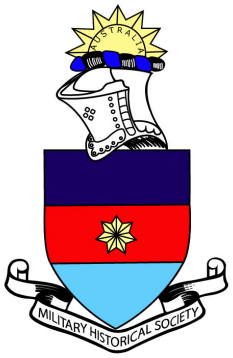
Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



Sabretache policy is that the submission of material gives the Society permission to print your material, to allow the material to be included in digital databases such as the MHSA website, Australian Public Affairs-Full Text, INFORMIT and EBSCO. Reprints to non-profit historical and other societies will be approved provided suitable attribution is included and a copy of the reprint is sent to the author. Copyright remains with the author who may reprint his or her article or material from the article without seeking permission from the Society.

The Society encourages the download and distribution of *Sabretache* for personal use only and *Sabretache* can not be reproduced without the written consent of the Society.

www.mhsa.org.au

Military Historical Society of Australia
PO Box 5030, Garran, ACT 2605.
email: webmaster@mhsa.org.au

Journal and Proceedings of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

SABRETACHE

Vol XXV April/June 1984 Number 2

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH 0587

SABRETACHE

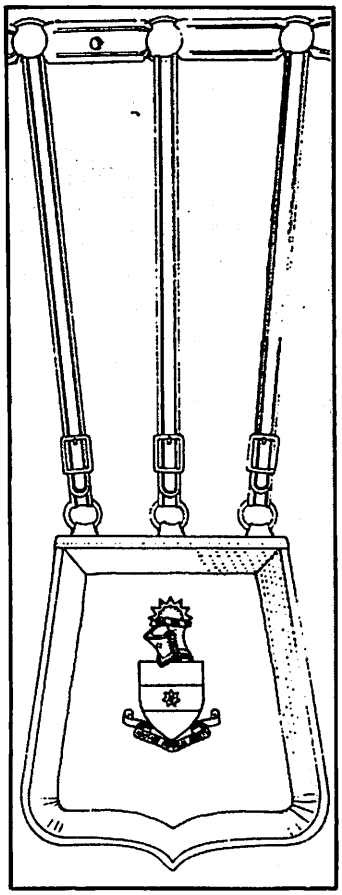
The Journal and Proceedings of
The Military Historical Society of Australia
(founded 1957)

APRIL-JUNE 1984
VOLUME XXV-NUMBER 2

Contributions in the form of articles, book reviews, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note. The annual subscription to *Sabretache* is $20.

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

SABRETACHE



Sabretache This issue of *Sabretache* has been produced by members of the editoria: sub-committee pending the appointment by the Society's federal council of an editor to replace Barry Clissold. It is one which contains several items of topical as well as historical interest. Max Chamberlain's survey of Victorian military history coincides with the Victorian branch's 'Vicmilex' and will provide those able tc have attended that display with valuable information on the exhibition's historical context. Hans Zwillenberg's review article on R. Lamb's *Montgomery in Europe* is particularly welcome as it appears forty years after the operations in Normandy which formed such a test of Montgomery's abilities as a commander. The publication of Ian McNeill's *The Team*, the history of the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam, is marked by Mike Fogarty's report of the book's launching.

Several items in this issue reflect the wide interests of society members, from historical aspects of well known incidents like the Christmas truce of 1914 to rare medals relating to relatively unknown colonial campaigns in Africa. The editorial sub-committee looks forward to receiving contributions to *Sabretache* on aspects of the varied historical and collecting interests of members of the society.

Contributions in *Sabretache* take several forms: from lengthy major articles, around 3000 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 specialised audience.

Contributions are welcome for all sections. Preferably your manuscript should be typed, but neat handwritten copy will do.

Only major contributions to *Sabretache* can be acknowledged. Material to be returned to contributors must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. It is unfortunately impossible to advise members whether their contributions will appear in forthcoming issues of the journal because their composition depends on the amount and balance of material on hand and the necessarily short time between its selection and publication.

Official History The Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, today announced that the 15 books comprising the official history of *Australia in the War of 1939-45* would be reprinted as a Bicentennial project at no cost to the taxpayer.

Mr Cohen, the federal minister responsible for the Bicentenary, was speaking at the Australian War Memorial where he launched the book *Australians at War*, published jointly by the Memorial and William Collins Australia, one of Australia's leading commercial publishers.

Mr Cohen said the history was Australia's largest single official historical publication. It was largely out of print.

The Memorial and William Collins would soon enter into an agreement to reprint the history, intended to be complete for the Bicentenary celebrations in 1988. This would make it available to a new generation of Australian readers.

'It has been the Memorial's aim for some years to reprint these volumes and when the project was first costed it appeared that the Memorial would be seeking perhaps an extra $1 million from the Parliamentary appropriation for this project,' Mr Cohen said. 'Because of the arrangements between the Memorial and William Collins there will be no call on the public purse.'

Journal of the Australian War Memorial Issue number 4 of the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial* appeared in May. It contains an appreciation of Sir Leslie Morshead as a commander by A.J. Hill, a re-examination of the landing at Anzac by Denis Winter and articles on war memorials in New South Wales, stamps of German New Guinea and the Wazza riots. Details of subscription to the journal may be obtained from the Memorial by writing to G.P.O. Box 345, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

War and Society A new journal *War and Society* is being published by the history department of the University of New South Wales at Duntroon. Although catering to an academic readership the issues published to date contain a number of articles of interest to military specialists such as Peter Pedersen's 'Haig: a study in mediocrity'. Subscription rates are $12.50 for two issues (one year) or $24.00 for four. Inquiries to the Department of History, The University of New South Wales, Duntroon, ACT, 2600.

Defence Force Service Medal After many years the Defence Force Service Medal (DFSM) is at last available. *Navy News* reports that distribution of the medals has begun. Former members of the services who were serving on or after 14 February 1975 and who served a minimum of fifteen years may apply for the DFSM by writing to the Department of Defence, Russell Offices, Canberra, ACT, 2600. All applications received will be processed but it is unlikely that the insignia will become available until late in 1984.

Wodonga war memorial The 1914-18 war memorials at Albury are featured in the latest issue of the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*. The memorial in Albury's twin city Wodonga has, however, been removed. Albury member Miss M. Borman reports that after the figure's rifle was stolen and its hat brim chipped it has finally been replaced by the memorial's custodian, the local sub-branch of the Returned Services League. Vandals have so damaged the memorial, a marble digger of the kind so familiar in Australian country towns, that the figure has been replaced by a single stone obelisk.

Special issue on colonial military history The April 1985 issue of the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial* coincides with the centenary of the service of the New South Wales contingent in the Sudan, a significant episode in Australia's colonial military history.

The editors hope to devote this issue to nineteenth-century Australian military history and invite the submission of suitable articles. Potential contributors are encouraged to discuss possible themes with Dr Margaret Browne by telephone on (062) 43 4257 or by writing to her at the Australian War Memorial, G.P.O. Box 345, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

National Army Museum Miss Elizabeth Talbot Rice, the research and information officer of the National Army Museum in London, has written to thank *Sabretache* for advising members of the museum's new gallery 'Flanders to the Falklands'. Miss Talbot Rice mentioned that the National Army Museum receives many Australian visitors but that 'there is plenty of room...for more visitors'.

Australians in the Battle of Britain I am writing a detailed history on the involvement of Australian airmen in the Battle of Britain and would like to make contact with any personnel, or the relatives of any personnel, who served in Royal Air Force Fighter Command 1 July-31 October, 1940.

Could any ex RAF personnel (pilots, aircrew, ground crew, controllers, etc.) who have information on this topic or a story to tell please write to me at the following address.
All replies will be acknowledged and any submitted material, photographs, etc., will be returned safely.

Mr D. Newton.
6 Summit St,
Mr Riverview, NSW, 2774.

Editor of *Sabretache* Members of the Society will be sorry to learn that Barry Clissold, *Sabretache's* editor since 1982, has been compelled to give up the position as a result of being offered a post in China with the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. *Sabretache's* readers will appreciate the commitment Barry has made to the journal over the past two years and will wish him well in his overseas posting.

Prisoners-of-war: Australians under Nippon A 16-part ABC Radio documentary series, Prisoners-of-war: Australians under Nippon will begin in June 1984. Some 22,000 Australian service men including 71 women of the Australian Army Nursing Service, became prisoners-of-war of the Japanese from 1942 to 1945. They were held in camps in Timor, Java, Sumatra, New Guinea, Ambon, Hainan, Borneo, Singapore, Malaya, Thailand, Burma, Manchuria, Formosa and Japan. Only 14,000 survived those three and a half years, after varying experiences at the hands of their captors.

Now, more than 40 years later, the survivors talk frankly about their time as prisoners-of-war, and how the trauma of that period has shaped their lives. The radio series has been more than two years in the making. Over one hundred have been interviewed, and the programs have been compiled from 300 hours of tape recording in Australia, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore and Japan.

Prisoners-of-war: Australians under Nippon is produced and presented by Tim Bowden, from the ABC's Department of Radio Drama and Features, in association with Dr Hank Nelson, Senior Fellow in the Department of Pacific and South-East Asian History at the Australian National University. There are eight programmes in the first series.

The series will be broadcast as follows:

Radio 2: Sunday feature: June 3—July 22 at 1.40 p.m. Sydney, 2FC (576), Canberra 2CY (846), Newcastle 2NA (1512) Melbourne 3AR (621), Brisbane 4QG (792), *Adelaide 5CL (729) Perth 6WN (810), Hobart 7ZL (603). * Adelaide is half an hour earlier.

Radio 3: Wednesdays, June 6—July 25 at 7.45 p.m.

Cassettes of Series 1 will be available after 22 July on four C90 tapes. The price is $21.95, and they can be obtained from ABC shops or by mail order from ABC Post, Box 10000 in your capital city.

Max Chamberlain

Highlights of two centuries of Victorian military history

ON 28 October 1899 an estimated quarter of a million people witnessed the departure of the first Victorian contingent for service in the South African war, the precedent for many similar departures from Melbourne in later wars. Among the crowd that day were men who wore medals awarded for service in the Crimean war and the Indian mutiny. One old lady of 90 had, as a child in England, welcomed troops returning from Waterloo. The 150th anniversary of permanent European settlement in Victoria makes it pertinent to recall that the state's naval and military links go back beyond 1834. The shores of Victoria were known to Royal Navy navigators exploring the new land that Captain Cook's expedition had first sighted in 1770 at Point Hicks.

So long as the presence of the Royal Navy in Australian waters discouraged foreign intruders the colonists had little need to provide their own defence. Following the discovery of Port Phillip Bay by Lieutenant Murray, RN, early in 1802, a convict settlement under Lieutenant Colonel David Collins of the Royal Marines was established at Sullivan Bay, near the present site of Sorrento, in October 1803 to forestall the French founding a colony. The guard of Royal Marines constituted the earliest garrison in this part of the colony of New South Wales, but the settlement was subsequently transferred to the Derwent in 1804. In 1826 Governor Darling attempted to found a settlement at Western Port, ordering a company of 'The Buffs', the 3rd East Kent Regiment under Captain Wright to man Fort Dumaresq on Phillip Island, but later moving them to a site near present-day Corinella. This settlement was abandoned in 1828 and the party returned to Sydney. With the establishment of permanent settlements, detachments of the British army in Australia were stationed continuously in the Port Phillip District, the earliest being from the 4th King's Own Regiment in January 1839 at Melbourne and Geelong.

During the half century between separation and federation Victorian colonists provided their own navy and army, and enthusiasm flared and waned in sympathy with the international crises and the economic climate. Following the rise in importance of Melbourne after the gold discoveries in the early 1850s, and because of its more central location, the British government decided that the headquarters of the General Officer Commanding the British land forces in the Australian Colonies be transferred from Sydney to Melbourne, and in August 1854 Major General Sir Robert Nickle arrived with his staff and established his headquarters in Collins Street. The building of Victoria Barracks commenced in St Kilda Road, and the construction of two coastal artillery batteries was begun at Sandridge (Port Melbourne) and Williamstown. The British regiments were employed mainly on guard duties, operations against bushrangers, and in the escort of gold to the Treasury in Melbourne. In 1854, the year of the miners' insurrection at Ballarat which was defeated by troops and police, the 12th and 40th Regiments were stationed in Victoria, with detachments at Ballarat, Castlemaine, Sandhurst (Bendigo), and Geelong.

The Ballarat miners' grievances about gold licences had led to exasperation; they raised their flag above the crude defensive breastwork known as the Eureka stockade, and prepared to fight. Within were fewer than two hundred miners armed with rifles, revolvers and pikes, and many were asleep when at 4.30 am on 3 December 1854 a force of two hundred and seventy-six soldiers and police marched to the stockade, which was rushed by a storming party of sixty-four men. In the first volley several fell on both sides, but the miners were soon forced to surrender. Captain Wise and four soldiers were killed and about a dozen others wounded; sixteen miners were killed, at least eight died of wounds, and over a hundred were taken prisoner (including their leader, Peter Lalor). Ballarat was placed under martial law, and thirteen miners were held for trial for high treason but were acquitted in 1855.

The news of the outbreak of the Crimean war led to the raising of local units under the *Volunteer Act* of 1854—the Melbourne Volunteer Rifle

Regiment, the Geelong Volunteer Rifle Corps, and a mounted unit, the Victorian Volunteer Yeomanry Corps. In 1859 thirteen new rifle companies were authorised in the metropolitan area and at Portland, Belfast (Port Fairy), and Warrnambool, with naval volunteers at Williamstown. There was little to fear from hostile natives and the main threat was an attack from hostile naval forces. Additional coastal batteries were constructed around Hobsons Bay and at Queenscliff; the isolation of Victoria from the main British concentration of warships based at Sydney caused the colonists to provide their own local naval defence. In January 1854 a Select Committee of Parliament recommended that the British government provide a ship of war, and the first vessel of the Victorian Navy, HMVS *Victoria*, arrived on 31 May 1856.

In 1860 the second Maori war was in progress, and British troops were called from their Australian stations to fight in New Zealand, their places being taken by the locally raised volunteer units. In 1862 various cavalry troops were amalgamated into the Victorian Volunteer Light Horse with detachments located in Melbourne and at country centres. Settlers were also enrolled in Victoria for service with British forces in New Zealand, seeing action as part of the Waikato Regiments. There were no official Victorian military units, but men in an Australian colonial uniform saw action for the first time in this campaign when *Victoria* was accepted for service off the New Zealand coast in 1860 and 1861. *Victoria* transported troops and stores, carried dispatches, and landed a party which manned a blockhouse and stormed a Maori pah.

The need for stronger harbour defences in Victoria became apparent when in January 1865 the American Confederate raider *Shenandoah* appeared in Hobsons Bay. It was in need of repairs and was slipped at the dockyard at Williamstown. After protests from the United States consul, the governor ordered work to be suspended and a composite police and military force was sent to prevent launching. The officers and crew were generally fêted and the ship was eventually relaunched. It had recruited several local volunteers in Melbourne and, heading northwards, sank United States vessels in the North Pacific after the end of the civil war. In 1872 the '*Alabama* claims' were heard at Geneva; the Victorian government was declared negligent and Great Britain was declared liable for all acts committed by the *Shenandoah* after its departure from Melbourne.

The charge of the 4th an 12th Light Horse Regiments at Beersheba, 31 October 1917. The 4th, a Victorian regiment, lost eleven men killed and seventeen men wounded in the charge. (AWM 2684)

In May 1866 G.F. (later Sir George) Verdon, the treasurer, was sent to England to discuss defence problems among other matters, and obtained permission to acquire an ironclad vessel and a wooden training ship. The latter was the old man-of-war *Nelson* and the ironclad was HMVS *Cerberus*, considered to be the most powerful ship in the southern hemisphere on its arrival in April 1871. A new Victorian flag was adopted to distinguish vessels of the colonial navy—a Blue Ensign with the five white stars of the Southern Cross in the fly. Although *Cerberus* acted as guardship for the port, its guns were never fired in action.

The Victorian government's reaction to the British government's possible removal of British troops in time of war was to raise and maintain a military force, preferably artillery, under its own control. After discussions and correspondence between the Victorian and British governments about costs of maintaining British regiments in Victoria, Britain decided to withdraw its troops and to allow the colony to provide for its own land defence. On 2 August 1870 the last British garrison in Victoria, troops of the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, marched out from Victoria Barracks to Port Melbourne where they embarked for England. From then on Victoria relied on volunteers and a small disciplined force—garrison and field artillery, infantry, and engineers, and alone among the colonies Victoria established, in November 1883, a separate Ministry of Defence. In June 1877 Colonel Sir William Jervois and Lieutenant Colonel P.H. Scratchley, both officers of the Royal Engineers, had recommended that Port Phillip be protected at the Heads by a fort at Point Nepean, a battery and keep at Queenscliff, and batteries at Swan Island and elsewhere; these became effective in about 1885, making this the most heavily fortified British area south of the equator.

The fear of war with Russia in 1877 had stimulated recruiting for the volunteer force, but a scheme drafted later by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Frederick Sargood, who was the colony's first Minister for Defence, resulted in the disbandment of the volunteer forces and the substitution of a paid militia under the new regulations of the *Discipline Act* of 1870, the Victorian Mounted Rifles being formed in 1885 and the Victorian Rangers in 1888. The Victorian Horse Artillery (made up of the Rupertswood and Werribee Half-Batteries) was partly privately maintained from 1885 to 1897; rifle clubs were formed on the Swiss model; and Easter camps of continuous training were held more frequently from 1884 onwards. When the Sudan campaign stirred national feelings in the 1880s Victoria offered a contingent, but this offer was declined by the British government.

The Victorian Navy in 1884 consisted of the flagship *Nelson*, the ironclad *Cerberus*, the gunboats *Victoria* (second of the name) and *Albert*, the torpedo boats *Childers*, *Nepean*, and *Lonsdale*, the torpedo launches *Customs* and *Commissioner*, and the Harbour Trust steamers *Batman*, *Fawkner*, and *Gannet*. Together with the Naval Brigade the force had a total of seventy-two guns extending in calibre up to the 10 inch muzzle loading guns of *Cerberus*. *Victoria*, *Albert*, and *Childers* had arrived from England in June 1884. On their voyage to Victoria they had been lent to the British naval forces at Suakin (near Port Sudan on the Red Sea), but as there was little activity they had continued their voyage to Melbourne. Another torpedo boat, *Countess of Hopetoun*, was added in 1892. In the 1890s some land forces were enlarged, including the formation of the Hastings 40 Pounder Battery Victorian Rangers (drawn by bullocks), but retrenchment of the armed forces became necessary during the economic crisis early in the decade. The *Nelson* was sold out of the service and *Victoria* and *Albert* were laid up. The Victorian Mounted Rifles were called out during the maritime strike of 1890 to maintain order.

In 1891, with the changing nature of warfare, the scarlet and blue uniforms were replaced with khaki. The Victorian Mounted Rifles had adopted the slouch hat (although looped up to the right) which was to become symbolic of the Australian soldier. Units of army service, army medical, and veterinary corps details augmented the combatant units. There was a revival of interest in military affairs in Victoria in the late 1890s, but defence recommendations were delayed pending federation, although the Victorian Scottish Regiment was formed in August 1898. The deteriorating situation in South Africa was watched by the colonists and offers of assistance were made some months before hostilities began. All colonial military commandants met in Melbourne in September-October 1899 to decide whether to dispatch an Australian force, including mounted troops.

Five contingents were sent from Victoria, the first comprising one company of Victorian Mounted Rifles and one of Infantry which was later mounted. The colonial units had been restricted by the War Office to one hundred and twenty-five men each with a preference for infantry, and this was regarded in the colonies as acceptance of token forces in what was expected to be a short war. The need for skilled mounted irregulars soon became apparent and the larger 2nd contingent, the 3rd 'Bushmen' and the 4th 'Imperial Bushmen' contingents, all mounted, were dispatched in 1900, and the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles relieved the early units in 1901. About two hundred Victorian officers and

Men of the Victorian 22nd Battalion resting at Querrieu, on the Somme, June 1918. It is noticeable that at least four Military Medals and one Military Cross are worn by the men in this photograph. (AWM E2536A)

three thousand four hundred men served in this campaign; thirteen officers and one hundred and thirteen men were killed or died on service; and over one hundred decorations were won, including two Victoria Crosses. Victorians distinguished themselves at places such as Colesberg, Pink Hill, and Elands River, and harassed the enemy in the guerilla operations from the Western Cape to Zululand. After federation calls for more men resulted in the dispatch of Victorian companies or squadrons of the 2nd (part), 4th (part), and 6th battalions of what became the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

Meanwhile in 1900 a naval unit of two hundred men drawn from *Cerberus* and the Victorian Naval Brigade were sent with a similar New South Wales contingent and the South Australian vessel *Protector* to China to form part of an international force to suppress the Boxer rebellion. It arrived at Tientsin in September after the British garrison had been relieved; it remained to perform police duties. A company of Victorians was chosen as part of a punitive expedition to Pao-ting Fu, destroying arms and ammunition and causing virtual cessation of military operations in northern China. The contingent returned in April 1901.

After federation defence ceased to be a state responsibility and the history of the armed forces in Victoria necessarily follows the pattern throughout Australia, although the early history of all three services has close links with developments in Victoria. Federal parliament sat in Melbourne from 1901 until 1927, and from 1901 Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, was headquarters for the Commonwealth Military Forces as well as for the central administration of the Department of Defence until these transferred to Canberra in the late 1950s. After federation, Major General Sir Edward Hutton of the British army was given the task of reorganising the state military forces into a unified Commonwealth Military Force; he was appointed General Officer Commanding late in 1901 and is thought by some to have been responsible for the 'Rising Sun' hat badge, later adopted by the Australian Army. The *Defence Act* 1903-1904 provided for voluntary enlistment in peacetime with power to call out all males aged between 18 and 60 years in time of war. Military districts were established and they corresponded roughly with state boundaries, Victoria eventually becoming the 3rd Military District; in 1939 it became Southern Command. By 1909 the diplomatic attitude of Germany was arousing concern. Acts were passed to require universal training but not universal service, and in 1910 Lord Kitchener reported on Australia's military defence scheme. In August 1914 the Australian Imperial

Victorian recruits for the 6th Division at Flemington station on their way to Puckapunyal. This photograph may be of members of the 2/6th Battalion, though it has been mistakenly described in the recent book ***Australians at War 1885-1972*** *as showing Militiamen being called up (AWM 184/3)*

Force (AIF) was raised, ultimately comprising seven divisions, including the equivalent of two divisions of light horse.

Naval developments after federation involved the transfer to the Commonwealth of vessels of the former colonial navies, including *Cerberus, Countess of Hopetoun, Childers, Lonsdale,* and *Nepean.* The system of Royal Naval subsidy had been unpopular with the colonies, and finally the Imperial Conference on Naval Defence in 1909 recommended establishment of an Australian fleet paid for and controlled by Australia. After much discussion and revision of plans by the Australian and British governments, the ships of the Royal Navy on the Australia Station were replaced with Australian ships, the first torpedo boat destroyers *Yarra* and *Parramatta* arriving in Australia in December 1910. The title Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was granted on 10 July 1911. In 1912 Flinders Naval Base was established, and in 1913 the Royal Australian Naval College was officially opened in temporary premises at Geelong, but was transferred to Jervis Bay in 1915.

In 1914 military aviation in Australia began with the opening of the Central Flying School at what later became Point Cook. The Australian Flying Corps, then an arm of the AIF, went overseas on active service in 1915. It was the only dominion air force of the First World War.

The Victorians in the AIF were trained at Broadmeadows, Seymour, and elsewhere. The first British shot of the war was fired by the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery from a 6-inch gun at Fort Nepean to prevent the escape of the German steamer *Pfalz.* Victorians fought in New Guinea, at Gallipoli, in France and Belgium, Sinai and Palestine, and at sea, winning five Victoria Crosses at Gallipoli, ten on the Western Front, and one in the Middle East and helping establish the character of the 'Digger', and the 'Anzac' tradition. Of the Victorian leaders produced during the war, General Sir John Monash was outstanding.

Between the wars, reorganisation led to the adoption of battalion numbers of the AIF by militia units to attempt to retain AIF traditions. The strength of the militia fell during the depression but began to recover in the late 1930s because of recruitment drives. With disarmament policies, the battle-cruiser *Australia* and some older ships were scrapped, *Cerberus* acting since 1926 as a breakwater at Half Moon Bay; but new cruisers were added in the years before the Second World War. The RAN College was transferred from Jervis Bay to Flinders in 1930 as an economy measure. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) became a separate service on 31 March 1921 although no new units were formed until two squadrons were established at Point Cook in 1925. By 1939 there were RAAF squadrons throughout Australia.

In the Second World War the Second AIF, a specially raised expeditionary force, served in Great Britain, the Middle East, northern Africa, Greece and Crete, Malaya and south-east Asia and, with militia units, in the South-West Pacific Area. Some traditional units were formed in Victoria, training at Puckapunyal, Bonegilla, and elsewhere, but state affiliations were less clear by the end of the war. Personnel of the RAN and RAAF served throughout in the major theatres of war; Victoria Crosses were won by two Victorian soldiers and one airman in Papua New Guinea. Fort Nepean again fired the first British shot of this war, this time at an unidentified vessel approaching Port Phillip Heads. German raiders, U-boats and minelayers operated off the Victorian coast, and their mines, and torpedoes and gunfire of Japanese submarines destroyed Allied shipping off Cape Otway, Wilsons Promontory, and Gabo Island.

Victoria had possessed the bulk of Australia's munitions factories since establishment of the Colonial Ammunition Company in 1888 at Footscray, and government explosive and ordnance factories at Maribyrnong. During the war military installations of all types were established across the state.

Victorians in an RAAF construction unit during the landing at Tarakan in Borneo pose for a Department of Air public relations photograph supposedly discussing a slouch hat with an American seaman. (AWM OG 2461)

The auxiliary minesweeper HMAS *Goorangai* was the first RAN ship lost in the war after a collision in Port Phillip Bay in 1940. Following his escape from the Philippines, General Douglas MacArthur of the US Army established his headquarters as Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in the South-West Pacific Area in Melbourne on 21 March 1942. The Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces was General Sir Thomas Blamey, who lived most of his life in Victoria; he was to become Australia's only officer to be promoted to field marshal, an event which took place in 1950, a few months before his death.

After 1945 the Australian Regular Army gradually expanded as a field army and took over this role from the Citizen Military Forces. The three armed services served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan and undertook active participation in hostilities in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, and Vietnam by Regular and National Service personnel. The RAN College returned to Jervis Bay, the Army Staff College was located at Queenscliff, and the Officer Cadet School at Portsea. The RAAF College was founded at Point Cook in 1947, to become the RAAF Academy in 1961, affiliated with the University of Melbourne.

Evidence of these associations are visible from the Shrine of Remembrance, dedicated in 1934, to the little memorials that remind some bush community of local men who did not return. *Cerberus* still indicates what an ironclad monitor looked like a century ago. The guns of Fort Nepean are displayed at the end of the Portsea Road. A plaque at the MCG expressed the gratitude of the 1st US Marine Division for Melbourne's hospitality in 1942.

In case it may seem that Victoria was a militarist state it is worth recording that mostly volunteer citizens were relied on for defence. As successive contingents went away to the South African war, the old lady of 90 may have mused about the many changes since welcoming back the scarlet coated veterans of the Napoleonic wars. Many Victorians served at great personal cost, providing their own equipment and bringing their own mounts. Victoria was so unwarlike that modern rifles were not provided until the men reached the war, and the Victorian government had had to buy the uniforms at Ball and Welch's department store.

Paul Rosenzweig

Nyasaland, 1915: the natives become restless

JOHN CHILEMBWE'S revolt in Nyasaland early in 1915 was doomed to failure from the start, but it achieved its aim of emphasizing the British exploitation of the native African, and represented the beginning of a long series of peaceful negotiations. Although he died for his cause, John Chilembwe became something of a folk-hero following his short-lived revolution, a phase of British colonial history recalled today almost solely by the rarely seen bar 'Nyasaland 1915' on the Africa General Service Medal.

Nyasaland, or Malawi as it is known today, is a land-locked country of south-eastern Africa with remarkable highlands and lowland lakes. It occupies a narrow strip along the Great Rift Valley, at the floor of which is Lake Malawi (formerly Lake Nyasa), the third deepest of the great African lakes which was discovered by David Livingstone in 1859.

Originally a Portuguese territory, Nyasaland became a British Protectorate in 1889-1890 through the actions of the young consular official Harry Johnston, who was destined to become one of the architects of British rule in central Africa, along with such men as Cecil Rhodes. It is interesting to note that in order to accomplish all that he did, Johnston had to gain mastery in French, Portuguese, Hindustani and Swahili, as well as several African languages besides. Through negotiations with the local Yao chiefs, Yao being the local ethnic group of the south-east, Johnston acquired first the Shire Highlands, and later all the lands around Lake Nyasa, the protectorate being formally constituted on 15 May 1891.

While Johnston fought to abolish slavery, the Yao chiefs feared a loss of their livelihood, and Johnston's encouragement of English and Indian migration did nothing to appease the chiefs. He soon found himself waging a series of minor colonial campaigns from 1891 to 1895 to keep the more prominent chiefs subdued. One such campaign against slavers, in November 1893 gained notoriety through Johnston obtaining two British gunboats which were carried in pieces to Lake Nyasa and there re-assembled! This action was commemorated with the bar 'LAKE NYASSA 1915' to the East & West Africa Medal (1887-1900)[1].

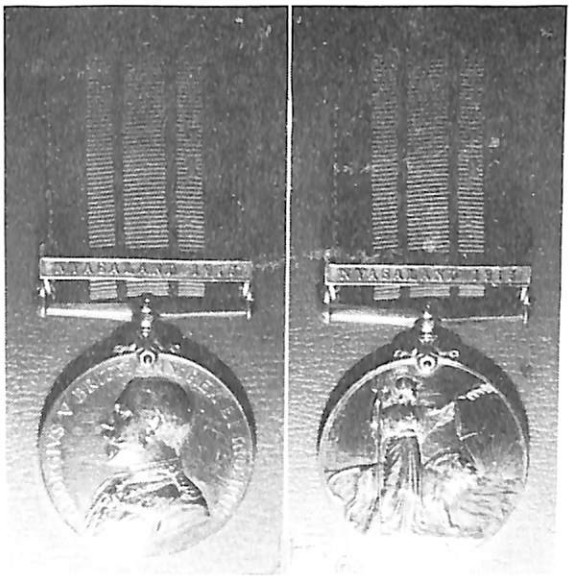
British imperialism stood out starkly in Nyasaland, despite profuse reassurances of supporting and promoting local interests. By 1900, some 15 per cent of the lands had come under white control, although only about one tenth of the land area of Nyasaland is considered to be arable[2], with tea, coffee, tobacco and cotton plantations being established rapidly, especially in the cool Shire Highlands. The planters, however, demanded labour from the natives who remained on the land. Many did not stay. By 1939, some 10 per cent of the native population lived as squatters, tenants or labourers on British estates. Discriminatory marketing practices and an artificial land shortage brought about decreased native productivity while most of the men had to move to other areas to work in mines to earn enough money to pay the exorbitant British taxes.

Onto this scene of poverty and unrest appeared the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, better known today as Jehovah's Witnesses. Introduced in 1908 from South Africa by the movement's apostle, Eliot Kamwana, the Watch Tower recruited in excess of 10000 followers within a year. Their doctines spoke of an African utopia, and openly prophesied an end to British rule in 1914, this year acquiring a mystical significance to the Nyasaland Bantu as their year of liberation and freedom.

Needless to say, the 1915 New Year saw a continuation of British imperialist domination and exploitation, and this was more than enough to incite unrest among the natives. Meanwhile, the American-trained Yao missionary, the Reverend John Chilembwe, had been running his Providence Interior Mission at Mbombwe in the Shire Highlands. He was learning at first hand of the brutal exploitation of his parishoners, and he resolved to make an effort to gain retribution.

The outbreak of the first world war led to fighting between the British and German imperialists in northern Nyasaland, as well as large areas of East Africa, and Chilembwe was upset that African blood was being shed in a battle between two European powers in an attempt to gain control over African land. A strongly worded letter to the local newspapers was suppressed by a government censor, and this led Chilembwe to opt for armed revolt in his fight to prevent Africans dying for a cause which was not theirs.

On 24 Janury 1915 John Chilembwe grasped the explosive dissatisfaction of his fellows, and with the motto 'Strike a blow and die', led them in a rebellion against British imperialism. The principal victim of their revolt was the European manager of a nearby estate, whose head ended up on prominent display in Chilembwe's church. John Chilembwe then became Malawi's first political martyr when he was shot by African police



The obverse (left) and reverse (right) of the George V issue of the Africa General Service medal (1902-56) with the very rare bar 'NYASALAND 1915'.

a fortnight later while trying to escape to Mozambique.

This minor insurrection in the Shire Highlands lasted a mere 12 days, the campaign itself lasting 25 days until 17 February. It was quelled by native police from Blantyre and Nchew, supported by the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve and a few soldiers of the 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, who were engaged in the Shimber Berris campaign of 1914-15.

The Nyasaland revolt of 1915 is historically a 'minor' campaign for a number of reasons: it affected only a small area of the Shire Highlands, it resulted in the deaths of only three Europeans and a few Africans, it was suppressed quickly and efficiently, and it caused no dramatic shift in British policy in the protectorate. However, a number of native associations had been formed, and were now even more convinced of the futility of violence. The Watch Tower movement was rather rapidly ousted after the suppression of Chilembwe's revolt, and replaced by a more subdued and acceptable Christianity, which provided form and discipline at a time of social upheaval.

These changes resulting from the unsuccessful rebellion led to further negotiations, and ultimately to the creation of the Central African Federation in 1953. On 1 February 1963, the federation was dissolved, giving rise to the independent republics of Zambia, Rhodesia and Malawi. Self-government was followed with admission to the Commonwealth on 6 June 1964, and on 6 July 1966, the Republic of Malawi was officially proclaimed. The modern Malawi has a population of some four million, of which 99.5% are native Bantu, engaged mainly in such agricultural pursuits as tobacco, tea, cotton, sisal and ground-nut production, as cash crops and also for export.

Africa General Service Medal 'NYASALAND 1915'

The AGS (1902-1956) was instituted to cover minor colonial skirmishes in Africa, 44 bars being authorised. Most of these campaigns involved few, if any, European troops so many of the bars are quite rare. In fact, the King George V medal, with which only ten bars were issued, is very rare, with some of the particular bars being extremely scarce.

The bar 'NYASALAND 1915' was awarded for services between 25 January and 17 February 1915 in quelling the small insurrection in the Shire Highlands. Recipients were native police from Blantyre and Nchew, and a few volunteers from the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve. A few soldiers from the 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles were also involved, although the battalion as a whole was engaged in the Shimber Berris campaign at the time.

The suppression of Chilembwe's symbolic rebellion, through which he became an early national hero in the fight for African freedom, was one of the shortest campaigns for which the AGS was awarded, and involved very few recipients of the medal.

Footnotes

1. L.L. Gordon, *British Battles and Medals*. London, 1979.

2. C. Legum, *Africa Handbook*, Penguin, London, 1969.

Jeffrey Grey

HMAS *Swan* in Russia

ALLIED support for the White forces in the civil war which followed the Russian revolution was a confused, and ultimately unsuccessful, endeavour in which Australians were involved in a number of capacities and in all parts of the country. Although limited in scope, operations by Royal Australian Navy vessels in 1918-1919 played a part in aiding Interventionist and White Russian forces in the Black Sea and on the Crimean front in the face of renewed Bolshevik pressure. The most notable instance of Australian efforts in this area was the mission of HMAS *Swan* to the Black Sea at the end of 1918.

The Ukraine had been recognised as an independent state by the signatories to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918, and had been immediately occupied by German and Austro-Hungarian troops. The only area not so occupied was an eastern strip of the country which was held by the Don and Kuban Cossacks. At the armistice in November 1918 the Central Powers vacated the occupied territory, leaving a vacuum which the Bolsheviks were eager and able to fill and exposing the flank of the Cossack position to Red Army activity.

Both the Cossacks and the newly-formed Volunteer Army under Denikin were anxious that the gap left by the rapid German retreat should be filled, and Denikin had for some time been negotiating for an allied intervention in the region. This never came in the form desired, and since Denikin and Ataman Krasnov of the Cossacks were arguing over the incorporation of the Cossack force into the Volunteer army, the Volunteer army was not prepared to fill the gap, and the Cossacks were not able to.[1] The allies were backing Denikin and, in an attempt to resolve the dispute between the two leaders, sent a low-ranking delegation to the Don country to report on the true state of the Cossack forces. This was the mission to which HMAS *Swan* and the French destroyer *Bisson* were assigned.

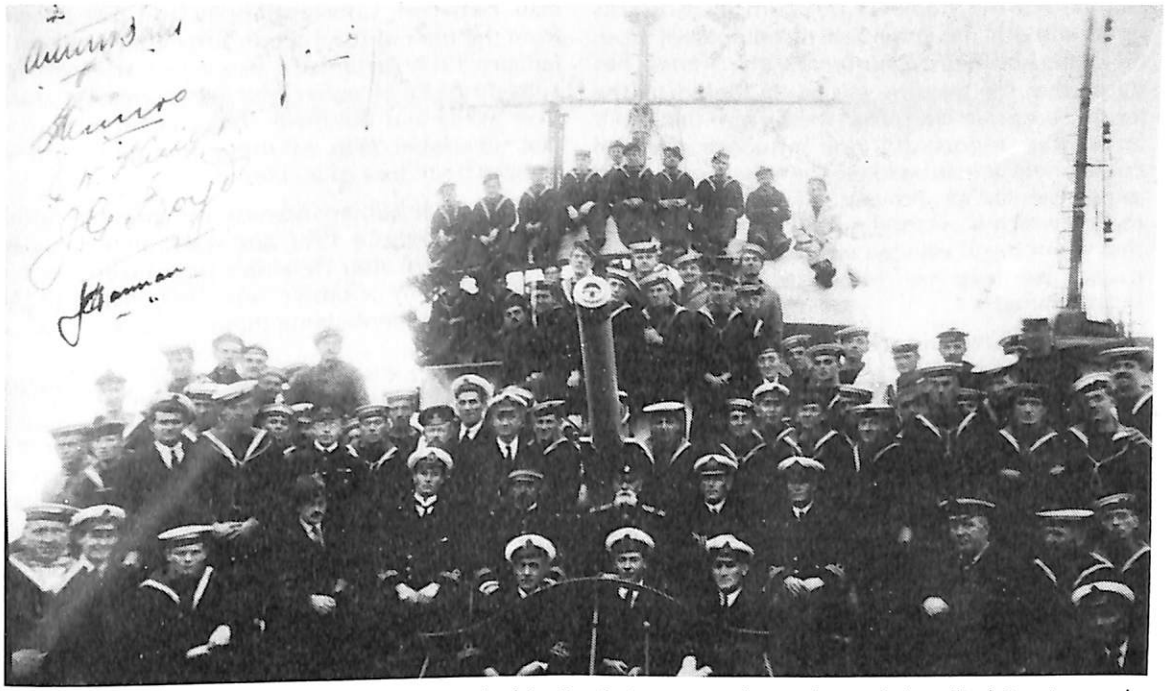
HMAS *Swan* had been laid down at the Commonwealth Naval Dockyard at Cockatoo Island, Sydney on 22 January 1915 and was launched on 11 December the same year by Lady Creswell. The ship was a River class destroyer of 700 tons, and carried an approved complement of 72. Her main armament comprised one 4-inch gun, three 12-pounder guns and three 18-inch torpedo tubes.

Swan began her career as part of the British blockade force in the Far East. She was based at Sandakan, Borneo, in the latter part of 1916, together with HMAS *Torrens* and HMAS *Huon*, and remained part of the Malayan Patrol until June 1917. In July she formed part of the Australian Destroyer Flotilla under the command of Commander W.H. Warren, RN, and took up anti-submarine duties in the Mediterranean. At the time of being detailed for the Cossack mission, *Swan* was part of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla and was commanded by Commander Arthur Bond, RN.[2]

The two destroyers reached Kertch on the Sea of Azov in the first week of December 1918. They found the White forces there to be in a poor state of organisation. Bond noted in his report that, although the allied mission was rapturously received by the populace, he thought it improbable that the Volunteer army here 'would ever have to take any important part in the anti-Bolshevik campaign.'[3]

The instructions from the Commander-in-Chief of the allied squadron were for the mission to make a general report on conditions at Marioupol, Taganrog and surrounding districts, since little or nothing was known at that time. The Russian Admiral Kononoff and a Russian army officer were attached to the mission as interpreters.

Leaving Kertch, the two destroyers embarked across the shallow waters for Marioupol, where again the mission was received enthusiastically by the general populace. Bond inspected the garrison and the local steel works, and preparations were made for the mission to move up-country. In addition to Bond and the French *Capitaine de Corvette* Cochin, the party consisted of Engineer Lieutenant Commander George Bloomfield, Lieutenant J.G. Boyd and Paymaster Sub-Lieutenant D. Munro, who acted as secretary to the mission. Six ratings were included in the party, Petty Officers Neal and Swinden and seamen Bourchier, Robinson, Rostron and White. The French ship was similarly represented, and two Cossack colonels and a former staff officer to the Tsar, General De Svetchin, were also attached. Travelling by train on the 8th, the mission made a brief inspection of Rostov before reaching Novocherkassk. Here, at the capital of the Don Republic, the mission met General Peter Krasnov, the Ataman of the Don.[4]



*Officers and crew of HMAS **Swan** photographed in Russia in 1918 with members of the allied Russian to the Cossacks and Russian officers and seamen. The original photograph bears the signatures of Australians and that of the **Swan's** captain, Commander Arthur Bond, RN. (AWM EN301)*

The entire garrison, of the Don Cossack regiment, lined the streets on their arrival, and the mission attended mass at the cathedral in company with the Ataman and the local hierarchy. There followed various festive entertainments, two of which Bond saw fit to note in his report.

In the evening an official dinner was given in the Palace of the Ataman, in which speeches were made by many of the prominent members from the Don and Kouban [sic] districts stating their aims for the regeneration of Russia. Again, as throughout the whole Mission, it was necessary in reply to express the utmost sympathy with the regiments who were fighting so magnificently against the Bolsheviks, and to state clearly that we were enquirers only, and could state no Allied policy.

The local leaders, however, clearly wished to construe the mission as a sign of willingness on the part of the allies to provide military aid, and Bond was forced to continually state their position as sympathetic observers. This happened the very next day at a banquet given by the Krug, or Cossack assembly, 'at which speeches of the same character as the previous day were made.'[5]

Inspections were made of the cavalry schools and various training establishments in the area. The officers of the mission dined privately with the Ataman, and received various deputations from the local population. The officers then proceeded on a tour of the front line by motor car and military railway, while the ratings remained behind. After inspecting forces at Kanteminovka and Bontourlincka, and attending another mass for the allies, they arrived in Tolovaia to view the heavy artillery at work. 60 000 Cossacks were said to be holding a force of 720 000 Bolsheviks on this front, and although the figures were doubtless exaggerated for the visitors' benefit, the Cossacks were certainly hard pressed. A visit to Bobrov had to be abandoned and a hasty retiral made in the face of a local breakthrough by the Red Army.

Bond noted that at this time the Cossacks were dependent for ammunition and field guns on what they captured in cavalry charges from the enemy. He continued that

Several of the Commanding Officers on this front told me that their Cossacks were very fatigued, and that a sight of the Allied Officers put new heart into them.

The mission then returned south, inspecting a new shell factory at Taganrog. Bond then decided to proceed to Ekaterinodar and submit the military information he had gathered to General Poole, head of the British Military Mission that was aiding General Denikin. That Poole managed to convince Krasnov to join forces with Denikin and the Volunteer army in January, 1919 probably owed something to the intelligence provided by the officers of HMAS *Swan*,[6] since it would have

emphasised the hopeless position the Cossacks faced without the provision of equipment from the allied-backed Volunteer army. Kenez has stated that the mission was easily fooled by the lavish reception afforded them, but that their favourable report did not influence General Poole's determination to see the Cossacks brought under Denikin's command.[7] Having read Bond's report, which Kenez did not, I can only conclude that whilst Bond evinced sympathy for the White cause, he was not blind to the Cossacks' shortcomings.

When the mission departed, Ataman Krasnov decorated its members. Bond was awarded the Order to St Vladimir 4th Class with Swords, whilst the other officers received the Order of St Anne 2nd Class. The ratings were each awarded he medal of the Order of St Anne. The two ships then proceeded to Sebastopol, where the ship's guns helped protect the railway station at the head of the valley of Inkerman from enemy attentions, and Bond's report was sent to the Foreign Office. On 3 January 1919 the Australian flotilla sailed for Plymouth. HMAS *Swan* returned to Sydney on 21 May 1919.

In addition to the activities of HMAS *Swan*, HMAS *Yarra* and HMAS *Torrens* were also involved in the Black Sea area, being the first two destroyers to take up stations at Novorissisk and Batum. HMAS *Parramatta* carried despatches and mail between Constantinople and Sebastopol from the time of the Turkish surrender until early January 1919. *Parramatta* also acted as escort for a group of Russian warships which were handed over to the anti-Bolshevik forces at Sebastopol in late November 1918. All these operations appear to have been free of incident.[8]

The British Military Mission remained in South Russia throughout 1919, and was only evacuated in March 1920 after Denikin's forces were routed by a Red Army offensive, and the collapse of the White cause seemed imminent.

1. Peter Kenez, *Civil War in South Russia 1918. The First Year of the Volunteer Army*, London, 1971, pp.263-5.

2. HMAS *Swan* 1-River Class Destroyer. Naval Historical Section notes.

3. CRS MP 1049/1, Secret and Confidential Files, Annual Number Series with 'O' infix, 1911-1922. File 1919/097. Mission to the Don Country, Southern Russia, carried out by *Swan* and French Destroyer *Bisson*—report by Cdr A.G. Bond.

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*

7. Kenez, *Civil War in South Russia*, p.265.

8. *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918. Volume IX*, A.W. Jose, *The Royal Australian Navy, 1914-1918*, 10th edn, 1941, p.328.

Michael Bogle

Military handkerchiefs: souvenirs and propaganda

IN Australia sourvenir handkerchiefs are often connected with adventure. A.W. Howitt, the Victorian leader of the 1861 expedition that unravelled the loss of Bourke and Wills carried along Union Jack handkerchiefs which he distributed to the Aboriginal men and women who had aided John King, the sole survivor of the northern crossing. A recounting of Bourke and Wills' describes how Howitt 'then divided 50 lbs of sugar between them, each taking his share in a Union Jack handkerchief'.[1]

Australia's military adventures can also be recounted with handkerchiefs. There are examples from the Boer war, the 1914-18 war, the 1939-45 war and the Korean war in the collection of the Australian War Memorial. The majority of the handkerchiefs were designed to disseminate propaganda—especially those of the Boer and 1914-18 war. The sourvenir role is most common in the 1939-45 war and the sole example of Korean war handkerchiefs carries a peculiar and rather naive propaganda message of 'Merry Christmas'.

Handkerchiefs are not a new medium for propaganda or souvenirs. one of the earliest examples of propaganda is a British election souvenir handkerchief for the Brentford by-election of 1769, which is a collage of documents, cartoons and testimonials for a candidate's platform.[2]

In the United States, commemorative handkerchiefs are known for LaFayette, the French hero of the 1776 revolution, General Zachary Taylor and the Mexican-American war of 1846-48 and infinite nineteenth century commemorations of George Washington.[3] The Mitchell Library in Sydney holds a variety of objects printed on silk including Australian opera programs and political documents from the mid-nineteenth century. The Mitchell examples are not, however, actual handkerchiefs.

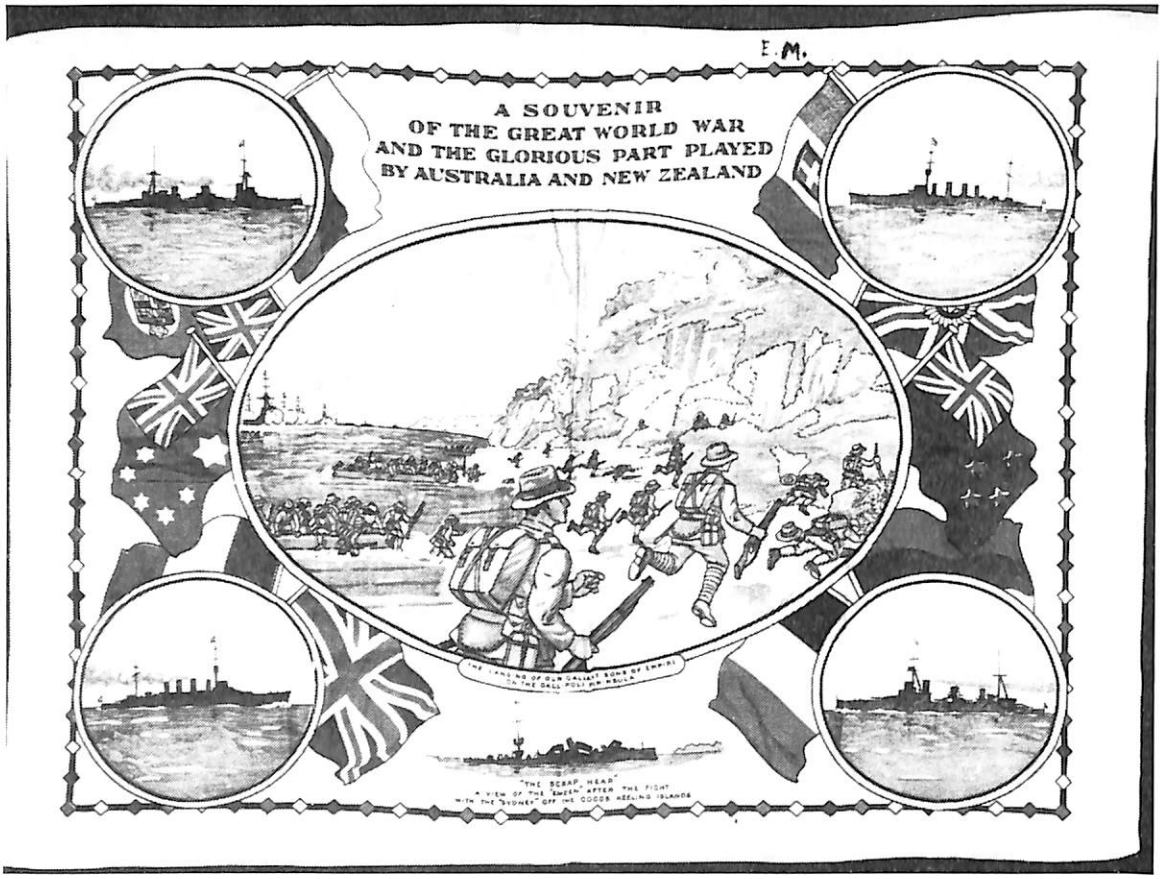
There are probably earlier examples of sourvenir handkerchiefs in Australian private collections featuring military themes but for the moment the earliest known British military handkerchief in Australia is an 1893 Military Instruction Handkerchief from the British army in the Australian War Memorial's collection.[4] It barely predates the Boer war examples and may have been in use during the South African campaign whereby it came to Australia.

Selected examples of the handkerchiefs from the various conflicts are here displayed. There is only a selected cross-section but they represent the general categories of the collection. It will be obvious that the British products were intended to bolster home-front morale—especially British morale. Australian heraldry is often notable by its absence.

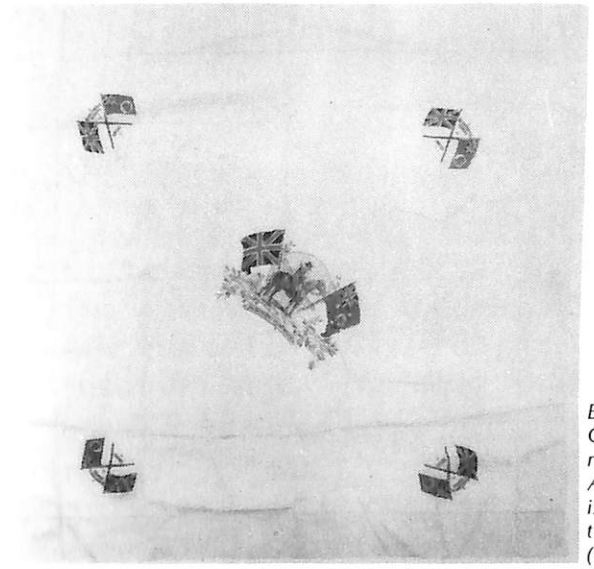
The handkerchiefs seen as historic relics can be quite eloquent regarding patriotism, propaganda, the innocence of the early years of the 1914-18 war, and Australian nationalism. Perhaps this first view of this aspect of the Australian War Memorial's collection will encourage further research.

---

1. A. Moorehead, *Cooper's Creek*. 1963, p.146.
2. S.D. Chapman, 'David Evans and Co.: The Last of the Old London Textile Printers.' *Textile History*, v.14:1, 1983, p.35.
3. F.M. Montgomery, *Printed Textiles*. 1970. (various illustrations).
4. M. Bogle, 'Mouchoir d'instruction militaire'. *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*. 2:April 1983. pp.20-23.

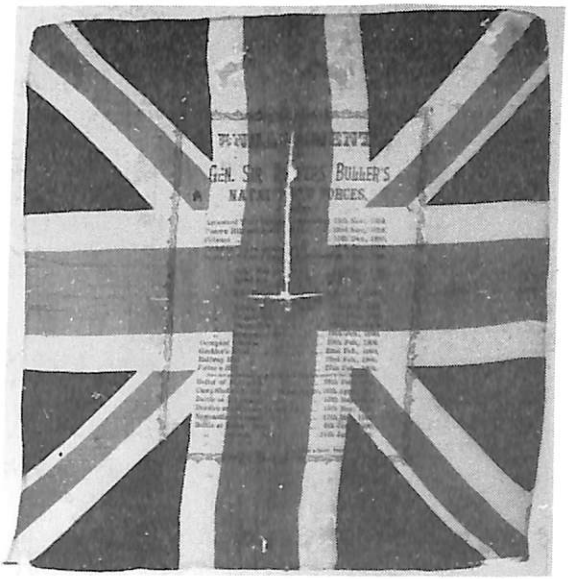


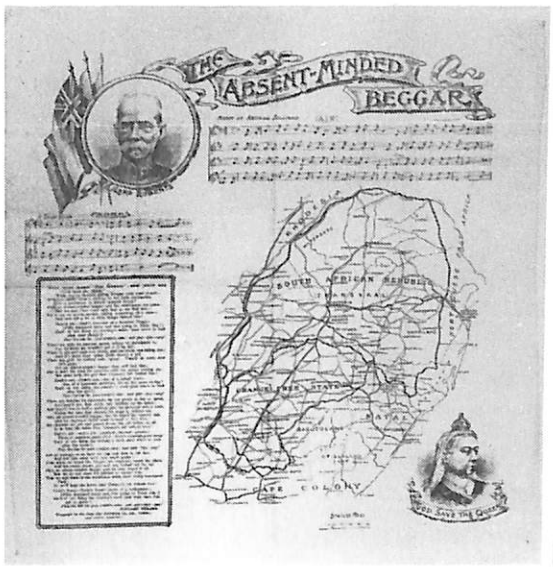
Gallipoli souvenir handkerchief. The Landing of Our Gallant Sons of Empire on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Cotton: 48 x 61 cm. This handkerchief was printed in Australia or New Zealand and is the only 1914-18 handkerchief in the Australian War Memorial's collection featuring these two countries. Below the lithographed colour vignette is the wreck of the Emden. The Canadian flag on the upper left is upside-down. (AWM/8693, donor: anonymous)



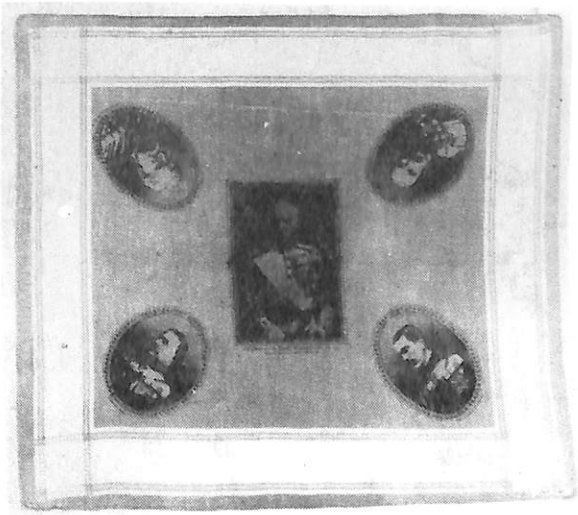
Boer war souvenir handkerchief. The Bushmen's Contingent. Silk: 50.5 x 50.5 cm. The Australian subject matter leds one to assume this is a souvenir printed in Australia although there are no markings. The Bushman is set in a coloured landscape featuring native flora and the NSW flag. The printing and silk is of excellent quality. (AWM/954, DOnor: Mrs A. Brown)

Boer war souvenir handkerchief. General Sir Redvers Buller's Natal Field Force. Silk: 45 x 42 cm. This silk Union Jack has a list of Buller's twenty-two actions between 15 November 1899 and 11 June 1900. They are not all victories. As Winston Churchill said, '...it was very sporting for the Boers to take on the whole British Empire.' The handkerchief has been badly damaged by folding. (AWM/6661 donor: anonymous)



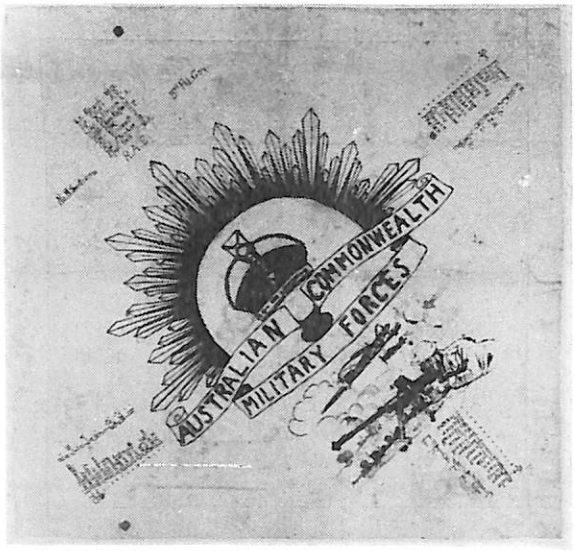


Boer war souvenir handkerchief. The Absent-Minded Beggar. Cotton: 47 x 44 cm. This monochromatic blue handkerchief features a bit of jingoism from Britain's most lauded imperial poet, Rudyard Kipling, and Arthur Sullivan. Kipling continued to scribble this romantic doggerel right through the 1914-18 war in spite of the loss of his son with the Irish Guards in France. Kipling survived until 1936. (AWM/1758, donor: Mrs D.C. Davies)

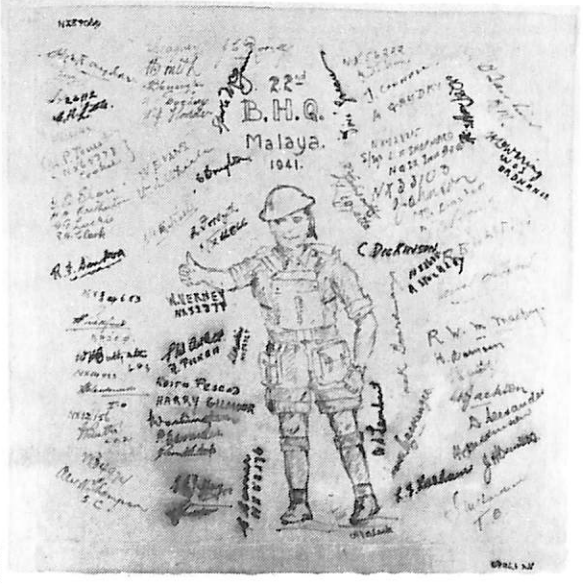


Boer war souvenir handkerchief. The British General Staff. Cotton: 55x63cm.

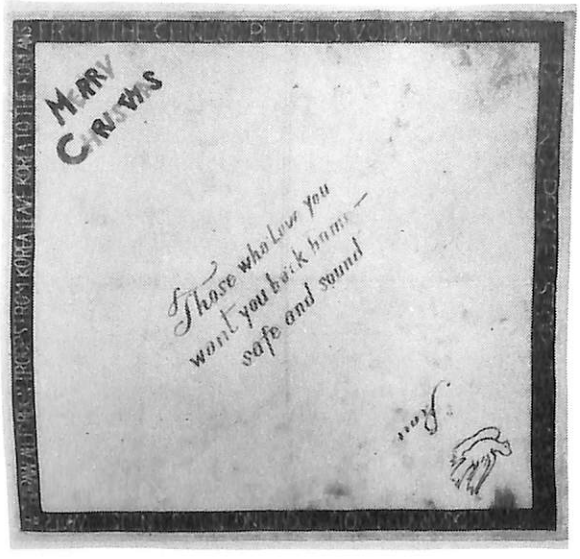
This handkerchief is printed with photogravures of the British Boer war leaders. Lord Kitchener, Major General French, Sir Redvers Buller and Sir George White who surround Field Marshal Lord Roberts. Roberts was the commander of the imperial troops during the war and he and Kitchener took the final surrender of the Boers in May 1902. (AWM 17141, donor: Mrs Helen Martin)



1939-45 war souvenir handkerchief. Australian commonwealth military forces. Cotton: 49.5 x 48.5. The second world war failed to generate the handkerchief industry of the previous war. Perhaps war seemed more serious. But Australians made their own against the shortage. This handkerchief was made by Australians in South Africa who gave it to an entertainer they met there on their way to the Mediterranean theatre of war. (AWM/6524, donor: Mr Ashort)



1939-45 war souvenir handkerchief. Malaya 1941. Cotton: 47 x 48 cm. Another souvenir designed by Australians in Malaya. The donor says that most of the autographees were captured in Singapore in 1942. (AWM 32962, donor: Mr R. F. Sandon)



Korean war propaganda handkerchief. 'Merry Christmas'. Cotton: 30.5 x 33 cm. This is the only handkerchief from this war or any post-1945 conflict the author knows of. Perhaps the throw-away tissue made the handkerchief obsolete. The Chinese, however, thought they were a great idea. The Christmas sentiment seems rather ironic. (AWM/6543, purchase)

Company Sergeant-Major Donald Hawker
Queen's Westminster Rifle Volunteers

'A happy Christmas': a memoir of the Christmas truce, 1914

OF all the days of a fairly long life, there is one day I shall never forget—Christmas Day, 1914—when I took part in the unofficial truce between the British and German armies.

As a member of the Queens Westminster Rifle Volunteers (Britain's 'Saturday Afternoon Soldiers'), I was mobilized on the declaration of war, 5 August 1914, and after three months intensive training we took ship to join the British Expeditionary Force in France on 1 November 1914. The regular brigade to which we were posted (the 18th) was in the front line, which was then in formation across Belgium and France, where it remained, with minor adjustments, for two or three years.

By Christmas 1914 we were quite broken-in to trench warfare and learned with some regret that it was our turn for front line duty on 24 December. Despite constant rain we duly carried out the relief and found the trenches with several inches of water in them. However, we had got used to that, and anticipated a pretty gloomy Christmas. But—SURPRISE!

Christmas Day dawned with a heavy frost and a ground mist, and then, as the mist dispersed, the sun shone brilliantly from a clear blue sky and showed a real 'White Christmas'. No sound of a shot was heard, and after a while the Germans began to sing, in chorus, carols and songs. The singing was really good and came clearly over the frozen ground, their trenches opposite us being only about 150 yards away. Our men could not resist applauding them, and then they began shouting greetings and cheering. We heard one voice especially, shouting in English 'Merry Christmas Englishmen, you no shoot, we no shoot'. Then a few ventured to stand on their parapets and some of our fellows followed their example. One, Rifleman (later Lieut) A.J. Phillips, walked across when he saw some Germans in no-mans-land, and approached a group of five, who gave him a hearty welcome. One of them gravely saluted and said he had lived at Catford (a London suburb). He spoke good English, and said that hostilities on Christmas Day were considered 'unnecessary'.

Then, about 11 o'clock a.m. came a signaller with a 'flimsy' (field telegram) addressed to each platoon commander. I retained my copy, reading encouraged and may take place only in the presence of an officer...happy christmas to all ranks from brigadier and staff'. After the receipt of this message the only thing that kept the men in the trenches was the arrival from the cookhouse of a hot Christmas dinner.

After dinner it was seen that the enemy were standing in great numbers in front of their trenches, and our men were only too glad to leave the puddles (sometimes lakes) in theirs. Permission to do so was circulated, with strict orders to go no more than half across no-mans-land, and to see that the enemy did likewise.

During the afternoon the sun became even more genial and the prospect became AMAZING. Crowds of British and German soldiers were intermingling between the lines and appeared to be on the best of terms. Presents and souvenirs of all sorts were exchanged, also food and cigarettes.

The troops opposite turned out to be Saxons, and appeared to be well inclined towards the 'Englanders'. In fact, when a football appeared (emanating from our transport lines) a match was immediately suggested, and teams were being picked when one of our officers told me to get the football away, as he thought bad feelings might be aroused. I got hold of the owner and told him to disappear with it, which he promptly did.

Troops on both sides were withdrawn to their trenches in the evening, and a note was received from the other side saying that the war would be resumed at midnight.

As a postscript, I may add that two of our men did not return. I met them 18 months later in Germany, as fellow prisoners-of-war; they said that a few of the Germans invited them over to their trenches to share a bottle of wine—they went—a German officer happened along and quite properly put them under arrest. I rather upset their serenity by telling them that they were liable to a court-martial when they got home. Fortunately, this never came off, as no one 'laid an information'.

Sabretache is indebted to Mr Monty Wedd of the Historical Museum, 92 McIntosh Road, Dee Why, NSW, 2099, for providing this reminiscence.

Christopher Fagg

South Vietnam Air Force North Expeditionary Medal

In 1966 the government of the Republic of South Vietnam instituted the 'Air Force North Expeditionary Medal' to commemorate the exploits of its pilots and aircrew who took part in operations against North Vietnam during the Vietnam war (1962-1975).

Legislation was passed to institute the medal and prototypes of it were produced.[1] It is not clear, however, how many were made or who manufactured them, and for reasons unknown the medal was never issued. It appears that there is now only one prototype of the medal still in existence, in a private collection in America.

The medal is oval in shape, and made from brass. The medal's suspension hole and design were stamped out in a single operation. It weighs approximately 5 grams.

The obverse bears three bolts of lightning converging on a point at the centre of the medal, one on top of another. The middle bolt is vertical while the others fan in an angle of about 45°. The whole is surrounded by a wreath running around the edge of the medal. The reverse is plain.

The medal appears to be attached to the ribbon by a bar running through a pair of open-backed wings. This is in turn attached to the medal by a brass ring looping over the wings' base and through the medal's suspension hole.

The ribbon intended for use was of a red and yellow colour, divided in two horizontally, the top being red, the bottom yellow.

In order to qualify for the medal flying personnel of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force or South Vietnam's allies must have 'enthusiastically participated in air raids over North Vietnam, north of the 17th parallel'. Provision was made for the medal to be awarded posthumously. Responsibility for its issue lay with the National Leadership Council.[2]

1. RVN Decree, 1 February 1966.
2. Information from V.R. Brook and F.C. Brown.

Obverse of the South Vietnam Air Force North Expeditionary Medal.

Index to *Sabretache*, 1983.

Vol. XXIV *1983* *Issue No./Page No.*

Vol. XXIV	*1983*	*Issue No./Page No.*
North-West Frontier, The, British India and Afghanistan. A pictorial history 1839-1947	Michael Barthorp	2/31
Per Ardua Ad Astra: Seventy years of the R.F.C. and the R.A.F.	Michael Donne & Sqn Ldr Cynthia Fowler	1/33
Recollections of a Regimental Medical Officer	H.D. Steward	2/30
Second World War, Short Stories from the	Dan Davinn (ed)	4/24
Sub Rosa: Memoirs of an Australian Intelligence Analyst	R.H. Mathews	2/32
Tunisian Campaign, The	Carles Messenger	1/31
United States Navy Destroyers of World War II	John C. Reilly Jnr	4/24
Weapons of the Falklands Conflict	Bryan Perrett	2/33
What did You do in the War, Daddy	Peter Stanley (ed)	4/27

Sabretache is, as always, indebted to Max Chamberlain for the compilation of this index.

Notes and Queries

Major Mitchell's prescription against ague

'Take Gunpowder, Frankinsensse and Garlick—Pound them into a paste in a mortar—Apply this as a plaster on the pulses of both arms when the fit comes on; after the second application the fever ceases, if not at the first—To keep the flesh moist, a drop vinegar may be added.'

Thomas Livingston Mitchell, Surveyor General of New South Wales 1828-1855 spent five years, from 1814 to 1819, in Portugal and Spain mapping the battlefields of the Peninsular war. He had been detached for this duty from his regiment, the 95th, on the representations of Major General Sir George Murray (who had been Wellington's Quarter Master General in the Peninsula) and was responsible for mapping there and under whose aegis Mitchell's career in the Peninsula had progressed. While in Portugal and Spain Mitchell was a lieutenant and, although he ultimately became a lieutenant colonel on half pay and a knight, he appears more popularly remembered in Australia as Major Mitchell.

Among the Mitchell manuscripts in the Mitchell Library, Sydney (the name of which has no connection with Major Mitchell) are the field books for his Peninsular surveys, amongst which is one entitled *Book of Useful Notes*[1]. This book contains the prescription for the ague. On the same page are an *Infallible Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog*, how *To Make Ivory Paper* and a *Cure for Cholera Morbus*, revealing the wide ranging interests of this remarkable man and demonstrating the care with which he prepared himself to face the rigours of a further four years work as a solitary surveyor of the then deserted battlefields.

1. Mitchell Library ML C21—Mitchell's Spanish Field Notes.

T.C. Sargent

Launching of *The Team*

'a good outfit which did a fine job in a bad show'

This quotation from the 2/11th Battalion's unofficial history could serve as an epigram for the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam, Ian McNeills history of which was launched at the Australian War Memorial on 26 April.

Some 250 veterans, service personnel and civilians, including the families of former members of the training team, gathered at the Memorial to celebrate the book's appearance. They were welcomed by the Memorial's director, Air Vice-Marshal James Flemming.

Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Daly outlined the role of the team in Vietnam. His speech was both interesting and informative: the anecdotes were pointed and humorous but did not detract from the courage of the team's members and the dignity of their sacrifice.

The members of the team knew loneliness and despair in some of the desperate battles in which they fought. In others they were exhilerated by their capacity to win over their circumstances. In all, they were satisfied indoing what only they could do; displaying the professional qualities which had earned them their seletion in what was probably Australia's most decorated unit.

Ian McNeill thanked Sir Thomas for his 'zeal' in pushing the work along. Ian found his interest 'encouraging'. The work could not have succeeded without the full co-operation of the Department of Defence. Such access could only enhance the integrity of the book and it was notable that *The Team* could be written a decade after the war had ended.

What characterized the members of the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam? It must be that indefinable yet enduring Australian quality called 'mateship'. With such a spirit the team could hardly have failed.

Mike Fogarty

A note on a Lone Pine uniform

The Australian War Memorial is presently redesigning the Gallipoli gallery, which will be opened in August around the 69th anniversary of the attack on Lone Pine. In the course of research into the diorama depicting the attack, which occupies a prominent place in the new gallery, I came across a letter written to the Memorial in connection with the research for the original diorama.

The letter was from Major Harold Jacobs (1889-1967) who joined the AIF as a lieutenant in November 1914 and landed on Gallipoli with the 1st Battalion on 25 April 1915. He was promoted captain in May 1915, and major in December 1916 while serving on the western front. Jacobs served in the short-lived 6th Division from March to September 1917 and was demobilized in October 1919. He gained distinction in the attack on Lone Pine, holding a post on the right flank of the Australian attack which was named after him. The three days of Turkish counter-attack following the dash to the Turkish trench fell particularly heavily around Jacobs' Post. In the early hours of 7 August he and Sergeant A.E. Wicks held Turkish attackers by throwing bombs as their men constructed a barricade to which they would eventually retire. At one point Jacobs ran through Turkish bomb bursts to obtain grenades left behind by men of the 2nd Battalion.

It was therefore not surprising that the Memorial should seek Major Jacobs' assistance when W. Wallace Anderson was commissioned to produce a diorama—then called a 'model' or a 'picture model'—of the attack on Lone Pine. The Memorial's director, Mr J.L. Treloar, wrote to Jacobs in January 1927 enquiring about the uniform worn by the 1st Brigade at Lone Pine, asking specifically whether officers removed their metal 'pips and crowns' and sketched their insignia in indelible pencil on their tunics. This letter took nearly three months to find Jacobs, who had three years before left the place to which it was addressed. It followed him around a dozen addresses, before reaching him at a property near Wagga. He replied, mistakenly referring to C.E.W. Bean as director of the Memorial, in April. Jacob's letter provides valuable information about the detail of the uniform in which the 1st Brigade entered the terrible fight at Lone Pine as well as illustrating the care to which the diorama's maker, W. Wallace Anderson, went in researching the background of the attack. It also shows how the Australian War Memorial attempted to expand its collections, for Arthur Bazley underlined where Jacobs' mentioned that he had retained his uniform and suggested that the Memorial acquire it. Sadly, Jacobs did not donate his Lone Pine uniform, and perhaps the only evidence of it is now preserved in the Memorial's files.

It would be interesting to know the whereabouts of this uniform. Major Jacobs' letter reads in part:

'Explanations re delay over I shall now attempt to answer your questions. As far as my memory serves me the instructions were for officers to [dress] in battle order as for the ranks. We wore "diggers" tunics and the instructions were for rifles to be carried. (I left mine in the "hop off" trench) no special instructions were issued re revolvers (I carried two, a Webley and a Colt). Officers and ranks were supposed to wear caps with neck shades and this certainly was the case in regard to my Bn though in the photo I took in Browns Dip just prior to the hop over. You will notice that Moorshead[1] of the 2nd Bn has a hat on, incidentally my own C.O. Lt. Col. A.J. Bennett[2] was wearing a Helmet but he did not "hop over" with us...'

'Regarding rank badges, in the main I should say the metal badges were worn though isolated cases of indelible badges being worn may have occurred. I know that all the officers in my company wore the metal badges and feel safe in saying that the whole Battalion wore them, I have a recollection of a meeting with the C.O. when he gave verbal instructions that they should be worn. I have with my kit in Sydney the tunic, cap, cap cover and badges I wore at Lone Pine so I am reasonably certain of these facts. Don't forget to note the caps of all ranks had sunshades at the Lone Pine period.'[3]

1. Jacobs is referring to Major, later Major General Sir, Leslie Morshead, who commanded the 33rd Battalion on the Western Front and the 9th Australian Division in the 1939-1945 war.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Ailfred Bennett, who assumed command of the 1st Battalion on 14 July 1915 after taking over the 4th Battalion in May.

3. The letter is preserved on the Australian War Memorial file 566/5/18.

Peter Stanley

Men of the 1st Battalion at a bomb-stop during the Turkish counter-attacks at Lone Pine. The man at the sandbag barricade appears to be using a simple periscope. Note also that each of the men wears a different style of headgear: a slouch hat and caps with and without the sun-flap. (AWM C1929)

Review Article

R. Lamb, *Montgomery in Europe 1943-1945: Success or Failure?* London, Buchan and Enright, 1983, pp. 472. Our copy from Australia and New Zealand Book Co. Pty. Ltd., U.K., Price £11.95. Recommended Australian Price $38.50.

The author served with the Eighth Army in Italy and commenced this study as soon as the major portion of World War II documents were released to the public under the 'thirty year rule' and while it was still possible to obtain personal accounts from people who were closely associated with Field Marshal, The Viscount Bernard Law Montgomery of Alamein. The sources used by the author are mainly primary and their value can be gleaned from comments of such contemporaries as Brigadier Sir Edgar (Bill) Williams, who was Montgomery's chief of intelligence and who put quite a few of the secondary sources into some form of reliable perspective. The diaries of Montgomery himself, for instance, were not altogether reliable: they 'would tend to show history as he [Montgomery] would like it to be written, not as it actually was' (p.12). Similarly, the headquarters' logs are said to be somewhat suspect. Eighth Army records are reasonably complete, but 'the 21st Army Group [Montgomery's European command] files have been ravaged' (p.13). Lamb imples that the field-marshal may have been partly responsible for this. He has made extensive use of Montgomery's letters and notes which reveal him as the man he was and which provide a much better background to what happened in those years than do Montgomery's post-war writings and speeches. These original sources mostly in the field-marshal's handwriting illustrate the bitter hostility between him and Eisenhower that had developed towards the end of the European war, and the emnity between 21st Army Group headquarters and the War Office on one hand and SHAEF on the other.

Lamb explains, not very successfully, why he had the character traits which made him so immensely popular among his subordinates, which enabled him to choose the right people to work for him and which made it possible for him to infect them with his own confidence and thus arouse devotion and loyalty. By the same token, Montgomery was almost despised by many of his contemporaries and senior ranks, except for three: Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, the CIGS; Major General Sir Frank Simpson, Director of Military Operations, War Office, and Sir James Grigg, Secretary of State for War (from 1942). These people were the 'patrons' without whom Montgomery would never had a start, beginning with a divisional command in the BEF and ending as CIGS after the war.

The author sets the theme of his book in the first twenty pages. Montgomery was brilliant at organisation and the movement of men and materials. He was a master of 'man-management' in terms of making his staff work as efficient as possible. Provided he was in sole charge he was good at commanding troops of other nations, despite his occasional difficulties with some of the dominion commanders. This will be discussed in some detail below. His errors were in strategy—the proposed thrust into Germany on a very narrow front is a case in point—but his armies were always technically highly efficient. Provided his intelligence about the enemy was correct—and it was not before the Arnhem landing—his decisions were always based on sound appreciations. His mistakes were often the result of difficulties that had arisen when dealing with other commanders of equal or senior status, his extreme jealousy of such other commanders and his resentment of anybody, irrespective of rank, criticising his plans.

Montgomery was the master of the set-piece battle as evidenced by El Alamein and the cross-channel invasion. He tended to be overcautious, except at Arnhem, and was thus anathema to the sometimes swashbuckling and highly colourful American commanders, notably Patton, who were inclined to shoot from the hip and much more inclined to grab at opportunities as they presented themselves, often ignoring any previous plans. All this was something Montgomery was not good at.

The author painstakingly traces the field marshal's performance from the invasion of Sicily to the German surrender at Luneburg Heath in May 1945. The invasion of Sicily was the first brush with the Americans, Patton in particular, who never forgave Montgomery for having to change the original landing objectives. At that time, also, the latter displayed almost for all to see his increasing tendency, to consider himself infallible. This had received added impetus after his leave in England in May 1943 where 'he was hailed as the conquering hero' (p.23). The invasion of Sicily also saw his first major and costly failure, the disastrous attempt to land a brigade from the air. In all fairness, the real cause was the inexperience of the American pilots towing the gliders. This campaign also witnessed both Eisenhower's and Alexander's inability to control him, except on one occasion, when he wanted to secure another bridgehead in the toe of Italy and was refused by Alexander.

About that time Montgomery's attitude to the senior dominion commanders caused a stir (p.29),

when he forbade the GOC Canadian Army Overseas to visit the Canadian division in Sicily. Similar incidents occurred later on, particularly in respect of Lieutenant General Henry Crear, GOC I Canadian Corps (pp. 151-152, 156 and 252). When reading these accounts the Australian student of military history is forcibly reminded of Montgomery's attitude towards Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead in 1942. When a corps command became vacant in the Eighth Army he was considered ineligible, despite the fact that he had at that stage significantly more desert warfare experience than any of the British commanders, and, moreover, despite the fact that the corps in question, the XXX consisted entirely of dominion troops, the Australian 9th Division and the South African Division. 'Montgomery told Morshead that both he and General Alexander were of the opinion that since Morshead was not a regular soldier, he did not possess the requisite training and experience of command'. (J. More, *Morshead...*, 1976, p.137; D.M. Horner, *High Command*, 1982, pp. 283-285). The point is made and Lamb does likewise (p.252) that by 1942 and even 1943 'the British still had not understood the independent status of the dominions' and showed their 'repugnance...to accept dominion officers, however, successful in higher command, by reason of the fact that they [had] not been turned out on the British pattern' (B. Maughan, *Tobruk and El Alamein*, 1968 pp.614, 615). Lamb drives home this point (p.253) that Montgomery 'brought up in the days of colonialism did not appreciate the emergence of the Commonwealth' and, quoting Brigadier Williams (p.253), 'that Montgomery ordered them [the dominion soldiers] around as if they were British troops...; he was completely out of date...and could never understand they [the dominion troops] were allies and not subordinates'. At the same time his attitude did not detract from his admiration of the technical efficiency of dominion officers up to divisional commanders and the fighting qualities and performance of the dominion divisions themselves (see Horner, p.285 and More, p.139.)

In some respects Lamb's treatment of Montgomery has all the elements of the classical Greek tragedy. There was an inevitability about the Allied failure to finish the war in 1944 resulting in huge additional losses of life, mainiy because the two main actors, Eisenhower and Montgomery, were on a collision course. Montgomery thought a single thrust into the Ruhr and hence into Berlin would end the war there and then. This plan, according to the later Field Marshal Lord Carver, was never really feasible (p.142) for reasons that surprise the student of military history: Montgomery's intelligence concerning the enemy and the natural obstacles was faulty—Lamb suggests the euphoria created by the Normandy landing and the successes so far, despite the Ardennes setback, might have been responsible. Eisenhower wanted to advance on a broad front, with the concomitant frittering away of resources. As a result a chicken and egg problem developed over the Scheldt estuary and the port of Antwerp. The recovery of this territory was expected to be quite costly, but very necessary to sustain the northern thrust. If the thrust was successful, there was not need to spend military resources on these localities—the Germans would have had to capitulate anyway. Again, with the notable exception of Arnhem, much of Montgomery's caution and 'stickiness', as Churchill called it, can be seen as his earnest desire to save as many lives and other resources as possible—something the Americans had a lot of and were thus prepared to take greater risks than could reasonably be expected from British commanders. Lamb seems to hint that Montgomery's concern for saving lives did not extend to the same degree to the dominion troops. This impression is gained from Chapter 9—The Canadians on the Coast. Comparison with the staggering losses suffered by the 9th Australian Division at El Alamein and in particular by some of its battalions, the 2/48th for instance, seems to readily suggest itself.

As might be expected, the Eisenhower/ Montgomery row occupies a considerable proportion of the narrative. Lamb treats this rather sorry and sordid story in a very balanced fashion, so much so that the reader will find it impossible to discern where Lamb's sympathies lie. Eisenhower is shown to be most forebearing, treating Montgomery more like a spoiled child or military prima donna—till after the Ardennes debacle when Montgomery's more than tactless public remarks were the straw that broke the camel's back. From then onwards Montgomery could not do a thing right. He exacerbated the situation by treating the American senior commanders as the military amateurs they sometimes appeared to be. As time went by Montgomery was more and more inclined to reject any intelligence reports that did not fit in with his preconceived ideas (pp.306, 307). Basically, these ideas were built on the notion that the Germans were finished, a euphoria as said before brought about by the successes of the Normandy campaign generally, and not even the battle of the bulge could shake it. In addition Montgomery's continuous endeavours to be appointed supreme commander of the Allied land forces in France, and preferably in all of Europe did nothing to maintain the esteem in which he was once held. He was not really conscious of all this till 1 April 1945, when he realised that he no longer had Eisenhower's support, (pp.376, 377).

What happened was that Eisenhower agreed with Montgomery's orders for the advance into Germany but by withdrawing the American Ninth Army from his command, relegated Montgomery to what virtually became a sideshow. 'All very dirty work, I fear', were his embittered remarks (p.377). Eisenhower does not appear in a very good light either—he resorted to virtually underhand methods rather than exercise the command he should have done by virtue of his position as supreme commander.

Lamb summarises Montgomery's character traits in the conclusion of the book. His sublime confidence in himself was such that unless he wanted to, he would pay no head to anyone, except Alanbrooke, who was the only senior commander to whom Montgomery was prepared to listen. One interesting sidelight here is that the more senior a subordinate was, the less credit he would be given by Montgomery (p.398). The prime examples here are Generals Dempsey and Crear. Lamb quotes the American general, Bedell Smith, who stated that 'Montgomery was without an equal in well-prepared assaults, such as the cross-Channel invasion...Any weakness he had as a commander lay in his occasional failure to seize the unexpected opportunity...' (p.417). Montgomery was not beyond 'behind the scenes conniving to get his way and a bigger share of command and prestige' (ibid.). Lamb suggests that Montgomery was simply increasingly disinclined to playing second fiddle. He was encouraged in this rather than restrained by his patrons, Alanbrooke and Sir James Grigg, and this tendency, moreover, was exploited to the fullest by some of Montgomery's British contemporaries and peers (Tedder, Leigh-Mallory, Morgan) at SHAEF who assiduously tried to widen the Eisenhower-Montgomery gap, rather than bridge it. Thus there were quite a few people who must accept a fair share of responsibility for the Montgomery tragedy.

It is inevitable that in a book of this magnitude some blemishes occur, mainly spelling errors (pp.342, 393, for example). Some of the maps are not terribly clear or even useful (p.94) and the listing of the maps fails to indicate where they appear in text. The illustrations are interesting, but generally well known and thus add little to the story. The select bibliography is quite manageable. The footnotes show that the author based his study largely on primary sources and thus covered a lot of new ground.

This very readable book will become a classic and must be seen as indispensable to any student of military history and of the great captains through the ages.

H.J. ZWILLENBERG

BOOK REVIEWS

A.B.C. Whipple, *Fighting Sail*, Time-Life Books, Amsterdam, 1978, $24.95.

Fighting Sail is part of the volumes of the Time-Life series 'The Seafarers', which in nine volumes surveys maritime history from the Vikings to the great liners of the twentieth century. The books follow the familiar Time-Life style of snappy prose complemented by 'picture essays' based on illustrations by both contemporary and commissioned artists.

Fighting Sail deals with the last years of the ship of the line, beginning with Rodney's victory over De Grasse at the Saintes in 1782 and concluding with Trafalgar, practically the last battle fought under sail. Its illustrations give a good impressionof naval warfare in the American and French Revolutionary wars, particularly the details of Clarkson Stanfield's painting of Trafalgar and several marine paintings of Nicholas Pocock. An excellent series of specially commissioned drawings by Ron Anderson show a British seventy four clearing for action, 'from "all hands" to first broadside', though it unaccountably portrays Marines in the tops, which I understood did not occur on British ships. At the same time, several 'picture essays' are nothing but 'padding': Nelson's funeral, while of interest to Hornblower enthusiasts, (C.S. Forester's *Hornblower and the Atropos* has his hero organising it) hardly justifies eight pages, particularly in the light of the shortcomings of the book's text.

Despite the assistance of consultants associated with the national Maritime Museum *Fighting Sail* perpetuates a number of notions which are no longer as easily accepted as they would have been a decade ago. In describing the life of British tars, for example, the author portrays the typical warship as a floating hell of arbitrary and brutal punishment. Like the regiments of the British army, the ships of the Royal Navy varied greatly in the amount of corporal punishment awarded and executed. Part of this misrepresentation is the result of its American author and editors—Nelson's father, an Anglican minister from Norfolk, is described as 'an upcountry pastor'—but *Fighting Sail* presents a view of these crucial decades which has been seriously challenged and should have been known even to transatlantic writers.

Not only does *Fighting Sail* ascribe Rodney's celebrated 'breaking of the line' to the influence of the landbound naval theorist John Clerk, but describes it as if British admirals had not been experimenting with the intricate technological and tactical problems set by fighting ships of the line for a century before the battle of the Saintes. Michael Lewis clarified the latter point over thirty years ago: the reality is rather less neat. John Creswell's *British Admirals in the Eighteenth Century*, in discussing the breaking of the line fallacy in detail, established that the transition from the supposedly rigid tactics derived from the *Fighting Instructions* to the flexibility of Nelsonian tactics was by no means as sudden as had been supposed. Creswell's book is not cited in *Fighting Sail's* bibliography, though it is an otherwise comprehensive listing. For those interested in eighteenth century naval warfare this book, though rewarding pictorally, is irritating: for novices it is simply misleading.

Peter Stanley

Gregory Urwin, *The United States Cavalry: an illustrated history*, Blandford, Poole, $23.95 (our copy from ANZ Book Co. Pty. Ltd.)

This is a beautiful book, published by the well known military publisher, Blandford Press. Printed on heavy paper, it is lavishly illustrated by Ernest Reedstrom with 31 magnificent colour plates, a host of contemporary photographs dating from 1847, and many drawings.

The story starts with the Continental Dragoons of 1776-four regiments from which sprang the US Cavalry. Commanding these early regiments was the extraordinary Pole, Count Casimir Pulaski, much to the chagrin of native born officers. 'Light Horse' Harry Lee quickly emerged as a fine cavalry leader, as did many others. After the war, a US Cavalry 'Legion' emerged, was finally disbanded and for 6 years, there was no US Cavalry. Mounted again for the war of 1812, state cavalry regiments emerged-the Kentucky Mounted Volunteers looking odd in top hats, hunting coats and mocassins.

Thus began the American habit of irregularity in uniform dress. Many plates show a Boer-like regard for uniform, sometimes the regular troops being dressed entirely as civilians. The two regiments of US Dragoons were, however, a disciplined force and fought well in the Mexican-US war. From their ranks emerged many civil war leaders, including Lee and Grant.

In the civil war, the state troops started off with romantic uniforms which soon faded as they faced reality. There were no less than 13 regiments of the famed Virginia Dragoons, with grey with black facings worn by the favoured few. The US Cavalry consisted of only four federal regiments, the rest of the Northern cavalry being raised by the states, and were named the 7th Michigan, 1st Rhode Island Cavalry and so on. It took three long years before the better organisation and resources of the Union enabled the Northern cavalry to compete with the South. Many foreign observers regarded this was as a turning point in the use of cavalry, with firepower beginning to supersede shock power. The lesson was not immediately learnt in Europe.

After the war, the US Cavalry achieved its greatest fame fighting the Plains Indians. There are many drawings of the uniforms made famous by television and films—the canvas-lined pants, loose top boots, crushed hats and kepis, gauntlets...and of course the battle of the Little Big Horn is featured. Againt the penchant for informal dress emerged, General Crook habitually wearing a 'canvas suit' topee and a civilian raincoat. The fascinating campaigns of General Crook took many years, until finally the Indians were overwhelmed and herded into reservations.

A smart dress uniform, with a spiked helmet, gold cords and light blue trousers, had a short life and was gone by 1914. Then it was into khaki for Teddy Roosevelt's Rought Riders, volunteer troops in Cuba, who by attracting publicity overshadowed the exploits of the Regular 1st and 10th Cavalry regiments, the latter being the famed black regiment.

Service in the Philippines was followed by the punitive expedition led by General Pershing into Mexico in 1916. Here George Patton won his early fame. It was the 'last major use of US Cavalry'. Only four regiments went to France the next year and they were employed mainly as remount depots, apart from one raid by the 2nd Cavalry. Like Haig, a cavalry officer, Pershing asked Congress for eight regiments to be held behind the lines to await the break through—but they were not provided. Haig's regiments waited out the entire war.

Between the wars, the US Cavalry was very reduced and was a shadow by 1939, although much of it was still mounted. The 1st Cavalry Division fought as infantry, and is still active today, having

fought in Korea and Vietnam, now as 'Air Cavalry'. The 26th Cavalry fought a desperate, mounted rear guard action in the Philippines against the invading Japanese in 1942 and later ate its horses. And so the US Cavalry moved on to tanks.

This is a marvellous book for the uniform specialist, and is also very readably written for the historian, dealing only with the cavalry aspect of the campaigns.

J. C. Gorman

M. Buckley, *The Scottish Rifles in Northern New South Wales*, published by the author and available from 19 Canterbury Chase, Goonellabah, NSW, 2480; price $5.75 including postage.

This modest little publication is not a literary masterpiece. It is a collection of facts in an attractive, well illustrated, 68-page book which tells the history of the Scottish Rifles in the districts of Maclean and Lismore in northern New South Wales. It should prove to be of value to anyone interested in the state's early social and military history.

The New South Wales Scottish Regiment had a long and interesting history. Its origins can be found in the old Duke of Edinburgh's Highlanders in Sydney which lasted a decade before being disbanded in 1878. In 1885 the Reserve Corps of Scottish Rifles was raised. This regiment later expanded and became better known as the 5th Regiment New South Wales Scottish Rifles. It was revived after the first world war as the 30th Battalion, New South Wales Scottish Regiment.

This book covers the period from 1899, when local Scots held meetings in northern New South Wales to bring into existence 'E' and 'F' Companies of the Scottish Rifles, until the companies' disbandment with the abolition of the volunteer system a few years before the Great War. A good range of photographs show the varieties of elaborate, and expensive, uniforms which must have brought a splash of colour to the northern centres whenever the companies paraded.

Service in the Scottish Rifles was voluntary, and that means that the men were unpaid. Social and recreational activities were probably the main reasons for joining. The book naturally pays much attention to the companies' involvement in drills, competitions, camps, tournaments and sports. In their full uniform the men must have been a feature at many Highland gatherings.

Volunteer soldiering was not without its serious side. Quite a few local men served in the Boer war and Lieutenant Grieve, who had guided the companies during their early days, was killed in action at Paardeberg in February 1900. In 1902 an impressive war memorial was unveiled in Lismore which recorded the service of 147 local men in South Africa, including 13 from the Scottish Rifles. Others also served later in the first world war including Corporal Stratford, a former Scottish Rifles sergeant, who was killed in the early hours of the Gallipoli landings.

With the current interest in social and regional history *The Scottish Rifles in Northern New South Wales* is a timely reminder that military activity was not restricted to the capital cities. Volunteer companies were an important feature in the life of many Australian towns at the turn of the century. Mr Buckley should be commended for this latest contribution to the recorded history of our early citizen-soldiers.

Peter Burness

Denis and Peggy Warner (with Sadao Seno) *Kamikaze, The Sacred Warriors, 1944-45*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1983 (290 pages) $9.99

'The use of aircraft on suicide missions created a psychological shock among the allied forces that neds no exaggeration. It also inflicted immense damage on the US Pacific Fleet.'

This is an interesting and informative work which posits that 'the succession of suicide campaigns did not prevent, and could not have prevented, the American advance'. The authors have an obvious sympathy for the Japanese tradition which allowed, and indeed encouraged, the suicidal tactics adopted by a select group of airmen who held their devotion to country and emperor above everything else. Their act of warfare cannot be described euphemistically. By deliverately choosing to dash themselves on Allied shipping they were no less than human bullets. Death came quickly through being blasted to the eternity they sought or, slowly and more painfully, through being immolated in blazing fuel along with the Allied seamen they chose to take wieht them. Why, of all people,

did these airmen behave in this singular fashion? The Warners, through an exposition of Japanese culture and tradition, attempt to make sense out of the tactics that this group saw as granting them spiritual release as well as material victory.

The Japanese fought with a terrible ferocity perhaps unequalled in war. Death was preferred to capture which, in their view, earned them undying shame. The authors attempt to expose western ethnocentric attitudes towards the Japanese. We have come to understand their complex social structure, rigid hierarchical forms of organization and their innovative skills so evident in technology and design. Thankfully, it was the Allied victory which freed the Japanese from militarist control and allowed them to evolve a better democratic society which has seen the people achieve economic progress, personal freedom and material comfort.

However, the halcyon life of a modern industrial Japan was only a dream forty years ago. The Japanese fighter was bound for victory and glory—even at the expense of his life. Their deaths recalled a *Meiji* poem:

The young men depart for the garden of battle. In our fields, old men alone.

Were it not for the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima the Allies may have had to take on the young and the old in their planned invasion of Japan.

Ships of the Royal Australian Navy had a dress circle view of this grim form of warfare. Hate them they did but its sailors could only regard the *Kamikazes* in awe, and hope that the next ship on the line earned the pilots' anger. HMAS *Australia* suffered five attacks and eventually was withdrawn in January 1945 for repairs and to fight another day. Earlier, on 21 October 1944 a *kamikaze* crashed onto the *Australia* killing 30—including her captain—while several senior officers were badly wounded. Next month, HMAS *Gascoyne* shot down a *kamikaze* aircraft as it aimed itself at HMAS *Shropshire* in Lingayen Gulf. It was no wonder that the men were near breaking point—even senior officers admitted their fear to subordinates during this crucial phase of the Philippines campaign off Leyte.

The Japanese aviators adopted symbolic names for their units and its sorties. Thus, there were the 'floating chrysantheums' and the 'milky way'. They sought to join their comrades in an ocean of stars. A Japanese red army terrorist, in his attack on Lod airport in 1970, must have sought some inspiration from the *kamikazes*. 'When I was a child, I was told that when people died they became stars...[he and two comrades] wanted to become Orion when we died....and it calms my heart to think that all the people we killed will also become stars in the same heavens....how the stars will multiply!' During the final Pacific campaign the Allies would rather that the Japanese flyers achieve their own peculiar form of destiny, permitting the invaders to enjoy the more enduring and profane chance to live in a material world free from such sacred obligations.

For all its good features, *kamikaze* should not escape criticism. The book is dressed up with much information about the overall history of the Pacific war which need not be repeated. Combining historical research with journalistic narratives is an acceptable method of presentation but it does have its limitations. Juxtaposing American battle experiences with the human side of the Japanese pilots is something which needs to be carefully handled. If the writing becomes too tight and the comparisons frequent one can lose sight of the narrative style so important to thematic content. Too frequent a use of 'cross-overs' can give the work a disjointed aspect.

Similarly, one has to avoid cramming in too much technical detail in an attempt to make a definitive history in so short a compendium. *Kamikaze* contains a succinct and definitive conclusion. However, so as to give the book focus, it is a pity that much of the conclusion was not included in the introductory chapter. It would have provided a better focus for the reader's interest. Warner concludes 'Japan committed two major errors. The first was to become involved in a war with the US. The second, which was even more disastrous than the first, was to persist against hopeless odds.' Furthermore, 'by distorting tradition, and by their failure to understand,...the cost inhuman suffering, Japan's military leaders brought upon the country the most hideous retribution'.

However, it is ingenuous to suggest that the *kamikaze* prolonged the war and Japan should have surrendered earlier given that their cities were being attacked more frequently in 1945. The only issue was which side had the ability to win the war. In this case, it was the US. If they had the means, and if victory was in their grasp, it is doubtful whether moral precepts would have constrained the Japanese from using such a bomb.

The Warners have done well to comment on the psychological threat that the *kamikazes* offered to Allied sailors. At least the authors have succeeded in portraying the dimensions of the Allied invasion fleet and its resources.

Kamikaze adds much to our understanding of a terrible phenomenon. Only through an obvious respect for Japanese culture and traditions could the Warners produce so fine a work. Their scholarship on Japan is their greatest asset and it has been developed and nurtured in previous works. The appendices are a valuable attraction towards understanding the topic. *Kamikaze* should be read by any veteran of that era and anyone who would wish to know more about this horrible and highly individualistic style of suicidal warfare.

Michael Fogarty

B.T. White, *Wheeled armoured fighting vehicles—In Service*, Blandford Press, $US17.00

This is a book for the armour specialist, and reviews almost all the wheeled armoured fighting vehicles (AFV) of today. It is striking that, apart from technical or mechanical changes, the wheeled AFV has changed but little since the second world war. The German half-tracks, the White Half-Track (still in use in the Middle East) and the British Daimler armoured car could still hold a place in a modern army today.

However, new producers have emerged. The Belgians have produced a neat armoured car with a heavy 90 mm gun, one version of which mounts a 60 mm mortar, probably in a defensive role.

Brazil has developed a swimming armoured personnel carrier (APC) capable of swimming at sea and another new armoured car mounting a smoothbore 90 mm. A heavy armoured car mounts an 105 mm gun (very heavy for an armoured car) and there is also a low, scout car.

The Canadians have stationed most of their tanks abroad and have come up with the excellent idea of making a Swiss-designed 'tank on wheels'. Thus their crews can train at home for tank service abroad, and the life of such wheeled vehicles would far exceed the life of heavier, tracked tanks.

Czechoslovakia has produced a number of vehicles, supplying the Polish army. Egypt has its own 'Walid' APC, and supplies Algeria, the Yemen and the Palestinian Liberation Front with this vehicle.

France has been in the forefront of wheeled armoured vehicle design since the first world war, when its Panhard 178 armoured car was a success. After the second world war, France again began to produce quality vehicles, notably the EBR 75 mm which had four heavy wheels for roadwork and four more, carried off the ground on the road, for cross country travel. The 75 was later upgraded to the 90 mm smoothbore. There are a number of types, including AML HE 60-7 designed for the *gendarmerie*, as are many other vehicles around the world. Most interesting is the heavy AMX 10RC which is a tank on wheels, mounting a long 105 mm gun.

In Germany, production of armoured vehicles is a tradition. The East Germans have produced only a top-heavy SK 1 armoured car, which is more suitable for fleeing-refugee attack than for war. West Germany has an excellent *Transportpanzer 1* troop carrier, low, long, fully covered, which can be used for troop transport, to mount a turret, to mount anti-aircraft guns, or rockets. There is also a well designed SP 2 armoured car which can swim at 10 kilometres per hour and mounts a 20 mm cannon.

Hungary's FUG vehicles appears to be well designed: Iron Curtain countries may design and produce armoured cars and scout cars, but are not allowed to produce tanks. Ireland also enters the competitionwith a solid, chunky Timoney BDX, of which it has sold 1000 to Belgium, and is attracting international interest.

Israel produces only one vehicle—the 1975 Ram V-I. This is unique in that its anti-mine design places the crew compartment between the wheels and not over them. It rides surprisingly high. Its armament can include twin 20 mm cannon, or TOW missile launcher or a 106 recoiless rifle.

Italy produces a solid Fiat 6616 armoured car with a 90 mm gun, the Netherlands a 12-man infantry carrier, and South Africa a fine looking Ratel, in either the troop version or a 90 mm gun version.

The Russians have a BTR 152K APC which shows a lot of the White Scout Car, of which they were supplied with many during the war. The more modern BTR 60PB shows lower lines, with 8 wheels instead of six. The AT1 'Snapper' and the AT 2 'Swatter' (named by NATO) are both interesting vehicles, usually mounting three missiles, wire guided. More recent is the Malyutka At-3 'Sagger'. Anti-aircraft and missile carriers include the SA-9 'Gaskin' and the SA-8 'Gecko'. These can carry, respectively, a 6.5 km and a 19.2 km missile. The 'Frog'-7 and the SS-1 'Scud' B are heavy missile carriers, often seen in Red Square on May Day. The Frog can fire a 70 km missile and has a nuclear capacity.

The British—early exponents of armoured car construction—have continued with its Ferrets—now the Mark 4 and the Mark 5, upgraded from this familiar and successful vehicle, both mounting machine guns and having a swimming capacity. The Fox is the new armoured car, not unlike the old Daimler, mounting a slim 30 mm gun, and featuring an all aluminium armour, welded plates, thicker than steel. One wonders how this will behave in action, remembering the burning aluminium of the British frigates in the Falklands. The 30 mm gun can elevate 40 degrees for use against aircraft. The well tested and successful Saladin has been upgraded, now mounting a special 76 mm L5A1 gun, and the Saracen APC is still in production.

The United States has produced a squat V150 armoured car, with a 76 mm gun and an unusual pointed prow, which can mount a variety of guns—including a 90 mm version. Interesting is the new Cadillac GAGE Commando Scout—the most modern looking of all the vehicles reviewd, with an acute sloping front, looking like a low-slung racing car with a turret perched right at the back, mounting a 12.7 machine gun.

Zimbabwe comes last of all with its Hippo and Crocodile APCs. These were local production vehicles, used in the civil war and were horrible top heavy armoured compartments mounted on truck chassis. Interestingly they often half filled the tyres with water as an anti-mine device.

This is a most interesting book which may not need to be revised for many years, due to the slow nature of the development of wheeled armoured vehicles—the 1950 Ferret, for example, is still with us and may continue for many years yet.

J.C. Gorman

Peter Padfield, *Rule Britannia. The Victorian and Edwardian Navy*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1981, 246 pp., Illustrations, Index, Bibliography (ISBN 0 7100 0774 4). Our copy from Routledge & Kegan Paul, Melbourne. Recommended price $27.50 Hardback.

For the naval historian, the Victorian and Edwardian period is of intense interest. This period covers such a transformation in ship design and structure that it revolutionized the Royal Navy in both tactics and organisation. The impact of this period on the navy is similar to the effects of the industrial revolution on Britain, lifting her from a medieval to a modern existence: a momentous seventy-three years.

I had seen the Fabb and McGowan book *The Victorian and Edwardian Navy from old photographs* (Batsford, London, 1976), so when I received *Rule Britannia* I eagerly looked forward to interesting reading. I was not disappoitned, and in fact the two books complement each other as one is a book of well-produced photographs while the latter has fewer (only about 90) and badly presented, mostly tending to be over-exposed so detail is lost. The text does make up for this, being very easy to read and of a good sized black print—most suitable for those of us tending to glasses.

Within the text I was often frustrated as ships were mentioned without dates and the illustrations and photographs, while in themselves were interesting, often added nothing to the text—it was not until p.198 that the two dovetailed together.

The early chapters show how ships in 1837, the year of Victoria's accession, 'were essentially the same bluff, oak built...little changed from Elizabethan times'. The later chapters detail how, 'in less than three decades the warship that had evolved, but scarcely changed, over three centuries had been superseded by strange new types which bore little resemblance to the old ship save they floated on water'.

Chapters 5 and 6 deal with the development of ships from sail to steam. At the time of the Crimean war of 1854-6 there were only 17 larger ships of the line which had auxiliary engines driving screw propellers either in commission or nearing completion. It appears that the impetus for this change came from France which launched a 90-gun screw ship in 1848. In 1858 the French laid down the first armour ironclad HMS *Warrior* was completed, but by 1865 Britain had 30 ironclads afloat. In 1864 the French navy introduced guns capable of piercing up to 8 inches of solid iron making the first generation of ironclads obsolescent. The industrial technology and inventions had started a competitive process. The first British 'mastless' capital ship, HMS *Devastation* was completed in 1873 and is regarded as the first modern battleship.

The British notion that they policed the world's seaways in protection of her trade enforced her naval designers to follow closely the design developments of other navies and the commercial fleets. This also forced developments in armaments design, both in the big quick-firing (QF) guns and in machine-guns such as the Nordenfeldt and Hotchkiss. Lastly, a reorganisation of the Royal Navy, mainly due to Admiral Sir John Fisher's 'ruthless methods of forcing his reforms through without consultation with the die-hards may have been the only way of heaving the Service bodily into the twentieth century'.

This book deals with more than the transition of ship design, it delves into the human aspects of manning the ships and how the lot of the 'Bluejackets' was changed to an easier berth, into the efforts to put down the pirate and slave trade, into the efforts of the navy as a fighting force ashore. These are most interesting anecdotes even for the casual reader—action in Africa, China, the East Indies, the Persian Gulf, of hydrographic work and the exploration of that elusive Northwest Passage.

Rule Britannia is a most readable book, but I would have liked to see more dates, especially in the captions to photographs: there is perhaps no better gauge to mark improvements than by noting the passage of time. I would also have liked a totally different print style for the captions of photographs. Because of the similarity of styles captions and text easily merged—see pages 153, 162 and 218.

I recommend the book for reading by all historians, but I fear that at $27.50 there will not be a large market.

J. Hugh Macdermott

Christopher Rothero, *Medieval Military Dress, 1066-1500*, Blandford Press, Poole, 1983, 153 pages, including 34 pages of colour illustrations, glossaries, bibliography, and index. $9.95 (Review copy supplied by ANZ Book Co. Pty. Ltd.)

Christopher Rothero's *Medieval Military Dress 1066-1500* is the latest offering in the Blandford colour series.

A brief introduction establishes the basic concept of the book; the development of protective armour and clothing of the medieval knight and foot soldier. However, the main feature of the book is the eighty-six colour illustrations which chronologically trace the evolution of armour and protective clothing to afford greater protection against the increasing power of weapons. Each illustration is the result of careful research from various sources, the most common being church brasses and tomb effigies of knights. The illustrations are finely detailed, although a few seem to appear flat or ill-proportioned.

The bulk of the book describes the illustrations individually, generally stating the source, noting the details of the armour and arms of the individual and of the changing fashions in armour. The first illustrations are of Saxons and Normans based upon the Bayeux Tapestry, where the predominant protection was chain mail, and the gradual development and increasing use of plate armour is shown through the later illustrations. There are also useful glossaries of terms relating to armour and heraldry.

Medieval Military Dress 1066-1500 is thoroughly researched, well illustrated, informative, and thoughtfully and logically arranged. The book is an excellent reference for the military modeller of the medieval period, and for anyone interested in the development of armour in this period.

Stephen Willard

Society Notes

Obituary

It is with regret that we advise of the sudden death in Canberra on 19 April of Mrs Nan Phillips, a member of the ACT Branch of the Society. Nan Phillips had been a member of the Society for many years and although she did not take an active part in Society affairs her influence was far-reaching.

From the time the ACT Branch was formed in 1963 Nan took an interest in its well-being, particularly through her association with the Canberra and District historical Society and also from her position as research assistant on the staff of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Nan Phillips contributed ten articles to the Dictionary and in recognition of her 'outstanding service to scholarship' the Australian National University conferred upon her the degree of master of Arts, *honoris causa*, in April 1981, shortly after her retirement.

Nan Phillips will be sadly missed by those members who are aware of the gentle fostering she had given the MHSA.

T.C.S.

Award to society member

Members of the Society extend congratualtions to Warrant Officer I Ross Smith, formerly of Queensland and now living in Red Hill, A.C.T., who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Queen's birthday honours list. Ross received the award for his service as regimental sergeant major of the 1st Aviation Regiment.

Annual subscriptions

The Society's annual subscription of $A20 falls due for the year 1984-85 on 1 July. Payment should be made to branch secretaries for branch members or direct to the federal secretary for corresponding members or subscribers. Early payment will ensure continuity of receipt of Sabretache and ease the secretaries' workload.

Members' sales and wants

Wanted:

1914-8 group; 144900 A. McLaren, Seaforth Highlanders. Grandfather's medals—will buy or trade Australian items. Contact Alan Williams (049) 826350, reverse charges 7-8 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Wanted:

To complete family groups:

1914-18 pair to: Lieutenant H.S. Grimwade, AIF.
1914-18 trio to: 221 L.G. Pescod, 9th Bn, AIF.
1914-18 pair to: Lieutenant O.D. Hassam, AIF
British War Medal to: 564 W. Goodall, 6th Bn, AIF.
British War Medal to: 5309 R.A. Colls, 18th Bn, AIF.
British War Medal to: 588 S.G.P. Bowman, 35th Bn, AIF.
1914-15 Star to: 368 C.L. Mitchell, 9th Light Horse, AIF.
Military Medal to: 6160 P.K. Thomas, 28th Bn, AIF.

Exchange or purchase. M.P. Lucas, (062) 888198, 62 Blackwood Terrace, Holder, ACT, 2611.

Mr M. Buckley of 19 Canterbury Chase, Goonelabah, N.S.W. 2480, wishes to hear from any member who may be interested in or with information on the Northern Rivers Lancers.

Notes on contributors

Paul Rozenweig has recently completed a Graduate Diploma in Education having already obtained an honours degree in Zoology. He is a member of the Army Reserve and lives in Darwin.

Max Chamberlain, M.A., B.Com. (Univ. of Melb.), FASA is currently editor of the Victorian Year Book. Although interested in Australian military history generally, his particular field of study is the South African war. He has published papers in *Australian Historical Statistics, Historical Studies*, the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, etc.

Hans Zwillenberg is federal president of the Society and a frequent contributor to ***Sabretache*** *on a variety of military historical subjects.*

Jeffrey Grey is a tutor in the Department of History at the University of New South Wales at Duntroon. He received a grant-in-aid from the Australian War Memorial to research the intervention of Australia in the Russian civil war.

Michael Bogle was conservator of textiles at the Australian War Memorial from 1980 to 1983. He is currently editor of ***Craft Australia.***

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 the title page.

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 'Notes and Queries' section of the Journal.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

.....

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

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

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

ISSN 0048-8933

Price $4.50 — Annual Subscription $20