely of their time to address the workshop.

Max Chamberlain

MILITARY HISTORY WORKSHOP, 11 FEBRUARY 1984 — RESEARCH SESSION

The following is a summary of proceedings at the session which dealt with "Sources Available", and uses abbreviations for institutions (AA—Australian Archives; AWM—Australian War Memorial; NL—National Library; ML—Mitchell Library), States (N, V, Q, S, W, T), and World Wars (WWI, WWII).

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES—Mr Stuckey, Acting Director, User Services, AA.

AA has two functions: (1) conservation and disposal of Commonwealth Government records, and (2) identification of records of permanent value and regulation of access to them. Facilities are provided in all capital cities and Townsville.

Records are held in the order created, with indexes, not classified by subject matter. Military material held includes non-operational documents of departments and agencies, e.g., Cabinet policy, Armed Forces data in war and peace, social aspects of war, e.g. rationing, arms production, etc., but as archives policy dates from WWII resources are fewer for early periods.

The Commonwealth Department of Defence inherited defence material from Colonial administrations and top-numbered them into their records. A separately classified filing system began in 1905, and a reorganisation in 1911 established a separate registry for Navy papers. Melbourne Office holds these and WWI, Military Administration, "War", and AIF series, all culled. Some file-titles are misleading, and some records are fragile.

Files from a new Department of Defence system, begun in 1924, are held at ACT Regional Office. Army HQ in Melbourne used the old system for land forces until 1930. Series of files include Intelligence Reports, correspondence with the War Office, defence schemes and plans, strategy, and mobilisation.

In 1923 the Navy began a new series of general and classified files used until 1950; and also in 1923 Air Service Branch files commenced, split in 1936 into a classified series. In 1939 Departments of Defence Co-ordination, Army and Air were created and began new filing systems. Some other departments of value for military research include Prime Ministers, External Affairs, Attorney Generals, Treasury, Home Affairs, Cabinet, and Governor-General's Office, and others involved with fortification, barracks, airfields and Naval establishments.

On specific areas of interest, data include the following:

Pre-Federation: Plans of forts etc in N, V, S: Muster Rolls; Correspondence Registers; Council of Defence records. Sydney holds Navy logbooks, 1851 to the present (with smaller holdings in other States); annual returns; muster rolls; and records of the Imperial Squadron, Australian Station. Boer War data include lists of N, V, Q and W contingents, pay ledgers, returns of killed or died, and letters, reports, etc. Some papers deal with the Soudan, New Guinea and the Boxer Rebellion.

1901-18: Defence schemes to 1914; Decisions of the Military Board; Intelligence Reports; censorship; Lord Kitchener's Reports; Nominal Rolls and pay lists; internment (registers and photographs, WWI, Sydney Office); inventions; war artists; unit records; etc.

Between the wars: Army command correspondence N, Q, S, T (culled). Naval Intelligence Reports 1924-39; Admiralty Fleet Orders and Naval Files from 1923 in Sydney; dockyards; and ship construction. Naval records are also held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Major Departments' records are held in most AA Regional Offices.

WWII: There is a reference guide: "Selected items covering topics relating to the Second World War", produced by AA in 1972. Administrative material from defence and civilian agencies includes data on sabotage; espionage; Civil Construction Corps; Australian Women's Land Army; aliens; POWs (including the Cowra break-out); rationing; civil defence; ABC War Correspondents; censorship; attacks on Northern Australia, including lists of evacuees (held in Darwin); personal papers (including those of F.M. Sir Thomas Blamey and Sir Frederick Shedden). Individual service records are held by Central Army Records Office (CARO), not AA, and are restricted, except with permission of the individual or, if deceased, the direct descendants.

Post WWII: Records up to 1953 are now available and include the Japanese Occupation; Malayan involvement; early Indo-China problems; and Korea. The Archives Act ensures that material over 25 years old should be transferred to AA.

The first approach to AA should be in writing to the office most likely to hold the records, to allow staff to prepare a non-exhaustive analysis of the material. AA does not send material around the country.

The Archives policy states that most records over 30 years old are available for public access, with some exceptions, e.g. where release would prejudice defence, etc. The act has avenues of appeal to the Ombudsman, or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. There are also avenues for accelerated release, and special access. AA will shortly enhance its facilities with a large computer.

MITCHELL LIBRARY—Ms Baiba Berzins, Mitchell Librarian, ML

Although the ML is an open library, the Dixson Collection is closed. Also, it is not the repository of government records, which are held at AA. It has books, series, newspapers, pictures, maps, charts, microformes, music, relics, and objects relating to military history. Most relate to WWI and II (but some relate to the Soudan or Boer Wars), e.g. 50 WWI journals from troopships, camps, etc., and 70 from WWII; data relating to casualty lists, Honour Rolls, and War Graves.

Books: Analytic indexing is not now done, e.g. the chapters in, say, Facey, *A Fortunate Life* relating to war service. There is limited material relating to Korea, Malaya, Vietnam (including Moratoriums), but not yet Sinai.

Manuscripts: There is one diary of a Boer War participant. Most material relates to WWI, e.g. letters, notes, 200 diaries. For WWII, there are POW diaries from Malaya and Timor. Papers held include those of Major General Charles Cox (Boer War, WWI), Charles Chauvel (Director of the film *40,000 Horsemen*), Damien Parer, Mary Booth (Welfare, WWI), "Chinese" Morrison, Miles Franklin (Serbian service, WWI), and Lt. General Gordon Bennett's diary, on which the restriction was lifted in 1983 (a copy has been provided to AWM), Papers of NSW political parties, businesses, etc. There is not much oral history.

Pictures: Will Dyson lithographs; George Lambert pictures; cartoons; photographs (combat and peace time); WWI and Vietnam posters.

Maps: War Maps (H.E.C. Robinson); The last cruise of the Emden; copies of official war maps.

Relics: Badges, insignia, identity discs; gift boxes (Christmas 1914 from H.M. the Queen and Princess Mary); a bowl made out of the first pour of metal at B.H.P.

ML does not lend on inter-library loan. Access is by Reader's Ticket. Manuscript access is governed by the conditions of the donor. Reproduction is governed by the Copyright Act. Access for publication requires a written request. Guides to the collection and access are available in most libraries; consult the Printed Book Catalogue.

NATIONAL LIBRARY—Ms Barbara Perry, Pictorial Libarian, NL.

The Pictorial Library is located on the 2nd floor of the NL. It does not contain books, maps, music, oral history, etc. There are 30,000 original paintings and 300,000 photographs on Australian history. NL does not compete with AWM.

Pictures: Military history is not used as a subject heading, but many pictures have military associations, e.g. a panorama of Sydney in 1823 shows soldiers in the foreground; Castle Hill; arrest of Governor Bligh; Eureka Stockade; etc. There are 4 drawers of original items labelled Australia—Defence, including military uniforms, mostly photographs. Compactus shelves allow free access, but subject headings are not catalogued. There are hundreds of photographs from WWI and II, e.g. Frank Hurley's photographs can be copied and are listed; several albums of Boer War photographs; the Japanese surrender, 1945; France, WWI (presented by Mr S. M. Bruce, the Prime Minister; soldiers' snaps; Emu Plains concentration camp; small-arms factories at Dubbo, Parkes, Forbes, Orange, etc.

The Nan Kivell Collection is one of the biggest—Gallipoli snaps, W. M. Hughes Collection; "The Digger carries on"—training for jobs after WWI.

Manuscripts: The list includes warefare, defence, and armed services; the Kenneth Slessor (WWII War Correspondent) Collection; Prime Ministers' Papers; The Monash Collection, recently acquired.

Access is available without Reader's Ticket on Mondays to Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Copies of photographs (colour or black and white, any size) are obtainable. Only a few are subject to copyright.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL—Mr Ron Gilchrist, Written Records Section, AWM.

There are 3 distinct sorts of records—written, printed, audio-visual—as well as photographs, maps, memorabilia, serials, books. Written records are divided into: (1) Official records to 1950, and since 1950 (held at Mitchell Annexe, north of Canberra). The bulk is Official; and (2) Private records, relating to personnel and organisations.

(1) OFFICIAL 1914-18: The Records Section was part of the AIF in WWI, which explains how it is organised. When it was established in May 1917 War Diaries of units, correspondence, and administration files were not controlled

effectively. The object was to collect, collate, and preserve war diaries, correspondence, etc, of HQs of units in the field.

The role of Dr Bean is important in understanding the work War Diaries were précised in writing the Official History. There are 800 archival boxes of operational files which are not widely known about or much used. There are similar data for British, Canadian, American and French units, etc. Biographical work on cards for use in footnotes was continued to 1950. Nominal rolls are in alpha order for those who served overseas, and those deceased, and are partially cleared. Embarkation rolls, troop ships, and reinforcements rolls are incomplete (CARO's are also incomplete; the whole may be covered by both); 6 volumes of casualty lists; troopship and unit records; POWs and internees, WWI; Recommendations for honours and awards index (incomplete, but the gaps are being filled); there is a need for access to records at AIF HQ, Horseferry Road, Tidworth (about 1000 archival boxes); Red Cross files; Honour Roll circulars sent to Next of Kin for War Graves.

1939-45: The Military History Section (under various titles) maintained War Diaries, Administrative files of HQs of operational units. (Unfortunately 9,000 boxes of Administrative files were culled and about 90 per cent of the material destroyed, so the written records of 1939-45 are limited). Nominal rolls were sent to CARO. Militia is poorly represented. Microfilms of foreign War Diaries, etc, for South West Pacific, Mediterranean theatres, etc. are held.

Non-Army material: Naval ship log books 1914-18; signal logs, etc; duplicate reports of proceedings (at Mitchell Annexe); AFC was part of AIF and therefore there are War Diaries; RAAF 1939-45 Squadron Record Books; operational reports; personnel records (restricted); printed collections of aerial photographs and maps. Consult the Defence History Sections, RAN, RAAF.

Post-1950: Data are held at Mitchell Annexe—Operations 1956 to 1975 (closed, but some exceptions); Japan (BCOF); Korea; Support units; War Diaries. Written application is needed for accelerated access. The Malayan Emergency Commanders Diaries are needed by the present Official Historian. Vietnam Commanders Diaries, operational, administrative files are not available, with some exceptions, e.g. Herbicide series.

Pre-Federation: Nominal rolls of Regulars, Garrison units, Artillery; attestation paper (incomplete) for the Soudan. Most data are personal.

(2) PRIVATE: Based on the collection policy of the 1920s and 1930s this collection is much smaller, Refer to books by Bill Gamage and Patsy Adam-Smith for the range.

Biographical: Files of papers sent out for Biographical listing, family details, photographs.

Manuscripts: 300 items, mainly theses.

AWM covers all conflicts, Maori Wars to present day; Napoleonic and Crimean veterans who became settlers; Colonial data; discharge certificates; letters; diaries (some accessible, e.g. Monash, Blamey, Gellibrand, Sir Earle Page, Sir George Pearce, etc).

The following list sets out briefly questions addressed to Panel members, and replies:

Question	*Reply*
1 Does AA require a Reader's Ticket?	From March 1984 the Act gives access to all.
2 Why would AWM not copy a Boer War diary?	Policy is to leave researcher to establish what he wants.
3 Are there précis of WWII War Diaries at AWM?	No. They were the Official History in WWI.
4 Can ML material be reproduced without payments?	If not commercial, a written application would take this into account.
5 CARO files of honours and awards list recipients by award; AWM files are alphabetical. Is there a list by unit?	No.
6 Are there files on successful escapes from German hands in WWII	AWM has interrogation records of POWs—mostly of Japanese, some European.
7 Is there a document setting out how material should be cited?	AA—Yes, a leaflet. Standard citation on each copy. NL—No, but will explain, Box number. AWM—No, but hope to produce leaflet. Stamp material with file number. ML—No, but if permission is granted to publish, citationw ill be given, e.g. each page is numbered.

8 Is there uniformity in citing requirements?
Uniformity is not possible for all institutions.

9 Are there data on transport of allians in WWII?
Contact the Curator of Official Records, AWM.

10 How to locate the citation for Lt. H. Morant's DSO, claimed in Btn Diary at Pretoria?
Some material at AA, V, on Morant, but write to War Office. Material on Morant at AWM was recently provided by Kit Deuton.

11 Where find shipping to Cape Colony 1899-1902?
State archives hold shipping records.

12 Are there pre-Federation plans of fortification?
AA—N, V, S, W, T. Also Lancer Barracks, N.

13 How to copy old film of practice artilery shot?
Contact AWM Audio-visual section.
AA—Can be copied on video-tape.

14 Are there records of RAAF aircraft disposal at the end of WWII, e.g. in Townsville?
AA—Disposal Commission had Regional Offices. Try appropriate AA Office. Also Treasury.

15 How do you locate personal files?
NL—"Guide to Collections of manuscripts relating to persons in Australia" (Latest 1974).
AWM—Pay sheets kept at CARO.

16 Can a ML Reader's Ticket, valid for 1 year, be renewed if unable to attend in that time?
Applications are held for 6 months after expiry.

17 When did ML stop collecting Government material?
1960s. NSW Archive established file. Some material in Dixson Library could not be handed over (referred to in Old Catalogue).

18 Is there a register of artillery weapons to verify guns for Soudan centenary 1985?
Contact Curator AWM. Also, possibly, Returns of Ordnance (Historical Records).

19 If documents are still with originating Department who should you apply to?
All requests for Commonwealth Government records should be made to AA in first instance. A Ministerial Certificate may be required.

20 Is there out-of-hours access for part-time students?
AA—ACT, 1 night a week; Melbourne, 1 night a month.
NL—Open to 10pm Mon-Thur; all day Saturday; pm Sunday.
ML—9-9 Mon-Fri; 9-5 Sat; not Sun.
AWM—9-4.30 Weekdays. Occasional exceptions for interstate visitors in reading room.

21 How do restrictions apply?
ML—By consultation with the donor, e.g. 20-25 years. If total restriction, will not accept.

22 At what stage is the Joint Copying Project?
ML—1920s. Priorities are set up for material relating to Australia.

23 How long would it take to locate a book if title and publisher quoted?
ML—Not long if only one book. Check Nucom listing of all books in Australia. Try local library first.

24 How long does it take to obtain a Reader's Ticket?
ML—A day or so. Two weeks if have to mail form and reply.

BOOK REVIEWS

William Seymour *Yours to Reason Why: Decision in Battle.*

With maps and battle plans by W.F.N. Watson. A De Capo Paper Back. ISBN 0 306 80199 X (pbk). 336 pages. 25 plates. $17.95 available at most Military booksellers.

Although this is not the sort of book that one can read from cover to cover, nevertheless, when I commenced to review it, I found it too absorbing to put down. For once immersed in its pages the reader steps into the shoes of William I, Henry V, Cromwell, Napoleon, Lee, Allenby, and Kesselring.

For a while it is possible to share the exhaustion of a Saxon house-carl, at Hastings; to be a rain-soaked Welsh archer, at Crecy; gaze with awe as British redcoats advanced on your position at Saratoga; to try to sleep on the blood-soaked battlefield, after Waterloo; to ride with the Light Horse, at Gaza; or to be just an ordinary 'dog face' at Anzio.

In the three hundred, or so, pages you are constantly informed of the background, the slaughter, and the outcome of ten great battles of history. Ranging from the low Middle Ages, right on to the Italian campaign of the second World War.

Well written, adequately illustrated, with hundreds of sketch-maps—both local and regional—which make every move, each decision or option, the final result, abundantly clear.

An appendix gives the Orders of Battle, of five campaigns, from the American War of Independence—mainly the Saratoga campaign, of September 1777—up until the advance on Rome, in June 1944. It lists strengths, and casualties, of both sides. Making excellent reading in itself.

The bibliography tables books, which appear readily available so, once 'hooked' on a particular campaign, the reader may study further.

For the military historian, the war-gamer, or anyone generally interested in history, I heartily recommend this book.

John E. Price

Andrew Mollo and Digby Smith, *World Army Uniform Since 1939,* ANZ Book Co. Pty Ltd

World Army Uniforms Since 1939 by Andrew Mollo and Digby Smith is a new title but not a new book. It was originally published as two separate books, *Army Uniforms of World War 2,* by Mollo, and *Army Uniforms Since 1945* by Smith.

If you already have the two original publications you will not need this new one. However if you intended to buy the books then this is a good chance to get both at a reasonable price. My copy, in soft covers, is priced at $9.95.

I was very impressed by Mollo's original book. He subsequently brought out another title, *Army Uniforms of World War 1* which lost some points from me because the very distinctive Australian uniform was omitted. However Australians are included in his 1939–45 coverage.

Mollo makes clever use of photographs, through the skill of Malcolm McGregor, to illustrate the uniforms of the 1939–45 War. Unfortunately some minor errors, particularly in colour, are evident. It is a very effective technique and contributes to the publication's usefulness and attractive appearance.

The second part of *World Army Uniforms Since 1939* employees a different style and approach to the uniform descriptions and illustrations. While this is effective, having the two styles in the one book does jar.

The post-1945 uniforms are illustrated by Mike Chappell whose work is familiar to readers of the Osprey Men-at-Arms series. Unfortunately this book does not have work to the standard of some of his most recent illustrations.

The post-1945 section of the book is useful. However it attempts to cover numerous conflicts of varying natures over a 35 year period. As a result the coverages it gives must be brief. The reference to Australia, for example, is minimal.

World Army Uniforms Since 1939 is one of the Blandford Series of publications which provide useful information in a convenient form at a reasonable price. The publication of this book is itself evidence of the popularity of the two earlier books on which it is based.

Peter Burness

J.K. Cossum, *Australian Army Badges, Part 2, 1900-1930*

The increasing interest in Australian military badge collecting is well illustrated by the fact that two publications are presently available dealing with those badges worn during the period 1900–30. The most recent of these publications, *Australian Army Badges—a collectors' reference guide*, is a useful companion to this author's earlier publication which dealt with the 1930–42 period.

I consider the pre-World War One era to be the *"golden age"* of Australian military badges. The regiments formed throughout Australia following Federation gave considerable thought to the design of their regimental badges. The new Commonwealth's army adopted a distinctive and practical uniform which included the Australian slouch hat. Regimental badges were usually worn on the hat and on the gorget collar patches on the uniform jacket. Coloured puggarees were worn on the hats and infantry regiments had their badge on a black cloth rosette. The light horse and field artillery had various styles of plumes in their hats.

Regimental badges adopted after Federation often featured traditional, regional, or family crests and designs. Local and imported flora and fauna were usually included. This period also saw the introduction of the famous *"Rising Sun"* General Service Badge.

In 1912, following a major reorganisation of the Australian army, which included the introduction of Universal Service, the army uniform was simplified. Regimental badges almost disappeared. However some regiments through their own initiative introduced new badges. This new Militia scheme was disrupted by the outbreak of the World War in 1914.

Mr Cossum's new book should prove interesting to anyone interested in the Australian Army prior to the First World War. For badge collectors I would consider it essential.

In 1981 the late Alfred Festberg added to his impressive range of publications by producing *Hat Badges of the Australian Army 1903–30.* While this book and Cossum's more recent work take different approaches to the same subject, comparisons are inevitable.

Festberg's book was devoted specifically to hat badges and, therefore unlike Cossum's, does not illustrate collar badges and metal shoulder titles. Both books have a minimum of text and are primarily illustrated guides for collectors. Cossum goes further and provides a price guide. Both books are similar in format, although I consider Cossum's to be better produced.

The Festberg book contains some details which I found interesting and are not to be found in the Cossum book. For example Festberg included drawings of some badges which were approved but not manufactured. I was interested to see that a badge for the 71st (City of Ballarat) Infantry was approved on 3 March 1915. I know a die was produced because it is now in the Australian War Memorial's collection. However as this badge, and several others, was evidently not produced Cossum appears to have taken the view (rightly, no doubt) that it would be of little interest to collectors and so left it out.

Since Cossum's book was produced after Festberg's he had the opportunity of correcting some errors in the earlier publication. For example Festberg's description of the badge worn by the Australian contingent for the coronation of King Edward VII is quite wrong. Cossum gets it right saying that it was the second pattern of the Australian Commonwealth Horse's badge in white metal.

The 1914–18 War is better covered by Cossum because he has included most of the unofficial badges worn by several of the AIF units. Although these badges were not approved, photographs in the War Memorial's collection in Canberra show that these badges were widely adopted in some units. However some of the badges included as *"unofficial"* by the author were approved. For example the badge of the Garrison Military Police, consisting of a metal scroll *"GMP"* was authorised by Military Order No. 328 of 1919. The badge of the Red Cross Society can not be considered as an unofficial AIF one either.

Unofficial badges are a difficult subject because so little information is available. Although many of them were produced overseas, not all were. The handsome enamelled badge of the 8th Light Horse regiment AIF, for example, was evidently manufactured in Melbourne when the regiment was forming there early in the war. Other badges, often quite crude, were obviously produced in the bazaars of Egypt.

I was pleased to see that Cossum has included the badge of the Australian Army Survey Corps as this was a serious omission from Festberg's work. Cossum suggests that the badge was originally worn non-voided and appeared in a voided form in the 1920's. However a photograph of an officer of the Corps taken in 1916, recently shown to me, clearly shows a voided badge. The die for the badge was produced in October 1915. The photograph also shows previously unrecorded metal shoulder titles being worn consisting of the letters "S.C.A.".

I realise what an enormous effort it is to research a subject where virtually no primary source documents exist and where any reference is obscure. Fortunately examples of the actual badges have survived in limited quantity largely due to the enthusiasm of some collectors. Mr Cossum pays due tribute to several who have made a serious study of the subject and provided information for his book.

Australian Army Badges—a collectors' reference guide, contains a price catalogue. While I feel I should make some comment on the prices shown I find that I am not well enough acquainted with the market to make a worthwhile comment. Ultimately, I guess, the accuracy of the prices will be shown by collectors themselves. It remains to be seen if they are prepared to pay them. I certainly do accept that some of the badges must exist in such limited quantity for them to be classified as "rare".

So far no author has produced a book on Australian pre-Federation colonial badges. Little wonder as this is a truly complex and poorly recorded subject. However we have been well served for the 1903-30 period and the challenge will no doubt be taken up as serious researchers and collectors extend our knowledge into the earlier periods of Australian military history.

Peter Burness

George Forty, *United States Tanks of World War II.* Blandford Press, Poole Dorset 1983.

Lieutenant George Forty, Curator of the Royal Armoured Corps, Museum, Bovington, Dorset England served with the Royal Tank Regiment. As a recognised authority on Armoured Fighting Vehicles who has published a number of books on the subject it comes as no great surprise that this work, which is excellently researched and presented will be of great value to those with an interest in this specialist subject.

The development, production and deployment of American tanks decisively affected the outcome of the Second World War and illustrated in the most spectacular fashion the ability of American manufacturing industry to react, with great speed, to changed circumstances. This is well illustrated in production figures. While in 1940 the USA produced 331 tanks, in 1943 the production of 29,497 tanks was greater by 5000 than the entire war production of tanks by Germany. Production figures alone, however, do not tell the whole story. American tanks in 1940 were poorly armed and armoured and underpowered while by the end of the war they were to prove a match for the best enemy tanks they encountered.

The author approaches his subject matter in a systematic and thorough way. In the early chapters he covers such general issues as the origin of the Tanks Corps, production and unit organisation. The remaining chapters of the book follow with a detailed analysis of tank models starting with light tanks and moving through medium and heavy tanks to special purpose vehicles, tank destroyers and amphibians. Complete chapters are devoted to the Stuart, M5, M22, Generals Lee and Grant, Sherman and Pershing. These chapters detail the development of the tank, its deployment in action, lay out and technical details and modifications. The book is lavishly illustrated with black and white photographs, many of which have not previously been published, and excellent line drawings giving sectioned details of the most significant tank types. Useful sub headings are provided in each chapter for those looking for specific information. It is a pity that a format of three columns per page was chosen as this has made the presentation cluttered and in places difficult to follow. A two column presentation would, it is believed, have eased this problem. The author provides an excellent select bibliography for those wishing to undertake further research and a useful index.

United States Tanks of World War Two is a well researched and easy to read book. The author has managed to present a great wealth of technical detail and operational history in a most interesting and logical way. It makes a valuable contribution to an important specialist area of the history of the Second World War.

J. R. Heaton
Curator, Military Technology
Australian War Memorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

May I presume to correct some errors in the article 'Medals and Ribbons of the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces' by Christopher Fagg in *Sabretache*, Volume XXIV, Number 4?

Firstly, Australian observers served with UNEF 1 and were awarded the medal of that force. Two names that spring to mind are Capt Len Opie, DCM, and Major John Simmonds.

Secondly, the mandate for UNEF 2 was withdrawn, I believe, late in 1979. Australia's most conspicuous contributions, the RAN/RAAF unit AUSTAIR was withdrawn at that time. Less well known is that Australian observers attached to UNTSO assisted with the establishment of that force and were awarded its medal. Towards the end of UNEF 2 the Australian Army provided a staff officer on HQ UNEF at Ismailia, the last being Major Tony McGee, who has returned to the Sinai to serve with the MFO.

Lastly, four Australians have also been awarded the UNIFIL ribbon, LtCol Mal Peck, LtCol Peter Jarratt, Capt Steve Jones and myself served on HQ UNIFIL in its formative days, myself during the initial deployment. Capt Bob Cooper, who was also in the initial deployment but who was attached to the Swedish Company and remained in Lebanon for only a short time did not, unfortunately, receive the medal.

Should Christopher Fagg wish to write to me I would be happy to provide further details.

Yours sincerely,
Major Ross Eastgate

SOCIETY NOTES

WANTED: Tasmanian Military Badges and Insignia 1860–1940. Also ald photos, uniforms, hats, helmets, belts, buttons to Tasmanian Units. Good exchange material available. J. Cossum, 3 Perceval St, Sunbury, Vic 3439 (03) 744 4245.

VICMILEX '84

200 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Date: 22nd-24th June, 1984.

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

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

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

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

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

A number of kindred Societies are being invited to participate.

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

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

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

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

ORGANISATION

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

SABRETACHE

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

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

1 January for January-March edition
1 April for April-June edition
1 July for July-September edition
1 October for October-December edition

QUERIES

The Society's honorary officers cannot undertake research on behalf of members. However, queries received by the Secretary will be published in the "Queries and Notes" section of the Journal.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Society publications advertised in *Sabretache* are available from:
Mr P. Lucas, G.P.O. Box 1052, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601
Orders and remittances should be forwarded to this address.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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