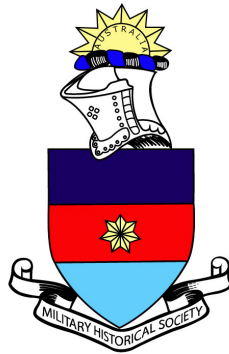


Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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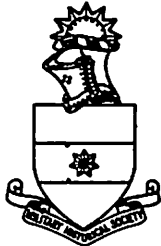
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SABRETACHE



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

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

Editorial Note This issue marks a change of editor for *Sabretache* as Barry Clissold is posted in China. The last issue was the responsibility of the editorial sub-committee, although mostly the work of former editor Peter Stanley.

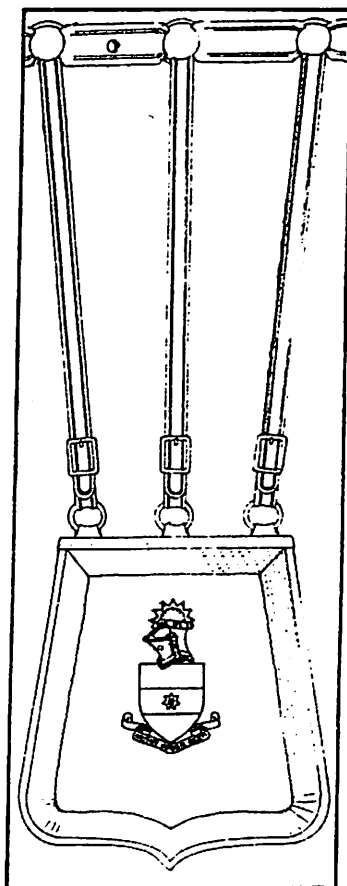
We hope to continue to cover a wide range of subjects in future issues. It is perhaps worth reminding members and drawing to the attention of potential members that the word 'military' in the Society's title should be interpreted in its broad sense; the Society's aims encompass the encouragement of study and research into naval and air, as well as army, matters.

The form of contributions sought for *Sabretache* has been outlined in recent issues—from 3-4000 word major articles, with photographs, if possible, through minor historical articles, short notes and Society notes and members' wants. A new method of allocating books for review is set out in this issue and hopefully will provide an opportunity for a wider circle of informed and specialist members to contribute to the journal.

It would be appreciated if contributors were to observe the 'house style' or method of presentation of material in this issue and set out their offerings accordingly. For instance, we like to give military ranks in full; we use 'single' quotation marks and, for convenience in laying out, like to place references at the end of articles. Material should preferably be typed double space but neat hand-written copy is acceptable. We can sometimes assist with relevant photographs. Authors of major articles should submit a brief autobiographical note to accompany their material.

Alan Fraser

Night Club of the Stars Service personnel who have shipped out of Garden Island Dockyard on vessels of the RAN will be glad to know that Sydney's famous wharfside eatery, Harry's Cafe de Wheels, is to stay. Earlier threatened by a council desire to have it moved, its future is reported to have been secured by an agreement made recently between the Lord Mayor and the cafe proprietor, Mr Alex Korunya.



After a heavy run ashore, HMA Fleet personnel could always find supper at Harry's and will recall the famous pie and peas.

There have been many 'Harrys' but he always had a kind word for Jack. Thieves stole his wheels (the axles rest on bricks) but couldn't steal his business.

Who Got What Members may be interested to know that the 1935 (9th) Edition of *Who's Who in Australia* contained for the first time a 'Knightage and Companionship' section, in which was set out in alphabetical order 'a complete list' of Australian resident or Australian born Knights and Companions of the various Orders of Knighthood, together with a list of holders of the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Military Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Cross.

The author of the volume was E.G. (later Sir Errol) Knox, MBE, journalist and sometime Recording Officer of the Third Squadron, Australian Flying Corps and Major on the Air Staff, Royal Air Force.

The lists were continued in the 1938 (10th) Edition but for the 1941 (11th) issue the listing of holders of the DSC, MC, etc. was dropped. The Companionship was dropped, too, from the 1947 (13th) Edition.

War Memorial Commercial Operations The Australian War Memorial recently appointed Stuart James as its commercial operations manager. He will be responsible for the War Memorial bookshop. Work on the redesign and expansion of the bookshop is under way as part of the Memorial's refurbishment programme.

The aim is a total bookshop providing all the services that one would normally find in a general bookshop. A full range of Australian military publications will be carried together with a wide range of overseas publications relating to the wars in which Australia has fought. For those researching wars not involving Australians, the bookshop will be prepared to obtain books for them by special order. It is hoped that people in Australia considering buying a book of a military nature or on the effect of war on the civilian population will immediately look to the Memorial bookshop.

Apart from print materials it is intended to develop from the resources of the Memorial a wide range of tapes, posters and other memorabilia relating to war and also such material from overseas as is applicable to Australian involvement.

The Memorial's publishing activities are expanding and it is hoped that the bookshop will become a showcase for the Memorial's publications.

Members will be able to contact Mr James through the Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra, ACT 2601.

Decorations, Awards and 'Fruit Salad' The following is reprinted, with permission, from the journal of the 2/19 Battalion (AIF) Association, *The Second Nineteenth*, Vol. 24, No. 3, September 1984:—

We are all aware of the paucity and tough attitude of the British and Australian Defence departments in the issue of honours, awards and decorations to servicemen during and after conflicts in which our countries have been engaged. Even with the so-called periodic awards of so many for a particular formation; for instance one OBE, two MBEs, three BEMs, three MCs for a Division to be handed out by the divisional CO every 12 months or so to worthy and favourite characters. This was a common practice during the first world war and looked upon as 'gongs coming up with the ration'. All of these were apart from genuinely earned awards and decorations. It is on record that Sir Leslie Morshead, the Tobruk CO, objected very strongly when informed that he could make recommendations for a maximum of 20 periodic awards for inclusion in General Wavell's final despatch and submit no more than 50 names for mention in despatches.

His representations were successful on the lines that sufficient awards were placed at his disposal to ensure an equitable distribution between British, Australian and Indian units, and he was given 50 periodic awards and 134 MID for the Tobruk garrison.

There were always more periodic and/or end of campaign awards made when any success had been achieved. Not as when any campaign had been unsuccessful or, in our case, ended in a capitulation. So all that the AIF received for the action period of the Malayan theatre of war was 54, genuine, well and truly earned, for all units involved, and 161 awards to the AIF for the POW period, right through to the end of the war.

On the other hand, one has the American (USA) open-handed and liberal issue of gongs for campaigns and areas and actions. For instance, they authorised medals for the following Pacific areas:— Bougainville, New Ireland, New Britain, New Guinea East, New Guinea West, Leyte Landing, South Philippines, North Philippines, the Carolines, the Marianas, Okinawa,

Midway, Japan. These are all campaign medals and not decorations. There is no doubt that the Yanks look upon the issue of medals as morale builders but it was rather galling for most of our Australian forces, on their return to Australia from the Middle East, to find USA troops wear 3-4 to 6 ribbons after being in the SW Pacific area for 12 months; yet the Australians had nothing to show for the double run-through to Benghazi in the desert shows, for Greece and Syria and the Canal defence. And all after 2½-3 years in uniform and many actions.

Here are a few examples of our 'liberality'. During 1939-45, the 2/13 Battalion received 74 awards and/or decorations; the 2/33 Battalion received 53 awards, etc; the first MC awarded to the 2/2 Battalion after 4 campaigns was in mid 1945, after all the actions of the Western Desert, Greece and New Guinea. The 3 Royal Aust. Regt was awarded 124 gongs for the Korean war; the 2/30 received 5 and 5 MID for the action period and 5 and 11 MID for the POW period; the 2/29 Battalion received 3 and 4 MID for action and 10 for POW time; and our own 2/19 Battalion received 6 decorations and 4 MID for the action period and three and three MID for the POW 'holiday'.

The British Government awarded 665 gongs for the Falklands war (146 decorations and 519 awards).

Now here is the punch line—the USA Govt. has announced the issue of 8612 medals or gongs to the Army and 8337 to the Naval, Marine and Air Forces for service during the Grenada incursion in the Caribbean during 1983. How's that—a total of 16949 gongs for the just over 7000 Army plus the Navy, Air Force and Marines involved? Is it any wonder that the term 'Fruit Salad' is used? And that was for a 'show' which lasted for about 3 weeks; but at least when the USA youngsters ask 'What did you do in the war, Daddy?', they'll have something to show for it—all in big lumps.

Acquisitions of military heraldry made recently by the Australian War Memorial included the following:—

The Memorial purchased from Mr T. Cossam of Sunbury, Victoria, a Tasmanian pattern bandolier c. 1899, the type used by Tasmanians who served in the Boer war.

Mr R. Roberts from Bronte in NSW donated the uniforms of Lieutenant M.A. Roberts of the NSW Naval Artillery Volunteers, worn when he served with the NSW contingent during the Boxer rebellion in China in 1900-01. The naval uniform is the only one in the Memorial relating to the Boxer rebellion.

Mrs E.J. Gobolos from Gilberton in South Australia donated a bullet-damaged slouch hat which belonged to Corporal O.J. Howard of the 3rd Field Ambulance, AIF. He was wearing it when he was wounded in the head while serving on Gallipoli. Corporal Howard recovered from his injuries and later served with the Australian Flying Corps.

Ancient Britains Members with an interest in model soldiers, particularly *Ancient Britains* will find some interesting information on prices of those collectors' pieces in an article in the June 1984 issue of the *Australian Antique Trader*.

In an article 'Sale of the Century' Jennifer Frost and John Norfar reported on the sale, by auction, of the John Hanington collection of Britain's figures in London in May.

The highest price paid at the auction was \$5 700 for a boxed set of eight Royal Fusiliers and mounted officer—the plug-handed set of 1894. Set 49, the South Australian Lancers, in slouch hats, realised \$330. Horse drawn vehicles sold well. An Army Service Corps supply waggon with drivers brought \$3 300 and the RFA set 114a made \$600. There are more details in the article.

The message seems to be that if you have any Ancient Britains they should be allowed to grow older in your own collection.

Anzac official Turkey intends to formally adopt the name *Anzac* for that part of the Gallipoli peninsula which Australian and New Zealand troops stormed on 25 April 1915.

As a reciprocal gesture, a prominent feature in Australia, as yet undecided, will be named for Gallipoli. It is hoped that the New Zealand government will similarly name a feature in that country.

W.M. Chamberlain

The Australian Commonwealth Horse

A study of political, social and economic aspects of the Federal involvement in the South African War 1899-1902.

Preface

THE neglect in the history books of Australia's part in the South African War is puzzling. It was the first totally Australian involvement in war—Colonial, State, and Commonwealth—and the men acquitted themselves well. It seems odd that a nation of horse-lovers, which had made legends of its bushrangers and had written ballads and tales about its drovers and stockmen should not have tried more to perpetuate the bushmen's deeds in their first experience of war.

It was paradoxical that, despite the anti-authoritarian tradition in the Colonies, and some friction with the military in the strikes of the 1890s, the workers should have come forward to fight the empire's battles at this time. Given this enthusiasm it was equally paradoxical that their history had gone unrecorded, especially in view of the later emergence of the 'Digger' as the folk-hero.

This apparent disinterest may be due to rivalry among communities, only recently federated, who took time to see themselves as Australians; or to feelings of shame at participating in what came to be seen as an unjust war; or the comparative smallness of the sacrifice which was eclipsed in 1915 by Gallipoli. The result is that some recent Australian writings about the war are subject to emotional generalisations based on fragmentary evidence that has tended to denigrate courageous men.¹

The aims of this work are, first, to reconstruct the broad outline of the Commonwealth part in this war to attempt to rectify this injustice; and, second, to undertake an objective analysis of the economic and social profile of the volunteers, to seek insights into the paradoxes by comparison with the characteristics of the later 'Digger'.

The description of the government organisation of the contingents depends on the few relevant books and contemporary press accounts, of which I have taken the Melbourne *Argus* to be generally representative.² The analytical data are derived from the nominal rolls of the contingents, which have for the first time been subject to rigorous statistical examination.

Merging Six Small Armies

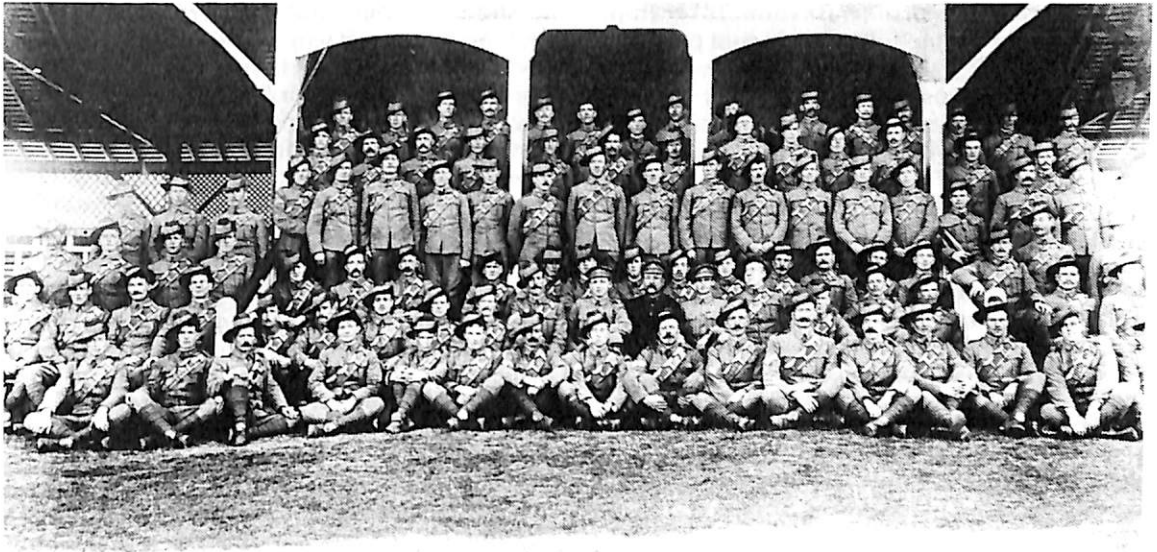
1 Colonial and Commonwealth Horse-soldiers

In 1902 the first Australia-wide army was raised and sent overseas on war service. The force was the culmination of Australia's effort to help Britain in the South African war. In 1899 troops had been despatched from the individual Colonies at colonial expense, marshalling men with experience in the local permanent, militia or volunteer units. In 1900 the call for more Australian troops led to the innovation of assembling bushmen with natural skills which were considered an advantage in combatting an enemy whose background was largely similar. These had been raised initially by citizens' financial contributions and colonial funds and subsequently at imperial cost. In 1901 further drafts were called for at imperial expense, tapping the still enthusiastic citizen volunteers from the now federated States.

The early units had joined British forces on the Modder River front under Lord Methuen or on the Colesberg front under Generals French and Clements. They experienced much hard fighting before and during the conquest of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic. Under Lords Roberts and Kitchener the army advanced first on Bloemfontein from the west and the south, and then took Johannesburg and Pretoria by June 1900.

With the relief of the besieged towns—Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking—and the capture of the Boer capitals, the war was thought to have been won, but the Boers organised themselves into highly mobile commandos and continued hostilities for a further two years, operating in familiar terrain under the major leaders Botha, de Wet, De la Rey and Smuts. After the British reverses in the last quarter of 1899, culminating in the defeats of 'Black Week' in mid-December, the seriousness of the situation had been recognised and further reinforcements sought from Britain and the colonies.

The Bushmen and Imperial Drafts served in Africa, from Rhodesia to the affected areas of the now annexed Transvaal and Orange River Colony, as



'D' Squadron of the 5th Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse photographed in Sydney prior to its embarkation for South Africa on 22 May 1902. This squadron was drawn from southern New South Wales and recruiting was carried out at Goulburn, Araluen, Bungendore, and Murrumburrah. The officer in the centre is believed to be Capt. W. Griffin, a Gundagai solicitor. He is wearing the myrtle green uniform of the Australian Horse Regiment with which he was then serving. He did not accompany the squadron to South Africa. On Griffin's left is Lieutenant Neville James Usher who had already seen active service in the war with the Australian Horse service squadron. The 5th Battalion A.C.H. arrived in South Africa too late to see any active service (AWM A4722).

well as in the British territories, Cape Colony and Natal. In numerous actions and in highly mobile chases they whittled away the enemy's resources in men and material in a grim guerilla campaign marked by hardship, drives, blockhouse lines, scorched earth, and 'concentration camps', amid criticism of these 'methods of barbarism'. The jingoistic enthusiasm of the Australian populace faded after the first few months, and critics of participation, such as Henry Bournes Higgins in Victoria, later Justice of the Arbitration Court, were outspoken in opposition to the war.³

It was in this climate that the Prime Minister, Mr Edmund Barton, and the Parliament of the new Commonwealth of Australia, sitting in Melbourne, were faced with deciding whether or not to accept the responsibility for providing a further force of Australian soldiers to help bring the now unpopular war to a conclusion. The Colonies and States had already provided about 12 000 men, and the continuing demand for more troops led to the Commonwealth reluctantly recruiting a further 4 000 at Imperial expense.⁴

The Commonwealth troops evolved through several phases, during which different recruitment methods and titles were adopted. They were ultimately organised into eight battalions of what came to be called Australian Commonwealth Horse (ACH), a mounted rifle arm similar to the Australian Light Horse of 1914-18. The first and

second battalions arrived in South Africa in time to assist in final operations in Natal and the Transvaal; the third and fourth arrived before the war's end,⁵ but the last four were too late to see service.

This rather disappointing result after so much preparation is not untypical of the economics of recruitment because wars generally have unpredictable ends. By the time the nation has painfully forged a powerful weapon the need for it is often passed and it becomes a model for the next war. The Australian Commonwealth Horse was potentially the most powerful weapon produced in Australia up to that time.

The recruitment was received in a variety of ways. The British were generous of praise as long as more men were needed. The German press condemned the volunteers as 'hired assassins'. The Australian people generally showed less enthusiasm than the volunteers. There was none of the fervour with which the earlier units had been despatched. The ACH contingents were transported by train to embarkation points following a few weeks of training, and farewelled unceremoniously.

No detailed accounts of their existence were forthcoming, probably because no large achievements or sacrifice occurred. The world had to wait until the campaign in Sinai to see the power of an Australian mounted force, and along with Boer War veterans generally, the Australian

Commonwealth Horse was soon forgotten. Because they were the forerunners, and provided lessons that still have relevance, their life and death deserve to be recreated.

The Veterans of 1902

2 *The unbroken reed*

On 17 December 1901 the Australian press observed that both the London *Times* and the *Standard* referred to the necessity for the despatch of further troops. There was a need for infantry to man the blockhouses and compensate for the insufficiency of mounted troops. New Zealand's offer of its 8th contingent was regarded as a rebuke to the anti-patriots. Canada also had made an offer, but it was said that the Australian Prime Minister saw no reason to depart from his policy of passivity.⁶

The *Times* said that the action of Canada and New Zealand was a complete answer to the monstrous calumnies that had appeared in the foreign press. German newspapers had declared that the disinclination shown by Australia to send more troops to South Africa was an indication that England would find the Colonies a broken reed. The military ardour in the Colonies had vanished when it became evident that the war in South Africa was no nursery game.⁷

Mr A.J. Peacock, the Victorian Premier, sent telegrams to all the other Premiers:

Referring to the hesitancy shown by the Federal Government in deciding as to whether there should be any offer made by Australia to send a further contingent, so that the Boer War might be terminated early, and to show the continental powers that our people are still ready and willing to assist the Empire, my Government thinks that each State Government should approach the Prime Minister and urge immediate action. In the event of a refusal by the Federal Government do you not think that we as States should take some action?

Regards,
A.J. Peacock, Premier⁸

All replied that they agreed, except the New South Wales Premier, Mr See, who was of the opinion that it was for the Federal government to decide. He thought New South Wales had done its part and done it very well.

In the Victorian Legislative Assembly on the evening of 18 December Mr R. Vale criticised the Federal government and proposed the motion: 'That this House regrets that the Federal Government has declined to offer the Imperial Government, unasked, the services of an Australian contingent for South Africa'.⁹ In discussion one member reiterated that there was

no stress on England, that there were plenty of Englishmen to send to South Africa, and that there were some who would strip our population of workers needed here. He said that Toadyistic loyalty was over-running the States. Another reminded him of the debt of gratitude owed to the mother country and that England had not been the aggressor. The motion was resolved in a nearly unanimous affirmative, which meant that the Speaker would transmit the motion to the Premier for passing to the Prime Minister.

The London papers published the resolution with high commendation and acknowledgment of the magnificent service rendered by Australian troops and hoped that every Colonial offer would be accepted. A Melbourne Trades Hall protest at sending more troops was received unsympathetically and rejected on the voices. In a ministerial statement Barton said the Federal government did not want to take action without knowing what was expected of it. He could not make an offer unless the War Office wanted more troops. The States had been asked on the previous occasions, and the numbers required had been stated. Some people said that the Imperial government never could or would express openly their desire for assistance. He explained that he did not want a straight out request but needed official information.

Peacock wrote on 21 December urging action and Barton replied that he had now had a request for men from Mr Chamberlain:

In view of the prolongation of hostilities in South Africa, His Majesty's Government will be glad to accept the services of a further contingent from the Australian Commonwealth to the number of 1,000 on the following conditions...men to be able to shoot and ride...the Australian Government to provide horses, saddles, uniforms ... [and nominate] officers ... preference to be given to men who have had previous service in South Africa...single men only to be selected...transport to be arranged by the War Office...period of service to be 1 year or until the duration of the War.¹⁰

Barton expressed the willingness of the Federal government to provide the number of troops asked for, but Peacock was sorry Victoria had to be asked and that the numbers were so small. His government had been prepared to take action apart from the Federal government and unconstitutionally invite applications from men willing to go to South Africa.¹¹

The *Argus* editorial said 'the intention of the State Governments to unite in circumventing the dilatory national Government and getting a contingent off was very striking evidence of the Australian determination to go right through with

an obligation of which the State Governments were the originators. Victorians are proud of the spirited and almost unanimous vote of the Legislative Assembly. . . We should indeed have merited the German taunts if there had been any hanging back'.¹² It said that Victoria had had a valuable lesson in organising and if it were not for the necessity to provide horses there would be no difficulty in having the Victorian section eating New Year's Dinner on the high seas bound for the Cape.

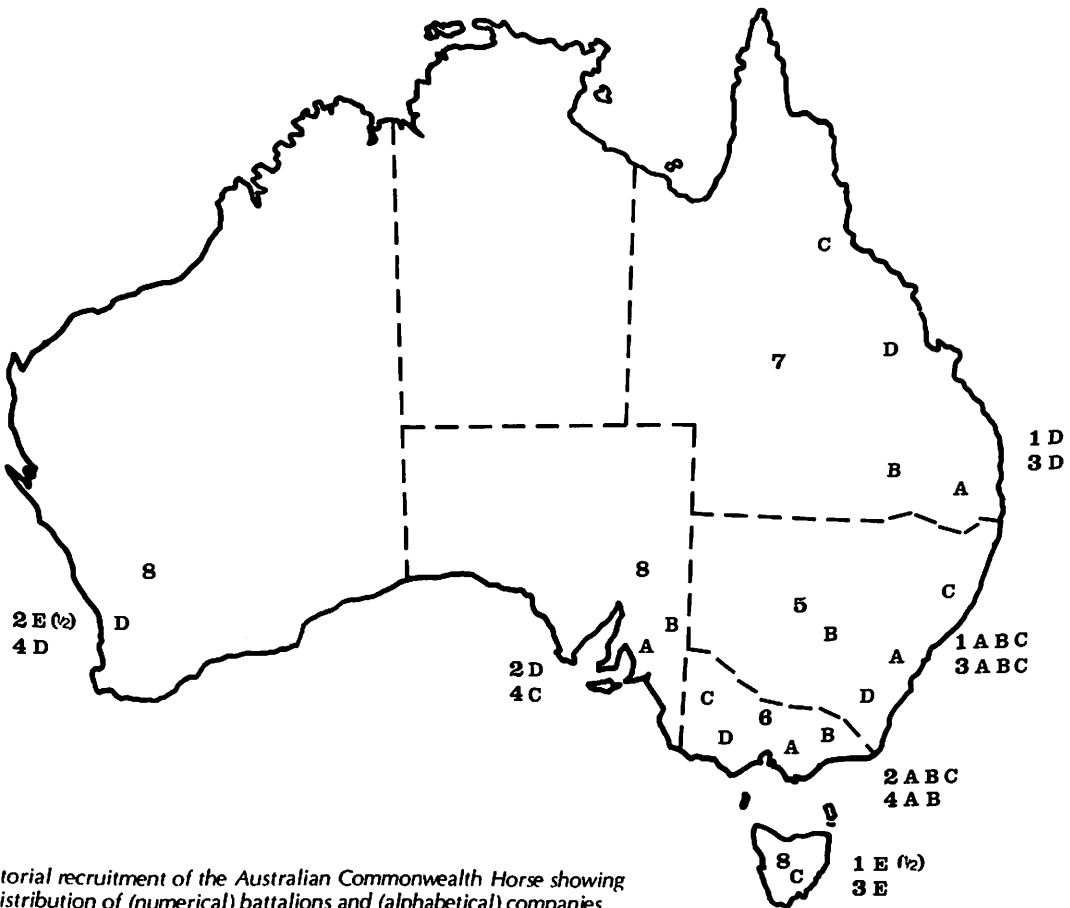
Barton asked Captain Collins to leave for Sydney immediately, where administration was to be centred, so that the Prime Minister could save time, telegrams and clerical work.¹³ The task of preparing the contingent was simplified as there was less need for exhaustive examination of volunteers compared to previous contingents. Victoria had sufficient veterans to form the whole contingent. From the five contingents previously despatched, 58 officers and 1 247 men had returned. Very few were permanently disabled. Probably 1 000 rank and file were able and willing to return to South Africa. As well there were over 100 Scottish Horse recently returned and members

of other South African local corps totalling 200-300. Therefore there were 1 250-1 500 veterans available and there would be no trouble preparing Victoria's share.¹⁴ Other States also had abundant veterans.

3 The 'hired assassins'

It was arranged that Victoria and NSW should provide 3 companies each of 121 men, SA and Queensland 1 company each, and WA and Tasmania a half company each. The Prime Minister sent directions to each member of the Ministry to prepare. Officers who had served at the front rushed for commissions, in some cases attempting to use influence. A full complement of officers would be sent but no nurses were to apply. Preparations were stopped on 27 December while the Commandants assembled in Sydney to arrange details. Equipment was to be on previous lines and lists of kit to apply to all States were drawn up.

At the recruiting centres applicants were coming forward with scraps of the orange, blue, and red ribbon of the Queen's South Africa medal on their coats. The attestation form to be signed by the



Territorial recruitment of the Australian Commonwealth Horse showing the distribution of (numerical) battalions and (alphabetical) companies.

volunteers included the following safeguard: 'I do not expect to receive for myself or any of my relatives any compensation whatsoever from the Commonwealth Government in the case of my disablement or death'. The *Argus* observed, 'Despite the apparent tardiness of the returned soldiers to enlist...no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining the necessary number of volunteers'.¹⁵

On 3 January 1902 Mr Chamberlain cabled further details of the organisation to Mr Barton. The Commonwealth contingent would not go as a brigade but as two separate battalions of 500 each, with battalion officers, paymasters and company or squadron officers totalling 48. Privates would receive 1/2d per day from the date of swearing in until the date of embarkation when it rose to 5/- per day, and other ranks were to be paid at the same rate as the previous Australian Imperial Regiment. All accounts and records of expenditure were kept separate so that the Commonwealth would be put to no expense in connection with the despatch of the contingent.

The contingent was to consist of two battalions:
1st Btn: NSW 3 companies, Q'ld 1 company, Tas. ½ company
2nd Btn: Victoria 3 companies, SA 1 company, WA ½ company.

The Prime Minister revealed that a telegram from Lord Kitchener on 31 December stated that he would be glad to have Surgeon Colonel W.D.C. Williams, CB, PMO, of NSW, accompany the contingent with a field hospital. The Prime Minister said, 'I need scarcely add that this Government intends to despatch, with Colonel Williams, a field hospital, equipment and personnel accordingly'.¹⁶ The Australian Army Medical Corps organisation was published on 21 January and comprised 5 officers and 110 all ranks (50 bearers, 60 Field Hospital Corps). It would take ambulance waggons, transport carts and water carts for the field hospital. Medical and surgical equipment would be drawn in South Africa.

In a speech Mr Barton made mention of the Commonwealth contingent:

There is to be despatched about the end of this month a contingent—the first contingent from Federated Australia—for service in South Africa...When the Commonwealth was in the first few months of its existence we left the States to finish the work they had begun, and then, in the course of time, the news from South Africa came that the soldiers were gradually wearing the enemy down. On or about 18 December, a message came from the Imperial Government telling us...that 1 000 more Australian troops would be acceptable, in view of the prolongation of

hostilities. We, as the Government of Australia, thought that before sending any more troops to South Africa we should wait for some authentic information that they were required...It was not necessary to go into hysterics on the one hand, nor was it right to forget an obligation to the Empire on the other. What I claim is that it was a humiliation on the part of the Imperial Government to ask for these troops, and as the Imperial Government said that it would like 1 000 more troops, we decided to send the number asked for. If more than 1 000 had been asked for I am sure they would have been sent...Now, I am prepared to take the full responsibility for what I am doing, because I can conceive that it is my duty to the Empire.¹⁷

Three transports were sent to convey the men to Durban. One, *St Andrew*, arrived in Hobson's Bay on 10 February. The horses were loaded before arrival of the men from camp by special train on the 12th, at Port Melbourne railway pier. There was no display or ceremony. It was said that marches through the streets were attended by many difficulties and that the public had shown unmistakably that the novelty had worn off. Nevertheless there were about 500 at the pier, waiting in the drizzling rain. There was delay in loading the stubborn horses and the men were not embarked until about 2 p.m. In the ship the horsestalls were on the lower deck with the men below in wide, well ventilated quarters, fitted with tables and forms, and hooks for hammocks. There was a hospital, and a baker's oven built in brick.

About 3 p.m. the Prime Minister and the Secretary of Defence visited. The soldiers were summoned on deck and Mr Barton delivered an address:

Officers and men of the 1st Commonwealth Contingent—for the first time since the arrival of Federation, the Commonwealth of Australia, as a new nation, sends forth a body of soldiers to take part in the conflict in which the empire is engaged. It devolves upon me...to...farewell...you in the name of Australia. Though not a country in which Militarism may be reckoned a power, Australia is determined upon preserving the integrity of the empire...The honour and humanity of the whole empire have been questioned by the Continental press...Your decision to return to the war is the best answer to part of these aspersions. It remains with yourselves to show that Australia intends to stand back to back with the rest of the empire, and to confute the statement of the German papers, which asserted that when Australians found that war was not a nursery game they drew back...The British have shown wonderful humanity by the

establishment of concentration camps to take care of the wives and children of those fighting against us; but this very humanity has been spattered by charges of cruelty, license and rapine. It is for the empire to live these charges down, and those who

made them will one day be sorry for it... I desire to congratulate you on leaving to serve your country and to assure you that you leave behind you people who will defend you from the gross aspersion of being hired assassins...¹⁸

This article will be concluded in the next issue.

REFERENCES

1. See G. Souter, *Lion and Kangaroo*, Collins 1976, and C.N. Connolly, 'Manufacturing "spontaneity": the Australian offers of troops for the Boer War', *Historical Studies*, Vol. 18, Number 70, April 1978.

Such critical accounts reflect the anti-participation attitude of *The Bulletin* or the pro-Boers whose lack of patriotism is seen as noble (especially in post-Vietnam hindsight), while the loyalty of the volunteers is regarded as jingoistic and ignoble.

2. This newspaper, more than some, continued to report on military matters until the war's end. Also Victoria had assumed a position of leadership in the political sponsorship and development of the force.

3. This general account depends in the main on: Lt Col. P.L. Murray, RAA (Ret.), (Ed.), *Official records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa 1899-1902*, Dept of Defence, Melbourne, 1911.

G.B. Barton, *The Story of South Africa*, Vol II., Australian Publishing Co., n.d.

D. MacDonald, *The Australasian Contingents in the South African War*, The Australian Publishing Co., n.d.

Rayne Kruger, *Goodbye Dolly Gray*, Cassell & Co. Ltd, London 1959.

4. L.M. Field *The Forgotten War*, M.A. Thesis, A.N.U., 1973 (M.U.P. 1979) gives an interesting account of manipulations to arrange an Imperial request.

5. E. Old, *By Bread Alone*, Georgian House, Melbourne, 1950.

6. *The Argus*, 17 Dec. 1901.

7. *Ibid*, 23 Dec. 1901.

8. *The Argus*, 24 Dec. 1901.

9. *Ibid*, 19 Dec. 1901.

10. *The Argus*, 23 Dec. 1901. See also L.M. Field, op.cit. pp.201-213(145). G.B. Barton, op. cit., p.589, claims that Kitchener invited the Commonwealth Government to send troops.

11. *The Argus*, 24 Dec. 1901

G.B. Barton, op. cit., p. 589. The benefit of a Commonwealth-wide force was that a wider selection of officers and men was possible. Also 'a blow [was] struck at the old insane jealousy which had existed between the Colonies.'

12. *The Argus*, 23 Dec. 1901.

13. G.B. Barton, op. cit., p.589. The Commonwealth Parliament and headquarters of the federal Defence Department were located in Melbourne. Collins was Secretary of the Department.

14. *The Argus*, 23 Dec. 1901.

15. *The Argus*, 3 Jan. 1902.

16. *The Argus*, 17 Jan. 1902.

G.B. Barton, op. cit., p.592. The unit was led by Major T.A. Greene, DSO, not Williams. The Nominal Roll totals 110.

17. *The Argus*, 10 Jan. 1902.

18. *The Argus*, 13 Feb. 1902.

The Australian Commonwealth Horse Analytical Data

A.C.H. — STATE OF ENLISTMENT — 1902

STATE	BATTn	COY. SQDN	OFFICERS	O.R.	TOTAL	INCL. VETERANS
N.S.W.	1	A B C				
	3	A B C				
	5	A B C D	67	1165	1232	382
VIC	2	A B C				
	4	A B				
	6	A B C D	69	1044	1113	391
QLD	1	D				
	3	D				
	7	A B C D	32	697	729	119
S.A.	2	D				
	4	C				
	8	A B	22	462	484	128
W.A.	2	E (½)				
	4	D				
	8	D	11	288	299	62
TAS	1	E (½)				
	3	E				
	8	C	12	292	304	36
TOTAL	8	34	213	3948	4161	1118

ACH — 1902 BATTALIONS COMPARED WITH A.I.F. 1914-18

Socio- Economic Character- istic	AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH HORSE									A.I.F.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	TOTAL
OCCUPATION									(32.3)	(17.4)
Rural	165	166	193	181	164	169	205	102	1345	57430
Tradesmen	107	127	119	94	90	78	90	94	799	112452
Labourers	94	69	137	76	109	98	58	113	754	99252
Other	195	191	159	140	125	144	135	174	1263	61636
TOTAL	561	553	608	491	488	489	488	483	(100.0) 4161	(100.0) 330770
RELIGION									(54.6)	(49.2)
C of E	331	322	359	242	304	217	256	239	2270	162814
Pres.	60	78	71	93	42	127	62	29	562	49631
Meth.	27	43	38	56	21	43	32	134	394	33706
R.C.	130	88	126	76	120	95	125	69	829	63705
Other	13	22	14	24	1	7	13	12	106	20914
TOTAL	561	553	608	491	488	489	488	483	(100.0) 4161	(100.0) 330770

MARITAL STATUS

Single	544	550	588	479	440	n/a	476	465	(96.5) 3542	(81.6) 270005
Married	12	3	17	11	45	n/a	10	16	(3.1) 114	(17.4) 57496
Other	5	—	3	1	3	n/a	2	2	(0.4) 16	(1.0) 3269
TOTAL	561	553	608	491	488	—	488	483	(100.0) 3672	(100.0) 330770
AGE										
Under 21	68	80	94	74	70	110	78	106	(16.3) 680	(22.0) 72619
21-30	414	406	446	357	357	343	344	336	(72.1) 3003	(56.5) 186731
31-40	68	62	60	55	55	34	63	38	(10.5) 435	(17.0) 56076
41 & over and NS	11	5	8	5	6	2	3	3	(1.0) 43	(4.6) 15344
TOTAL	561	553	608	491	488	489	488	483	(100.0) 4161	(100.0) 330770

SOURCES: ACH — Nominal Rolls; AIF — Butler, Col. A.C., *The Australian Army Medical Services in the War of 1914-18*, A.W.M., 1943, Vol. III, p.890.

Peter Stanley

Australian Joint Copying Project: Recent Additions of Australian Military Historical Interest

MANY members of the Military Historical Society of Australia will be aware of the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) sponsored by the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales. The AJCP has over the past twenty years arranged for the microfilming of unique historical source material relating to Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and to a lesser extent south-east Asia and Antarctica. It has concentrated on nineteenth century records but has identified and copied records from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, including ships' logs, church records, governors' despatches, emigrants' letters, troop musters and pictorial material such as maps, plans and photographs.*

The project's value to Australian military historians is becoming apparent; one of the best examples of its worth can be seen in Brigadier Maurice Austin's *The British Army in Australia* in which he drew extensively on the National Library's set of microfilmed War Office records.

Mr Graeme Powell, the AJCP's field officer in Britain, has recently arranged for documents in the collection of the National Army Museum, London, to be copied. Mr Michael Piggott, the Curator of Written Records at the Australian War Memorial, has kindly made available a list of these records for publication in *Sabretache*. It has been abridged to include those items of significance to Australian military historians, though the full list includes material relating to New Zealand and the British army's involvement in Java during the Napoleonic war.

The principals in the AJCP maintain the project's British field officer, while the costs of filming the records are shared between the National Library of Australia, the State Library of New South Wales, the State Library of Victoria, and the National Archives/Alexander Turnbull Library, Auckland. Each of these institutions has a full set of the reels produced to date. Other institutions and private individuals can purchase microfilm reels at \$27 for silver halide and \$17 for diazo film.

Enquiries and orders should be directed to The Principal Librarian, Australian Reference, National Library of Australia, Parkes, ACT, 2600.

I am grateful to Mr Michael Piggott and Ms Mary Ann Pattison (National Library of Australia) for their assistance in the preparation of this listing.

* Graeme Powell, 'The Copying of Australian Records in Britain, 1883-1983', *Australian Historical Association Bulletin*, no. 39, June 1984, pp. 12-16.

5105/70 Diaries of Francis M. Lind (b.1822)

Select:

1. Diary of a visit to Australia and New Zealand on leave from the Indian Army, 13 Feb. 1854-31 Aug. 1855. (81pp.)

The diary describes the voyage from Calcutta to Sydney via Singapore, Adelaide and Melbourne, travels in the New England district in Nov.-Dec. 1854 and in New Zealand in Feb.—April 1855, and the return voyage to India via Torres Strait. It includes notes on New Zealand government, Maoris, the Maori War, and geology, and also sketches and a map.

6309/124 Papers of Sgt William Baxter, 79th Foot

Select:

John Baxter (Sydney) to William Baxter, 9 Jan. 1844: family news.

John Baxter (Sydney) to William Baxter, 16 April 1846: work as Ward Master at Sydney Infirmary; prices; climate.

Frances Baxter (Sydney) to William Baxter, 17 Oct. 1851: family news; gold rushes; shortage of labour for shearing and harvesting.

6401/17 Diary of Col. W. Harry Christie

Diary of Col. W. Harry Christie on a voyage from Gravesend to Sydney, via Dublin and Cork, on the convict ship *Captain Cook*, 4 June—14 Nov. 1836. (typescript copy)

The diary contains detailed entries describing the layout of the ship, daily routine, relations with the crew, deaths, an attempt by convicts to seize the ship, lashings, fishing, convict songs, birds, and first impressions of Sydney.

6509/25 Diary of Lt Col. R.H. Russell

Select:

4. Small diary kept by Lt Col. R.H. Russell, 57th Regiment, while serving in New Zealand in 1863. (40pp., typescript copy)

The diary describes both military and social activities, including fighting at Tartairaimaika (June 1863), Wairan (Sept. 1863) and Katakai (Dec. 1863).

The original diary has been damaged by water and is of poor legibility.

6705/45 Papers of C.C.P. Lawson

Select:

21. Scrapbook of P.W. Reynolds

Select:

Cuttings concerning colonial military forces, c.1880-1900, including forces in Australia and New Zealand. (20pp. final section of volume)

23. Correspondence concerning New Zealand military uniforms

Copy complete (12 letters)

Correspondence of C.C.P. Lawson with R.A. Barber (Wellington), R. Duthie (Auckland), W.A. Munro (Wellington) and Rosemary Collier (Wellington) concerning his research on the uniforms of military units in New Zealand, 1965-66.

24. Correspondence concerning Australian military uniforms

Copy complete (12 letters)

Correspondence of C.C.P. Lawson with Sir William Oliver (Canberra), Brigadier T.F.B. Macadie (Sydney), Marjorie Hancock (Sydney), D. MacCallum (Sydney), B.J. Videon (Melbourne), C.A.M. Roberts (Canberra), H.C.A. Pitt (Launceston) and M.H. Ellis (Sydney) concerning his research on the uniforms of military units in Australia, 1964-66.

6807/262 Journals of Surgeon C. Pine

Select:

2. Journal of Surgeon C. Pine (b.1810), Aug. 1841-April 1845.

The Journal, which has very detailed entries, describes the voyage from Gravesend to Sydney, including a visit to Hobart, May-Sept. 1844, social activities in Sydney and Parramatta, and the transfer of the 58th Regiment to New Zealand in 1845.

3. Journal of Surgeon C. Pine, April 1845-June 1854. The journal describes service in New Zealand, his return to Sydney in 1846, the voyage from Sydney to England on the *Palestine*, July-Dec. 1846 (Sir George Gipps was a fellow-passenger), and life in England, with references to friends and events in New Zealand.**7101/25-5 Album presented to Lord Roberts**

Copy complete (6pp., vellum)

Album comprising manuscript copies of correspondence respecting the Mere Porourangi presented to Field Marshal Earl Roberts by the Maori Chief M.H. Tuta Nihoniho, Jan.—Feb. 1901.

Also a printed copy and a newspaper cutting concerning the presentation.

7310/47 Letters of Archibald Campbell (extracts)

Copy complete (3pp., photocopy of typescript)

Archibald Campbell (Chatham) to William Shaw (Dundee) 16 May 1831: parties leaving Chatham with convicts.

A. Campbell (Ross Bridge) to W. Shaw, 22 Dec. 1831: voyage to Australia; attempt by convicts to seize ship; snakes and animals in Van Diemen's Land.

A. Campbell (Brisbane) to W. Shaw, 24 May 1837: impending departure for India; attacks by aborigines; rescue of survivors from crew of *Stirling Castle*.

8112/54 Papers of General Sir Henry James Warre (1819-1898)

Select:

50. H.J. Warre (Taranaki) to Cox, 7 Nov. 1862: settlement of debts of Ensign P.F. Clarke. (Copy)

51. H. J. Warre, 'New Zealand—its occupation and defence against native aggression'. Papers read to Royal United Service Institution, 30 Jan. 1863.

52. Minute of speech to Taranaki Militia on its dissolution, Jan. 1864.

53. New Plymouth Garrison Orders, 4 Oct. 1865.

54. H.J. Warre (Taranaki) to Lieut. C.M. Clarke, 5 Oct. 1865: praises work of Clarke as Garrison Adjutant.

226. C.R. Keene to H.J. Warre, 8 Oct. 1873: disadvantages of New Zealand for young man with small amount of capital.

8202/28 Biography of John S. Clarke (1853-1935)

Copy complete (8pp)

J.F. Clarke. Biography of John S. Clarke, 17th Lancers, referring to his discharge from Indian Army in 1884 and his work as Sergeant of Orderlies at Government House in Sydney, 1885-93, and as Inspector of the N.S.W. Mounted Police Training Depot, 1897-1914. (Photocopy of typescript.)

8202/70 Papers of W.M. Lummis

Copy complete (10pp.)

List compiled by Rev. W.M. Lummis of Australian winners of the Victoria Cross, giving the dates and place of burial or cremation and their addresses if still living, Jan. 1981. (Typescript.)

8303/45 Papers of Major M. O'Farrell

Select:

1-8 M. O'Farrell to his mother (Youghal, Co. Cork) and brother Edward O'Farrell (Carrick Mines, Co. Dublin), 1900-2: Victorian Mounted Rifles; conditions in South Africa; casualties; Lord Methuen; superiority of Australian horsemen to yeomanry recruited in English cities; impending return of regiment to Australia; appointment as staff officer in North West Districts.

7402/43 Commemorative address, 1901

Copy complete.

Commemorative address presented to the Imperial Troops from the people of Queensland on the occasion of their visit to Brisbane, 17 Jan. 1901.

7503/59-2 Dinner menu, 1919

Copy complete.

Farewell dinner menu of 1st Australian Wireless Squadron, Baghdad, 12 Feb. 1919, with autographs of those present.

7511/32 Photograph, 1901

Select:

Box 82 Photograph of Capt. P.F. Pocock, 19th Bombay Infantry, with Indian Officers and NCOs representing the Indian Army at the Australian Commonwealth celebrations, 1901.

7605/78 Papers of W.M. Lummis

Copy complete (56pp.)

Medal roll of 12th Regiment in New Zealand, 1860-66, including list of men awarded New Zealand Medal in 1870, compiled by Rev. W.M. Lummis, c.1968. (typescript)

7611/17 Diary of Nurse D.L. Harris

Copy complete (81pp. and typescript copy).

Diary of Nurse D.L. Harris of the New Zealand Contingent kept while serving as a Nursing Sister at No. 2 General Hospital, Cape Town, and No. 8 General Hospital, near Bloemfontein, April 1900—May 1901.

7807/25 Papers of Brigadier-General Francis Maxwell

Select:

11. Diary for 1910, describing voyage from India to Australia in March 1910, service as Instructor of Light Horse in Melbourne and Sydney, and return to India in Nov. 1910.

Warren Perry

Australia's only Field-Marshal and Australia's only other Field-Marshals

MOST people in Australia would have heard of Napoleon's saying, 'Every soldier carries a marshal's baton in his knapsack' or, as the German soldier would probably say, *Jeder Soldat trägt einen Marshallsstab im Tornister*.

What does this mean in terms of history? The British Army's first field-marshal was appointed in the 18th century. George II, who came from Germany, where the rank was said to have originated, gave approval for its creation in the British Army. When General George, the 1st Earl of Orkney was promoted to the rank of field-marshal on 12 January 1739 he became the British Army's first holder of that rank. He was the fifth son of the Duke of Hamilton and was said to have already had a distinguished career in the British Army. Two days later, on 14 January 1736, General John, 2nd Duke of Argyll, was also promoted in the British Army to the rank of field-marshal.¹ So the British Army's first two field-marshals were Scots.

During the 69 years between 12 January 1736 and 5 September 1805 twenty-three field-marshals were appointed in the British Army. On this latter date, 5 September 1805, General H.R.H. Edward, Duke of Kent, the father of the future Queen Victoria, was promoted to that rank. None of these twenty-three field-marshals were given batons as was probably already the custom in at least the Austrian, French and Prussian armies.

After the promotion of the Duke of Kent to field-marshal in 1805 no further such appointments were made in the British Army until 1813. On 21 June of that year, the Prince Regent promoted Lord Wellington to field-marshal and presented him with a baton.² The text of the letter from the Prince Regent, dated 3 July 1813, to Field-Marshal Lord Wellington, which accompanied the baton, is set out in J.H. Stocqueller's *The Life of Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington*, vol. I, p.245. The present day practice of the Sovereign presenting field-marshals of her armies with batons, as part of the insignia of their rank, began with this presentation to Wellington in 1813.

Two years later, on Sunday 18 June 1815, Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington defeated the French at the Battle of Waterloo. This battle marked the final defeat of Napoleon and the

downfall of his French Empire. A short comment on the rank of Marshal of France at this point is appropriate. It is an ancient French rank but has a discontinuous history. It lapsed during the revolutionary years after 1789, but was restored by Napoleon in 1804. In that year he fixed the establishment of Marshals at 20 and on the 19 May 1804 promoted 18 general officers to the rank including his Chief of Staff, Berthier, who became the senior of these Napoleonic Marshals. By the end of Napoleon's reign he had created 26 Marshals of France.³ It seems that after the fall of the French Empire of Napoleon III in 1870 no further appointments were made and so by the time of the outbreak of the war of 1914-18 the French army had no Marshals of France. During that war the rank was again revived and several appointments were made to it including Marshals Joffre and Petain and General Gallieni, the real victor of the Marne in 1914, who was granted the rank of Marshal of France posthumously in 1921. In W.C. Rundle's *The Baton*, published about five years after the close of the 1939-45 war he said: 'There is now no Marshal of France'.

The list of field-marshals of the British Army for the period between 1736 and 1914 shows some names which have faded from the pages of history and some which have not. These latter include Field-Marshal HRH the Duke of Cambridge (1862), Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley (1894), Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, VC (1895), Field-Marshal HIM The German Emperor, William II (1901), Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, VC (1903), Field-Marshal HIM The Emperor of Austria and The King of Hungary, Francis Joseph I (1903), Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum (1909) and Field-Marshal Sir John French (1913).

At some time during the conduct of the war of 1914-18 the names of William II and Francis Joseph I were struck off the roll of Field-Marshals of the British Army.

Napoleon's saying that 'Every soldier carries a marshal's baton in his knapsack' did not become a reality in the British Army until 1920. On 29 March of that year, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for War, The Rt Hon. Winston Churchill, King George V promoted General Sir William Robertson to the rank of Field-Marshal

in the British Army. Robertson's army career began in November 1877 when he enlisted in the ranks of the 16th Lancers. He was commissioned in the 3rd Dragoon Guards in June 1888, at 29 years of age, as a second lieutenant. When he became a substantive colonel on 29 November 1903, at the age of 44 years, he said that although he had been one of the oldest subalterns in the British Army, he became one of its youngest colonels.⁴

When Australia went to war in August 1914, its land forces were regarded in fact, if not in law, as auxiliary forces of the British Army. To remove the legal doubt, officers of the first Australian Imperial Force (AIF) became *ipso facto* officers of the British Army and their names were published in the official British Army List.

General Sir William Birdwood of the Indian Army, whose first association with Australian troops was during the South African War of 1899-1902, commanded the AIF from September 1915 to September 1920. After the cessation of hostilities in November 1918 the Australian Prime Minister, Mr W.M. Hughes, invited General Birdwood to visit Australia, as an official guest, before he resumed duty in the Indian Army. In March 1919 his elder daughter, Nancy, had married Lieutenant R.C.B. Craig, an Australian sheep-farmer, who had served in the Royal Flying Corps. At the time of Birdwood's arrival in Australia the Craigs were living in Western Australia. Birdwood reached Fremantle in December 1919 in the RMS *Ormonde*; General Sir John Monash, who was returning home to Melbourne after having completed his post-war duties in London as Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, travelled on the same ship.

During General Birdwood's visit to the various states of the Commonwealth, the enthusiasm and the affection the Diggers of the 1st AIF held for 'The Boss Digger', as they regarded Birdwood, were manifest at every stage of the visit. The Hughes Government honoured Birdwood in a special way by having him appointed to the honorary rank of General in the Australian Military Forces (AMF).⁵ In a prior letter sent to General Birdwood asking him to accept the rank, Mr Hughes said: 'It is the earnest wish of the Commonwealth Government that you should continue, in some fitting form, your official relationship with the military forces of Australia with which you were so long and so honourably associated.'⁶

Birdwood was honoured in other ways during this Australian visit. Amid a gathering of brilliantly robed graduates in Wilson Hall at the University of Melbourne on Monday 22 March 1920, he and General Monash were admitted 'by special grace' to the degree of Doctor of Laws for distinguished public service. A press report of the ceremony described these two general officers as wearing scarlet robes over khaki uniforms.⁷ In mid April

1920 General Birdwood visited the Royal Military College, Duntroon for a few days and there, on Thursday 15 April 1920, he unveiled a memorial to Major-General Sir W.T. Bridges who was mortally wounded at Gallipoli where he was serving as one of Birdwood's divisional commanders. On Anzac Day of 1920 Birdwood led the Anzac March in Sydney. Two days later, on Tuesday morning 27 April 1920, in The Great Hall of the University of Sydney, the Chancellor, Sir William Portus Cullen, conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws *ad eundem gradum* on General Sir William Birdwood. According to a press report, the ceremony was witnessed by members of the Professorial Board and the teaching staff as well as a gathering of undergraduates and they completely filled the hall.⁸ Birdwood's Australian visit terminated in Sydney when, on 29 May 1920, he sailed for New Zealand. In a message of farewell the Prime Minister, Mr W.M. Hughes, said: 'The Australian people generally, and your former comrades in arms in particular, were delighted, as well as honoured by your visit, and of this their demonstrations of welcome have, I hope, satisfied you.'

The links which Birdwood had forged with Australia remained in good repair until his death thirty years later and during this time he continued to be honoured in Australia in a variety of ways. He wrote forewords to unit histories of the 1st A.I.F.; he became Honorary Colonel of Australian post-war units; and as one moves about the length and breadth of Australia, streets can be seen which have been named after him.

The Army List of the AMF, dated 1 April 1920, shows that its highest ranking officer was Sir Harry Chauvel with the substantive rank of major-general and that there were three other major-generals on the Active List and junior to him—White, Legge and Sellheim. Monash was shown in this same issue of the Army List as a substantive colonel. He was, however, at that time, and until June 1920, also a lieutenant-general in the AIF—a force which was not disbanded, officially, until 1 April 1921.

This situation indicated that the Adjutant-General did not have a post-war policy to cover the return to the AMF of officers who had been seconded to the AIF where they had attained higher ranks than those which they held in the AMF. But in due course the anomalous positions of Sir Harry Chauvel and Sir John Monash were adjusted as part of the general re-organisation of the post-war AMF. They were both granted the substantive rank of lieutenant-general in the AMF and this rank corresponded with the rank each had attained in the AIF. Chauvel and Monash had been Australia's most distinguished soldiers in the war of 1914-18, where Chauvel had been the senior lieutenant-general. This seniority was preserved

in the post-war AMF, in which Chauvel's promotion to lieutenant-general was dated 31 December 1919 and that of Monash was dated 1 January 1920. Moreover, Chauvel and Monash were the first officers of the Australian Military Forces to attain the rank of lieutenant-general in those forces. Hitherto the highest rank attained in the AMF had been that of major-general.

At this time in January 1920, when General Birdwood's visit to Australia was still in progress, nobody could see on the horizon any soldiers of the AMF with marshals' batons in their knapsacks.

But the element of surprise may be said to have entered the situation about five years later when Sir William Birdwood, a general of the Indian Army and an honorary general of the AMF, was promoted on 20 March 1925 to the rank of field-marshal in the British Army.⁹ *The Argus* of Melbourne published an outline of Field-Marshal Birdwood's career and in referring to his first command in the War of 1914-18—the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps—said: 'It was here that he perhaps achieved the greatest triumph of his career in completely winning the hearts of the Australian troops under him—a feat not accomplishable by every British officer and one which doubtless had no small influence on the success which attended their efforts in the field.'¹⁰ Five months after this promotion, Birdwood was appointed, on 6 August 1925, to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces, India—an appointment he was to hold for the next five years.

In the meantime Birdwood's promotion to the rank of field-marshal involved some action in Australia which took ten months to complete. It was announced in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 14 January 1926 that General Sir W.R. Birdwood, Indian Army was granted the honorary rank of field-marshal in the AMF. This was antedated to 20 March 1925¹¹ to correspond with the date of his promotion to this rank in the British Army. Thus Birdwood became the first field-marshal in the Australian Military Forces and for the next twenty-five years he remained Australia's only field-marshal. For the inventor of the word *Anzac*, who was described by General Sir Ian Hamilton as 'The Soul of Anzac', this Australian distinction was an honour not only for Birdwood but also for the Australian people.

When Field-Marshal Birdwood re-visited Gallipoli, probably in June 1936, he said: 'Going round some of the trenches again was, I found, a more emotional experience than I had foreseen. The place was full of ghosts, and every corner and gully brought back memories of gallant fellows, who had so unhesitatingly given their lives for the cause in which we fought.'¹²

Later in that year, on 3 December 1936, the Melbourne *Herald* published a letter to the editor from Major-General R.E. Williams, a well-known retired Australian officer of that time, recommending that action be taken by the appropriate authorities to have General Chauvel appointed to the rank of field-marshal. Chauvel had been on the Retired List of the AMF since April 1930 and had previously held the AMF appointments of Inspector-General and Chief of the General Staff. But no widespread public interest is ever aroused in Australia on a matter of this kind. The minds of the majority of the people are attuned only to a daily diet of the details of cricket, football and horse-racing—activities which the press are able to raise to the status of great national issues. So nothing came of General Williams' proposal and Sir Harry Chauvel remained a full general on the Retired List of the AMF until he died.

A little more than a year later in London, it was announced in the King's 1938 New Years' Honours List that Field-Marshal Birdwood had been raised to the peerage and that he had taken the title of The Right Honourable Baron Birdwood of Anzac and of Totnes.¹³ It was a fitting title for the commander of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in the Gallipoli campaign of 1915 and was also a great compliment to the people of Australia and New Zealand.

When the Prime Minister, Mr R.G. Menzies, announced on Sunday evening 3 September 1939 that a state of war existed between Australia and Germany, Australia began the war ill prepared to back the Prime Minister's declaration that 'Australia's frontiers are on the Rhine and on the east coast of England'.

In the following month the AIF came into existence again when the Government authorised formation of the 6th Australian Division and ancillary troops. Major-General Sir Thomas Blamey was appointed to command with the rank of lieutenant-general. This force was soon expanded into a corps by the addition of the 7th Australian Division plus corps troops and base troops and it went on active service to the Middle East, where it came under the operational command of the Commander-in-Chief, British Land Forces, Middle East. In April 1941 Blamey became Deputy to the C-in-C, and in September 1941 was promoted in the AIF to the substantive rank of general.¹⁴ He was the fourth Australian officer to be so promoted. His predecessors in this substantive rank were Chauvel and Monash in November 1929 and White in March 1940.

In the meantime, on 24 May 1941, the first Dominion general officer joined the ranks of the Field-Marshals of the British Army. On that date, which marked the 71st birthday of Lieutenant-

General the Rt Hon. J.C. Smuts, a retired officer of the military forces of the Union of South Africa, King George VI appointed him to the rank of field-marshal, supernumerary to establishment, in the British Army.¹⁵ In a telegram to the new Field-Marshal, the King said:

It gives me particular pleasure to appoint you a Field-Marshal in the British Army. Your promotion to the highest military rank will be warmly welcomed in this country, not only for your own great and devoted services but as the leader of a people whose fighting men have been playing a most brilliant part in the victorious campaign in East Africa. I send you my heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

GEORGE, R.I.¹⁶

In commenting on this promotion, *The Times* of London said: 'In one respect Field-Marshal Smuts' appointment is unprecedented. In the long list of British Field-Marshals there has not been one whose first military experience was gained in a war against Great Britain.'¹⁷

Later in that year Japanese aggression extended the war of 1939-45 to the Pacific and, geographically, it brought hostilities closer to the mainland of Australia. Without any previous declaration of war, Japanese forces invaded Malaya and attacked Pearl Harbour concurrently on 7/8 December 1941 and so a state of war began automatically between Australia and Japan, and the USA joined the Allies in their war against the Axis Powers.

The outcome of the Malayan campaign was a defeat and a painful surprise for the Allies and especially for the Australian people. When the British C-in-C, Land Forces, Malaya surrendered on Singapore Island on Sunday 15 February 1942 the forces of the AIF in that area also became engulfed in the disaster.

Australia now faced the possibility of imminent invasion and effective action was required forthwith to place the nation in a position to effectively withstand a siege. General Blamey and most of the Australian forces in the Middle East were brought back to Australia. The Curtin Government appointed Blamey to the new post of C-in-C of the AMF in March 1942,¹⁸ with almost a free hand to do what was necessary to provide effectively for the military security of the nation.

General MacArthur, who had escaped after defeat in the Philippines, arrived in Melbourne almost at the same time as Blamey. Although the seat of the Australian Government had been transferred from Melbourne to Canberra in 1927, the headquarters of the Commonwealth's defence forces were still in Melbourne. In April 1942 MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the South West Pacific Area and on the same day he appointed Blamey

commander of Allied Land Forces in the South West Pacific Area (SWPA).

Blamey now had a difficult dual responsibility. As C-in-C of the AMF he was responsible to the Australian Government and as Commander of the Allied Land Forces in the SWPA he was responsible direct to General MacArthur. But these lines of responsibilities were not clear-cut for Blamey because, operationally, the AMF formed part of the Allied Land Forces in the SWPA. Another anomaly which Blamey had to endure in the interests of good personal relations between Allies concerned rank. Blamey and MacArthur were of equal rank until late in 1944. Blamey had been a four star general since September 1941 and MacArthur since December 1941 but it seems MacArthur paid scant courtesy to this equality in rank and treated Blamey at all times, on and off parade, as a subordinate. Blamey behaved splendidly in these circumstances, in the interests of the Australian Government. He did nothing deliberately to create friction in his personal relations with MacArthur.

In 1944 proposals were considered by the US Government for the introduction of the rank of field-marshal into the US Army so that it might be conferred on General George C. Marshall and other senior officers. But General Marshall discouraged the adoption of the proposal on the grounds that it would look and sound ridiculous if he were to become known as Field-Marshal Marshall. In the end the US Government compromised by introducing the five star rank but with the title not of Field-Marshal, but of General of the Army.¹⁹ The first officer to be promoted to this new rank was General George C. Marshall on 16 December 1944. Four days later, on 20 December 1944, General Dwight D. Eisenhower was also promoted to that rank. In the meantime General Douglas MacArthur was also promoted, on 18 December 1944, to the five star rank of General of the Army.²⁰ So at this date and in this manner MacArthur became superior in rank to Blamey.

Hostilities in the war of 1939-45 in the Pacific ceased on Wednesday 15 August 1945—a day which became known as VJ Day. At midnight on Friday 30 November 1945²¹ General Sir Thomas Blamey relinquished command of the AMF. He attained the age of 62 years on 24 January 1946 and a week later was transferred to the Reserve of Officers and thus freed of all military duties. It is probable that most people at that time believed that he would, as Old Soldiers did according to the popular ditty, just fade away and be left to his own meditations.

Five years later he experienced the full force of that tactical principle of surprise, but this time it was a very pleasant surprise. King George VI

promoted him, on 8 June 1950, to the rank of Field-Marshal in the Australian Military Forces. This promotion was due to the initiative and the persistence of the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies,²² against official opposition, it seems from undisclosed quarters.²³

It is a duty of a historian to destroy myths and there are a few connected with Blamey's final promotion to field-marshal which need to be disposed of. First, as has already been shown in this examination, Blamey was the second and not the first Field-Marshal of the AMF. Lord Birdwood was, at the time of Blamey's promotion to field-marshal and since March 1925, 'on the books' of the AMF as a Field-Marshal. However, relatively few people seem to have been aware of this fact. Second, although Blamey was the second officer of a British Dominion to attain the rank of field-marshal there was a distinction between him and Smuts. Smuts became, on his 71st birthday on 24 May 1941, a Field-Marshal of the British Army, but when Blamey became a field-marshal on 8 June 1950, at 66 years of age, it was in the military forces of a British Dominion, namely, the AMF. Third, many precedents exist for promoting an officer on the Retired List to the rank of field-marshal in the British Army. A case had occurred as recently as 1949. In that year a retired 'Sepoy General', Sir William Slim, became, in accordance with regulations, a Field-Marshal of the British Army on 4 January and was then appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff.²⁴ Later, he became the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia—an appointment in which he gained further distinctions for his meritorious services in that high office.

Like the other Dominion field-marshal, Smuts, but for different reasons, Blamey was unable to present himself before his Sovereign in London to receive his Baton. Therefore, on Saturday morning 16 September 1950, the Governor-General, Sir William McKell, presented Field-Marshal Blamey, on behalf of King George VI, with his field-marshal's baton. The presentation was made in hospital at Heidelberg in Melbourne and it was witnessed by many of Blamey's friends, including the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies. This baton was a source of great pride to Blamey and he delighted in showing it to visitors who asked to see it. For medical reasons he was never able to carry it on duty nor did he live long enough to enjoy the rank of field-marshal—the highest rank which can be bestowed on any Australian soldier.

Australia's two field-marshals, Birdwood and Blamey, both died in May 1951 within ten days of each other. Field-Marshal Lord Birdwood died at Hampton Court Palace, London on 17 May, aged 85 years. Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey died at the Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg,

Melbourne on 27 May, aged 67 years. A commemorative service for Lord Birdwood and Sir Thomas Blamey was held at St James' Church of England, King Street, Sydney on Sunday evening 3 June 1951 and it was conducted in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott.

A bronze statue of Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey, given by the public of Australia to commemorate his name and fame, was unveiled by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, on Saturday afternoon 27 February 1960, in the presence of a large gathering of members of the public.

More than 22 years later another fitting monument to Field-Marshal Blamey was unveiled in Canberra, the capital city of the Commonwealth of Australia. Since Blamey's death, Canberra has also become the location of the central administration of the Department of Defence and the headquarters of Australia's three fighting services. The monument is in the form of a square, known as *The Field-Marshal Blamey Square*, and it is located in front of the central administration of the Department of Defence, Canberra. It was formally unveiled on Thursday 18 November 1982 by the Minister for Defence, the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair, in the presence of a gathering of interested persons. These included the Chairman, Colonel Sir Alfred Kemsley, KBE, CMG, ED and members of the Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Fund.

Meanwhile Australia's next and third field-marshal, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was appointed on 1 April 1954. The Duke's naval career and his meritorious public service since the war of 1939-45 are so widely known that they need no mention here. This year, 1984, marks his thirtieth year as a Field-Marshal of the AMF.

All officers up to the rank of general retire at prescribed ages which vary according to rank. General officers on the Retired List, who hold appointments as Honorary Colonels of Regiments age, by this means, kept in touch with much that goes on in the Army and in some directions they can exert much influence in their regiments. Other retired officers have no direct touch with the Army and for the great majority even social connections with the Army weaken progressively. Field-marshals alone do not retire officially and so they remain nominally on the Active List until death.

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17. *Ibid*, p.4.
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25. Warren Perry, 'The late Field-M Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey: The Unveiling of a Statue in the King's Domain in Melbourne', *The Victorian Historical Magazine*, Vol. 31 No. 2, November 1960, pp. 118-128.

P.A. Rosenzweig

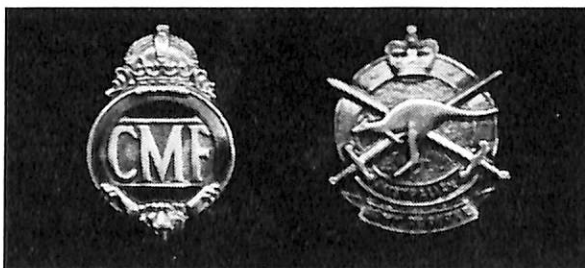
The Army Reserve Lapel Badge

THE wearing of a lapel badge is a convenient way to demonstrate membership of a particular organisation—the RSL badge is a well known example and the silver CMF badge worn in years gone by is another badge readily recalled.

The modern Army Reserve is no exception, having produced a bronze lapel badge for its members to wear when not in uniform. First issued in 1982 to serving personnel, the original intention was to award it on enlistment but it was later awarded only after the completion of two annual camps.

The 18 x 20mm badge, manufactured by Swann & Hudson, features the crossed swords and kangaroo emblem of the Army, set upon a circular

scroll. There is a St Edward's Crown at the top of the badge and the base bears the title 'AUSTRALIAN ARMY RESERVE'.



Silver CMF and bronze ARES lapel badges.

George Vazenry

Attacks on the Australian Mainland — World War II

THE Australian mainland and its adjacent islands were attacked many times during 1942 and 1943, mostly from the air, and caused some 748 reported casualties. The most damaging attack was the first air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942, during which the great majority of casualties occurred. Another raid of great significance, but with relatively few casualties and little damage, was the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on 31 May 1942, followed a few days later by shelling from the sea of Sydney suburbs. These events, at Darwin and Sydney, created a good deal of alarm in Australia and are outlined briefly in this article.

A number of other places received attention from Japanese aircraft and certain details of these, together with some statistical detail on the attacks on Australia are set out in annexes.

Darwin

The possibility that there could be an attack on Darwin was obvious to some people as early as 1938 (if not earlier) when the Darwin Mobile Force was formed. From mid-December 1941 evacuation of civilians not essential to the war effort was carried out gradually, and the military forces were increased.

By mid-January 1942 the garrison in the Northern Territory had been increased to 10 617 troops. Army strength state (Order of Battle) on 27 January 1942 (Reference B) is summarised at Annex C. (Within a month of the first air raid on 19 February 1942, the strength had been increased to 14 082). The Order of Battle is somewhat misleading as it shows HQ 23 Infantry Brigade as located at Darwin, which is correct, but in fact its battalions were located at Timor, Ambon and Rabaul.

Warnings of a Japanese build-up in the islands to the north of Australia had been received for some days and on 18 February 1942 a warning was received from Timor that Japanese air activity had been increased and that aircraft carriers were in the area. These warnings were virtually ignored, being set aside for assessment. In fact, there were four carriers, the Kaga and the Hiryu and two others.

On 19 February, at 0936 hours, the RAAF Operations Room at Darwin received a warning from Bathurst Island that a large force of

unidentified aircraft was heading towards Darwin. The station commander assumed that it was a formation of the US Army Air Corps arriving unannounced—a not unusual occurrence. No action was taken.

At 0945 hours Major R.B. Hone of the 2/12 Field Regiment, encamped at Nightcliffes, notified the RAAF that a US Kittyhawk had been shot down. Five minutes later he notified Army Headquarters that an air raid was pending.

At 0958 hours a Japanese force of 188 bombers, dive-bombers and fighters from aircraft carriers, and 54 bombers from Ambon, commenced the attack on Darwin. The carrier force was commanded by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida who had led the attack on Pearl Harbour. (After the war Commander Fuchida became a Presbyterian minister). The carrier force concentrated on the town and shipping; the Ambon force on the RAAF airfield and base.

At the time of the attack ten Kittyhawks of the US 33rd Pursuit Squadron, destined for Java but delayed by mechanical troubles and weather, were at Darwin. Major F. Pell, commanding, ordered his planes into the air. None returned, seven Americans including Major Pell being killed. Thirteen other Australian and American aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Five Japanese aircraft were shot down, with another five being possible casualties in the sea. Credit for the Japanese losses was shared between the Kittyhawks and Australian anti-aircraft fire. Wing Commander A.R. Tindall became the first member of the RAAF to die in Australia in combat—while manning a Lewis machine-gun in an anti-aircraft role.

The raid ended just after 1030 hours, with the all-clear being given a few minutes later. At 1155 hours the second raid commenced but was not pressed as savagely as the first.

At the time of the first raid, Darwin's main defences comprised 10 coastal guns which were sited in anticipation that the enemy would approach along certain defined routes and be within range (a mistake also made in Singapore); 18 heavy anti-aircraft guns whose crews had never fired a live round until the enemy came and with insufficient fire control instruments; a machine gun regiment used in an anti-aircraft role, but intended for use in ground warfare; and 10 fighter



Lewis Gun, 14th Anti-Aircraft Battery, Darwin 1942 Australian War Memorial (22720). From a coloured drawing by Roy Hodgkinson—'Lewis Gun—14 A.A. BTY., Darwin.' Lewis gunners of 14 Australian Anti-Aircraft Battery, who on the first Japanese raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942, beat off dive bombers and Zeros attacking the oil tanks in the harbour. Hits were claimed and one Zero destroyed. Gunner N. Cook, No. 1 of the gun and Gunner T. Hill fired 15 magazines. Their only protection was seven layers, high, of sandbags. The planes made many attempts to ground strafe the battery. (Darwin, Australia, June 1942.)

aircraft, all American, and only there by accident. Detection of an approaching enemy was possible only from ground observers (civilians) on Bathurst and Melville Islands (and their warnings were ignored when given).

From the first raid until 12 November 1943, there were 64 air raids on Darwin. Full casualty statistics are not available but the Australian Army lost 14 killed and 138 wounded in the 64 raids, the majority in the first raid.

Further information is contained in Annexures. Reference E is recommended for further detail.

Sydney

On 31 May 1942 three Japanese midget submarines from the motherships 1-22, 1-24 and 1-27 entered Sydney Harbour to attack shipping. The only ship damaged was the old ferry boat Kuttabul which was serving as a moored barracks for the RAN. Nineteen naval ratings were killed. The midget submarines were sunk, but later recovered, major parts of two of them now being located at the Australian War Memorial. The bodies of the crews were recovered and cremated, the ashes being returned to Japan through

diplomatic channels. This provided excellent propaganda and resulted in some slight alleviation of the misery of the Australian POWs held by the Japanese.

On the 7 and 8 June 1942 mothership 1-24 returned and shelled the Sydney suburbs of Rose Bay, Bellevue and Woollahra, causing minor damage. This ship was later sunk by a US submarine in the Islands.

Annexures

A—Casualties in Darwin 19 February 1942.

B—Air raids in Australia World War II.

C—Australian Army Order of Battle, 27 January 1942.

References

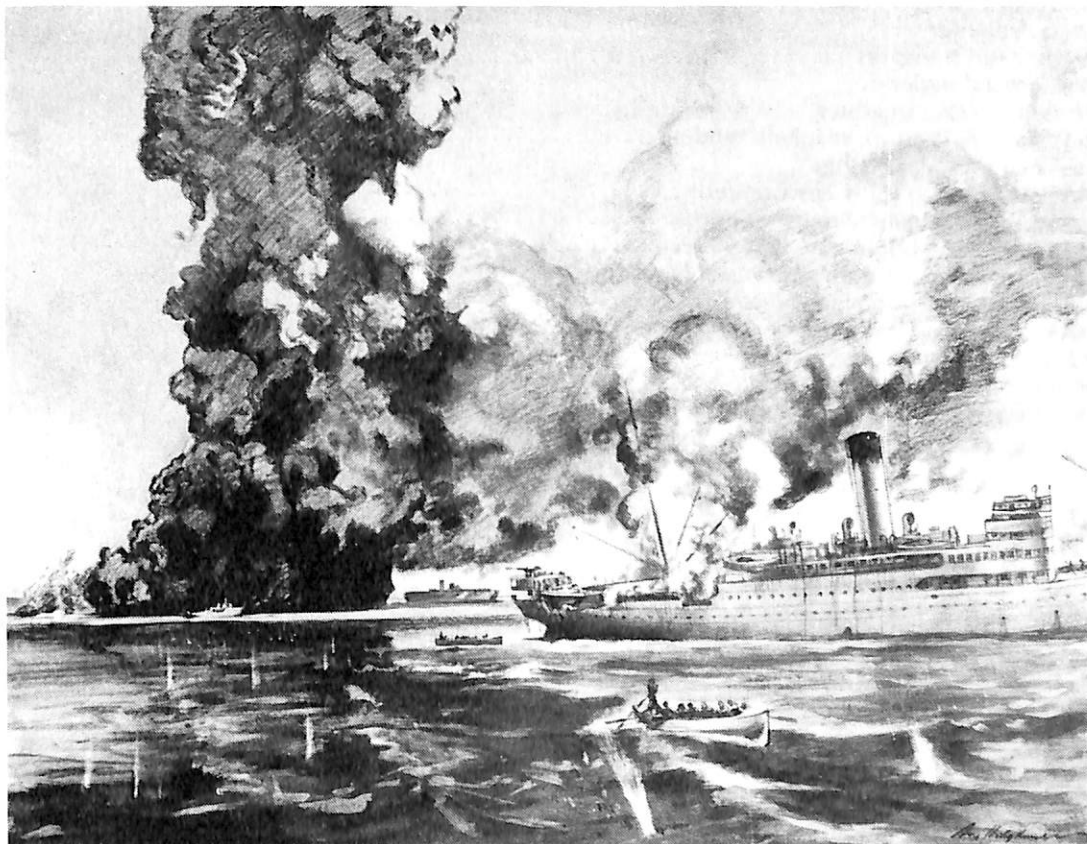
A—*Australia in the War 1939-45, South-west Pacific First Year.*

B—Australian Army strength state for Northern Territory, dated 27 January 1942.

C—Casualty statistics compiled by 2nd Echelon (now CARO).

D—*Army Newspaper* article by Sgt Peter Seaman (date unknown).

E—*Australia's Pearl Harbour* by Douglas Lockwood.



First Air Raid in Australia 1942. Australian War Memorial (22831). From a carbon pencil and wash drawing by Roy Hodgkinson—'The First Air Raid in Australia' 19 February 1942. This picture was drawn from a set of small photographs taken by an Able Seaman on a corvette on the day that the Japanese first bombed Darwin. The *Neptuna* was bombed whilst berthed at the Darwin jetty. She was loaded with mixed cargo and depth charges. She caught alight and eventually blew up. An anti-aircraft battery height-finder recorded a 4000 feet ceiling for the explosion. Directly in front of the explosion can be seen the tiny *Vigilant* doing fine rescue work. To the right background is the floating dock holding the *Katoomba* which escaped. Foreground, the *Zealandia* dive-bombed astern and afire. She eventually foundered. On that day 9 of the 13 ships in the harbour were sunk. (Darwin, Australia, June 1942.)

Casualties in Darwin 19 February 1942

Annex A

Casualties in Darwin on 19 February 1942 were 243 killed and approximately 350 wounded or injured. An exact break-up of the dead is not available, but the following figures are known, including shipping sunk or damaged.

	<i>Killed</i>
Waterside workers	22
PMG office workers	4
PMG female telephone operators	5
Taxation Department	1
USS <i>Meigs</i> , transport, sunk	2
Australian hospital ship <i>Manunda</i> (plus 58 wounded)	12
<i>British Motorist</i> , tanker, sunk	2
USS <i>Mauna Loa</i> , transport, sunk	5
<i>Neptuna</i> , coastal trader, sunk	45
<i>Zealandia</i> , coastal trader, sunk	3
USS <i>Peary</i> , destroyer, sunk	80
HMAS <i>Mavie</i> , lugger, sunk	
<i>Barossa</i> , freighter	
USS <i>Port Mar</i> , transport	1
<i>Tulagi</i> , coastal trader	
<i>Admiral Halstead</i> , freighter	
USS <i>William B. Preston</i> , seaplane tender	4
HMAS <i>Platypus</i> , depot ship	
HMAS <i>Swan</i> , sloop (plus 22 wounded)	3
HMAS <i>Gunbar</i> , auxiliary minesweeper	1
HMAS <i>Kara Kara</i> , boom gate vessel	2
HMAS <i>Kookaburra</i> , boom gate vessel (2 wounded)	
HMAS <i>Kangaroo</i> , boom gate vessel	1
HMAS <i>Coongaroo</i> , motor boat	
<i>Benjamin Franklin</i> , Norwegian tanker	
<i>Don Isidro</i> , Philippines supply ship	
USS <i>Florence D</i> , supply ship, sunk Off Bathurst Island	13
Others (See Note 2)	35
 Total killed	 243

- NOTES: 1. Where a ship has not been shown as sunk, it was damaged to some degree.
 2. Includes 9 Aust. Army; 6 RAAF; 7 US Army and Army Air Corps.
 3. The hulk *Kelat* is shown in Reference D as having been sunk. The *Kelat* was a coal hulk, and I have assumed that, being a hulk, it was permanently moored and therefore a shore station, not a ship, but I have insufficient information to argue about this.
 4. Reference E, which also show the *Kelat*, has figures which are practically identical to mine. I cannot explain this except to presume that Mr Lockwood and I have used the same source material, or material collected from the same source.

Annex B

Air Attacks on Australian Mainland

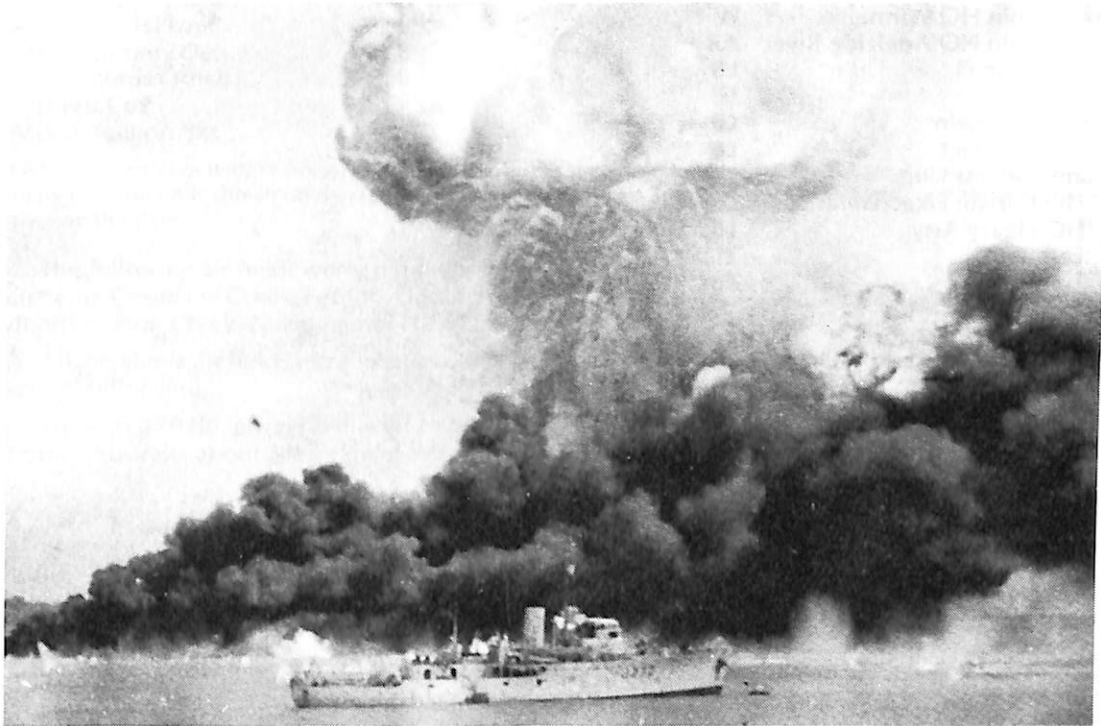
The following air raids took place on the mainland, or adjacent islands, of Australia during World War II.

Place	Date	Dead	Injured	Remarks
Horn Island	14 March 42			
	29 May 42			Date unsure, may have been 29 April 1942
	30 May 42			Date unsure, may have been 30 April 1942
	12 June 42			
	7 July 42			
	30 July 42			
	1 August 42			
	25 August 42			
	18 June 43			Last recorded raid
Broome WA	3 March 42			Total all types casualties 70. 23 aircraft destroyed.
	20 March 42	1		1 aircraft destroyed, some property damage.
	27 August 42			
	16 August 43			1 bomber; 3 bombs dropped.
Wyndham WA	3 March 42			1 aircraft damaged, some property damage.
	23 March 42			Damage to aerodrome.
Port Hedland WA	30 July 42	1		Damage to aerodrome. Soldier No. W57319 killed.
	17 August 43			
Derby WA	20 March 42			No damage, only machine gun fire.
Townsville Qld	25 July 42			Bombs dropped at sea.
	28 July 42			
	29 July 42			
Millingimbi NT	9 May 42	12		1 Army, 10 RAAF, 1 aboriginal killed.
	10 May 42			'Maroubra' sunk.
Katherine NT	22 March 42	1	1	Damage to aerodrome.
Wessel Island NT	11 May 42			
	20 May 43			2 planes; 1 bomb dropped in gulf.
	21 May 43			2 planes; 9 bombs dropped in gulf.
	24 Sept. 43			False alarm. Birds on radar.
Darwin NT	19 Feb. 42	243	350	Two raids, 0958 hours and 1155 hours. Figures for injured are approximate.
	4 March 42			1 aircraft destroyed.
	16 March 42	2	9	Property damage.
	19 March 42	2	7	Property damage.
	22 March 42			Near Nightcliffe, no damage.
	28 March 42			1 aircraft damaged.
	30 March 42			
	31 March 42			
	31 March 42			First night air raid.
	2 April 42			35 x 250lb bombs. 29 500 gallons fuel destroyed.
	4 April 42	1	2	24 bombs. 3 x P40 aircraft destroyed.
	5 April 42			Damage to runway, some fuel destroyed.
	25 April 42	1	7	Installations damaged.
	27 April 42	4	3	80 bombs dropped. 1 x P40 shot down, 2 missing.
	13 June 42			100 bombs; property damage.
	14 June 42			1 aircraft shot down.
15 June 42	4	12	100 bombs; some property damage.	
16 June 42			Intercepted 30 miles west of Darwin. 200 bombs dropped in sea.	
	25 July 42			12 bombs dropped; some property damage.

26 July 42	2	15 bombs dropped; further 100 in sea.
27 July 42		Slight property damage.
28 July 42		15 bombs dropped; property damage.
29 July 42		35 bombs (8 on town, 7 on Mendel Beach).
30 July 42		15 bombs, property damage.
30 July 42	1	130 bombs, property damage.
23 August 42		Hughes aerodrome, 2 aircraft damaged.
24 August 42		12 bombs dropped in swamp.
24 August 42		Bombs dropped some miles from Hughes.
25 August 42		Civil aerodrome, some property damage.
27 August 42		Property damage.
28 August 42		Property damage.
30 August 42		Property damage.
31 August 42		
31 August 42		12 bombs dropped.
25 Sept. 42		Fuel destroyed
26 Sept. 42		24 bombs dropped on Livingstone aerodrome.
27 Sept. 42		
27 Sept. 42		Francis Bay.
24 Oct. 42	5	20 bombs dropped, 1 aircraft damaged.
24 Oct. 42		
24 Oct. 42		12 bombs Cox Peninsula, 40 elsewhere.
24 Oct. 42		40 bombs dropped.
25 Oct. 42		26 bombs on Batchelor aerodrome.
25 Oct. 42		20 bombs; some property damage.
27 Oct. 42		Some property damage.
23 Nov. 42		
26 Nov. 42		42 bombs on Darwin and Hughes.
27 Nov. 42		
20 Jan. 43		5 bombs dropped in the bush.
22 Jan. 43		6 bombs in swamp, 2nd stick not located
2 March 43	2	Aircraft and property damage.
15 March 43		Property damage.
2 May 43		Property damage.
20 June 43	3	11 Property damage.
28 June 43		Property damage.
30 June 43	2	Vehicles destroyed.
6 July 43		Aircraft and property damage.
13 Aug. 43		
13 Aug. 43		
21 Aug. 43		Aircraft and property damage.
16 Sept. 43		Property damage.
19 Sept. 43		
12 Nov. 43		Slight damage. Last recorded air raid.

Summary

Total air raids	Darwin	64	
	Others	28	
		<u>92</u>	
Total killed	Darwin	261	includes all Northern Territory
	Others	2	
		<u>263</u>	
Total injured	Darwin	413	Injured figures are only those reported.
	Others	72	
		<u>485</u>	
Total Army Casualties	Killed	14	Includes 1 OR in Broome and 2 officers.
	Injured	138	
		<u>152</u>	



Dense clouds of smoke rise from burning oil tanks during the first raid on Darwin, 19 February 1942. HMAS Deloraine is in the foreground (AWM 128108).

Order Of Battle — 7 Military District

Annex C

This Annex lists all the Army units that were located in the Northern Territory operational area, north of 14½ degrees latitude, at 27 January 1942.

Legend

For brevity, the following abbreviations have been used to show the names of places at which units were located. Those shown with an * were outside the Darwin town area; others were in Darwin.

LB	Larrakeyah Barracks	N	Noonamah *
V	Vestys (meat works)	O	Darwin Oval
W	Winnellie *	F	Fanny Point and Dudley Bay
AR	Adelaide River *	Q	Quarantine Station
E	East Point	L	Left Sector (Ludmilla Creek to Rapid Creek)
Em	Emery Point	C	Centre Sector (Rapid Creek to Footcliffes)
We	West Point	R	Right Sector (Footcliffes to Howard River)
B	Berrima *	Fr	Francis Bay
Bat	Batchelor *	22	22 Mile (from Darwin)
Ba	Bagot	17	17 Mile (from Darwin)
K	Katherine *	Su	Sundry stations (small detachments)
P	Parap		

HQ 7 MD	LB
Camp Admin HQ Winnellie	W
Camp Admin HQ Adelaide River	AR
39 Def & Emp Pl	LB
7 MD Int Sect	LB
Press Unit Darwin	LB
7 MD Fd Svy Sect	LB
AA and Fortress Units	
HQ Darwin Fixed Defences	LB
HQ Heavy Arty	LB E
East Bty	E
Emery Bty	Em
West Bty	We
Darwin Fortress Coy	LB AR E Em F
Gp HQ AA Arty	F Fr C
2 AA Bty	B Bat F Q O
14 AA Bty	LB O C Fr F
54 AA Coy	LB V AR W Ba Q L C Fr Su
18 Fd Bty (Y Tp only)	P
14 Anti-tank Bty	C R
2/14 Fd Regt	L
7 MD Sigs	LB W AR E Em W B Bat K 22
8 Div Sigs — K Sect	W
F Sect	L
HQ 23 Inf Bde	LB
2/4 Pnr Bn (963 all ranks)	AR W Bat N L Berry Springs
19 Bn (838 all ranks)	
19 MG Bn (553 all ranks)	V W R C
27 Bn (1053 all ranks)	V W
43 Bn (1063 all ranks)	N
2/11 Fd Coy	W LB
23 Fd Coy	W
9 Wksp & Pk Coy	LB V W P Su
9 Army Tps Coy	AR LB
14 Army Tps Coy	L
23 Bde Coy AASC	V W 17 22
11 Sup Pers Coy	LB V AR K
7 MD Coy AASC	V
8 Div Ammo Sub Pk — C Sect	AR
124 Res MT Coy	V Ba Bat L 17
7 MD Res MT Coy	AR W O
2 Fd Bakery Details	V AR
2 Fd Butchery Details	V
7 MD BIPOD	AR
7 MD Farm Sect	AR
119 Gen Hosp	B Ba LB V W AR
MAC Dist Sect	LB V W AR B Ba
2/12 Fd Amb (-)	W Bat N F B Ba
111 Con Dep	AR
14 Fd Hyg Sect	Ba
101 Adv Dep Med Stores	Ba
262 Dent Unit	P N
7 MD Ord Dep	V W AR
7 MD Ord Wksp	LB
23 Indep Bde Gp Ord Wksp	LB
23 Indep Bde Gp Ord Fd Pk	LB
83 LAD	L
108 LAD	N
236 LAD	W
283 LAD	P
7 MD Accounts Office	LB

7 MD Base Postal Unit	LB
7 MD Fd Postal Unit	LB
7 MD Stationery Dep	LB
7 MD Records Office	LB
7 MD Pro Coy	O Ba
7 MD Detention Bks	AR

NOTE: This Order of Battle was extracted from a strength state dated 27 January 1942. A total of 10 617 all ranks were serving with the units shown on that date. In addition, Gull Force and Sparrow Force, totalling 2 786 all ranks, were shown on the state.

The following air fields were in the operational area:

Batchelor, Coomalie Creek, Fenton, Gould, Hughes, Livingstone, Long, McDonald, Pell, Sattler, Strauss, Winnellie, Pine Creek, Millinggimbi (12' 5" Lat., 134' 50" Long.)

All the above air fields were located along the road/rail line, North of 14½ degrees South Latitude, except Millinggimbi.

Truscott airfield, always believed to have been in the operational area, was **not**. It was located in Western Australia about 300 air miles WSW of Darwin, and was serviced by a port at Anjo.

Don Wright

The Mercantile Marine War Medal 1914-18

THE issue of this bronze medal, instituted in July 1919, is covered in the article *British Campaign Medals* by John E. Price in *Sabretache of July/September 1983*. There are, however, some differences between the naming of the British issues and the naming on the medals issued to Australians and these differences prompted me to write this article.

Naming of the British medals is by impressed *sans serif* capitals and usually the recipient's first name is shown—a feature not usually seen on other medals of the period.

Medals awarded to members of the Australian mercantile marine are named differently, with the recipient's initials and name, the word Australia and a number. I have never seen a genuine Australian issue with the recipient's first name shown. There have been cases of the word Australia and a number being added after the names on British issue medals but these 'additions' were designed to deceive collectors, as Australian items tend to bring higher prices than their British counterparts. The number after 'Australia' I take to be a registration number, but its exact significance is not known to me.

In R.D. Williams' *Medals to Australia* the number issued to Australians is given as approximately 12 000. The lowest number I have seen on one of these medals is 10, so it may be assumed that the numbering system started with one. One of the highest numbers I have recorded is 4 240 on a recent dealer's list.

If any reader can answer the following questions, I think the answers would be of interest to the medal collecting members of the MHSA:—

- Has anybody seen numbers on the Mercantile Marine War Medal 1914-1918 higher than 5,000? Is this medal scarcer than is thought?
- What is the significance of the numbers?
- Who holds the records for the Mercantile Marine during the first world war, and can access be gained to these records?

References

Sabretache, Vol. XXIV, No. 3, July/September 1983, pps 25-28.

R.D. Williams, *Medals to Australia*, 2nd Edition, Renniks Books, SA, n.d.

Alex A. Purves, *The Medals, Decorations and Orders of the Great War 1914-18*.

Gallipoli Gallery Opened

AN historic gathering of approximately 240 surviving Australian Gallipoli veterans took place at the Australian War Memorial at noon on 20 August on the occasion of the opening of the new Gallipoli gallery. The gallery was officially opened by the Governor General of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephen.

The veterans are aged between 85 and 98 and travelled from every state and territory in Australia for the opening. The veterans represented nearly all of the 28 infantry battalions, the thirteen light horse regiments, Australian Army Medical Corps, Australian Army Service Corps, Ammunition Columns, field artillery, engineers and signals of the first Australian Imperial Force. Four veterans who served with New Zealand units and four who were with British units were also present.

Sir Ninian addressed the veterans in the gallery of the Memorial adjacent to the new Gallipoli gallery. Some were 'side by side' for the first time in nearly seventy years. Some were able to meet members of their old units and it may be the last occasion for many of them to be re-united.

A large topographic model of the Gallipoli peninsula shows the positions where the Anzacs landed and fought the Turks. The map puts troop movements and action into perspective by indicating the straits and the Turkish positions, the defences of the peninsula and the locations of the British and French landings.

The objects on display in the Gallipoli gallery were either collected by Australians during or just after the war or donated to the Memorial in later years, in some cases up until the present day. The written records and printed and special collections material are from the Memorial's Research Centre. The photographs have been reproduced from original negatives of the official war photographs collection also held at the Memorial. The works of art include paintings (some commissioned as official war art), recruiting posters, watercolours, drawings and sculpture.

Some objects capture the personal experience of war, such as the watch and whistle carried by Lieutenant General Sir Iven Mackay, then a major of the 4th Battalion, during the battle for Lone Pine. The original identity disc of Private John Simpson which was taken from his body is displayed with the 1965 Gallipoli commemorative medallion, imprinted with his image.



Part of the new Gallipoli Gallery exhibit at the Australian War Memorial (AWM photo).

The Gallipoli gallery is the first of a series of galleries at the Memorial designed for visitors to provide an overview of Australians at war. The exhibition galleries which follow the original 1941 floor plan will form a primary circuit and galleries will follow a chronological order. Because of its position in the building, the Gallipoli gallery is the first gallery visitors see after leaving the introductory area of the Memorial.

The exhibition comprises personal memorabilia, military heraldry, technology, documents, photographs, ship models, topographical models, a diorama of Lone Pine and works of art, all related to the Gallipoli campaign. The display is arranged in a chronological sequence which takes visitors through the following themes: outbreak of war, enlisting the AIF, the first convoy, Egypt, the Dardanelles plan, the landing, the defence of Anzac, life on Anzac, the August offensive, those at home, the evacuation, and the cost (in casualties).

Separate themes in the exhibition cover rations, health and nursing, the Turks and Lone Pine. The

original Lone Pine diorama has been restored and place in a better viewing position.

The opening of the gallery was a moving occasion for both the veterans and their invited guests. All involved in its organization reported that meeting and speaking with them was a most rewarding experience. Many brought mementos or relics of their service, including reminiscences, one of which is reprinted in this issue of *Sabretache*.

Address by

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, on the occasion of the Opening of the Gallipoli Gallery at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra on Monday, 20 August 1984

WHAT a fine and moving occasion this is, with well over 200 Gallipoli veterans gathered here today, 69 years later, and coming from the four corners of Australia, some of them originally from the United Kingdom and New Zealand, and coming for the opening of the Gallipoli Gallery at this War Memorial of our nation. Their coming gives true significance to the occasion; they honour us by their presence.

This gallery is homage paid to the birth of the Anzac tradition. Australian and New Zealand troops have fought side by side on so many occasions throughout the years, but it was on Gallipoli that the word Anzac entered our Australian vocabulary; it was on Gallipoli that the name of Anzac acquired that special aura which still shines today.

Gallipoli would have had a very special meaning for Australians even if it had not been the scene of heroic deeds and long sustained valour; it was the first occasion of any major engagement of Australian troops since the formation of the Commonwealth, since Australia became a nation and not just a number of British colonies strung out along the fringes of a continent.

But for us what has given Gallipoli its unique significance has been the knowledge of that ordeal of fire and suffering so gallantly withstood for so long against a great and redoubtable foe by those citizen soldiers from lands far away on the other side of the world. Between the landing on 25 April and the withdrawal eight months later Gallipoli claimed the lives of eight and a half thousand Australian men and more than 19 000 were wounded. For our young nation it was a dreadful cost, all too soon to be repeated on other battlefields in France, Belgium and elsewhere.

The extent of that sacrifice would itself have been enough to inscribe the name Gallipoli in the memory of a young but sorrowing nation; but

that name has since come to mean far more to us even than the death and suffering associated with it. Gallipoli, and Anzac, have become synonymous with highest courage and unflinching endurance, personified in those Gallipoli veterans here today. The Australian people will always look to them, and to the many tens of thousands more who, after almost 70 years, are with us no more, for inspiration in times of need.

Unlike many another nation we celebrate in Gallipoli no great victory over an enemy. Instead we join with the Turkish people in joint tribute to valour, regardless of outcome, regardless of the fact that the campaign ended in bitter withdrawal from the peninsula. I doubt that a celebration of any great victory would be preferable. For it is the men of Gallipoli and what they stand for that is the central theme, not the campaign itself. Were it otherwise and were we celebrating one of the many victories of Australian arms we might indeed be glorifying war. But the veterans of Gallipoli know better than any that war is no glamorous pursuit: the unbelievable hardships, the dangers of death or mutilation that we may only read about were for them grim reality.

So our remembrance of the first Anzacs is an act of mourning for fine men sacrificed in their prime and a reaffirmation of pride in all those on Gallipoli who splendidly performed the duty demanded of them.

The Australian War Memorial is a superb setting for this new Gallipoli gallery. The campaign by our first Anzacs has always been seen as of major importance here at the War Memorial and this new Gallery will now enable a more compete and more impressive presentation of material from that part of our military history. The diorama of Lone Pine, the scene of such fierce fighting during the August offensive 69 years ago, occupies pride of place, as well it might. The fighting in the trenches there resulted in 2 000 Anzac casualties in one four day long period.

The Australian War Memorial may well be proud of the quality of the exhibits in this new Gallipoli Gallery. The gallery will bring to all who pass through it some greater understanding of what occurred in 1915 and what those surviving veterans here present today endured. It will serve as an enduring tribute to those who fought and to those who died—may they never be forgotten. I now declare open the Gallipoli Gallery.

Mervyn Spencer — late 1026, 12th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, First AIF

The Gallipoli Landing

Mr Mervyn Spencer was one of the 250 Gallipoli veterans who attended the opening of the new Gallipoli gallery at the Australian War Memorial on 20 August 1984.

Mr Spencer, now of New Town, Tasmania, wished to convey to those responsible for the gallery and the opening the thanks of those able to attend:

On behalf of the Tasmanian Anzacs I wish to thank all the people responsible for inviting us to Canberra to witness the opening of the new Gallipoli gallery.

It is one of the greatest days in the lives of the old diggers. We are all very proud of having been in the forces to help this great nation of ours in time of need and to nationhood. This occasion is a wonderful climax after 70 years.

He has kindly allowed Sabretache to publish this reminiscence of his experiences during the landing on Gallipoli.

I was born at Waratah on the West Coast of Tasmania on 20th January, 1891, one of a family of 13, 9 girls and 4 boys.

The first world war broke out in 1914 between England and Germany and two weeks later they were calling for volunteers to go away to fight. My brother Tom and I journeyed to Hobart to join up. One had to have certain qualifications to join, such as some military experience, Rifle Club etc. and we both belonged to a rifle club. The 12th Battalion brass band was being formed and we both played a brass instrument so we had no problems.

The 12th Battalion of 1000 consisted of 500 men from Tasmania, 250 from South Australia and 250 from Western Australia. We all trained together at Brighton Camp, Tasmania. We left Hobart on the 20th October, 1914 on the troopship *Geelong* and sailed to Egypt. We joined the rest of the Australian contingent, 20 000 in all, at Mena Camp, 10 kilometres from Cairo at the foot of the pyramids. All Bandsmen were made stretcher bearers and we were trained by a well known Hobart surgeon, Dr V.R. Ratten. I had my 24th birthday in Cairo.

After three months training we left on the troopship *Devanah* and sailed to the Greek island of Lemnos about 100 kilometres from Gallipoli. We sailed into Mudros Harbour and lived on the ship for three months training, practising rowing and handling. I was made a rower being one of the strongest in the 12th.

We were the first ship in there and as we left at 3 p.m. on 24th April, 1915 the harbour was a forest of masts. Warships had been going out at dusk every night since we came, returning at daylight after blasting the forts at the Dardanelles but not with much success. Lemnos had plenty

of spies on the island posing as Greeks, so the enemy knew as much about our plans as we did ourselves.

It was now 11 p.m., a lovely bright moonlight night, and not even a ripple on the water. The ship dropped anchor, the destroyer *Ribble* came alongside and in a few minutes 300 of us climbed down the rope ladders onto the deck of the *Ribble*. She then moved off manoeuvring slowly through the early hours of the morning, keeping just far enough from land not to be detected.

We had been given 'Kye', a hot chocolate drink, every two hours by the *Ribble's* crew while sitting on the cold steel deck—beautiful! The moon was slowly disappearing, the engines were stopped and there was a deathly silence in the atmosphere. I saw a searchlight track across the sky and a flash on the horizon as daylight started to appear at 5 a.m. Then a rifle shot like the crack of a whip and they started to come faster and faster around the ship. Adjutant Hawley from Ross, Tasmania was the first man to get hit and he was paralysed for life.

Now the Skipper hurried down the ladder from the bridge and said with words I shall never forget, 'Come on boys, there's dirty work.' We took our places in the lifeboats which held 50 and with eight rowers in each of the six boats, three strapped to each side of the *Ribble*. A pinnace towed a string of three as far as it was safe to go to the shore, cut us adrift and left us to our own destiny.

Dozens of warships were now firing salvos over our heads, including the dreadnought *Queen Elizabeth*, the largest warship afloat, with 18" guns hurling thousand pound shells into the enemy positions in front of us. Thousands of rifles were cracking and all hell was let loose. A mate of mine, George Wright from Western Junction, Tasmania,



Private Mervyn Spencer, aged 24, in Egypt, 1915.

sitting between me and the edge of the boat facing the shore, was hit in a vital spot and I felt a weight come over my oar. He cried out 'ooh' and never breathed after that. Now I was in trouble, catching crabs; I could not get the blade in the water, the coxswain was shouting; I knew it was meant for me, so much noise, then he was silenced.

I half stood up, lifted the 12½ stone dead weight up, got the blade in the water and after that never missed a beat. Bullets were whistling past us, zipping in the water in front and around. I was now straining every nerve and muscle to keep the blade in the water. I glanced along the boat and everyone except the rowers were crouching flat along the bottom like mussels on a rock.

I glanced down at George lying on his back, across my oar going back and forth, his white face looking up to heaven and only the whites of his eyes showing—looking so peaceful, and not a care in the world. How do you think I felt—terrible. What a nightmare; my strength was starting to give out, wondering if I could make it and saying to myself 'Oh God, when will we touch.'

Seconds later we touched; I dropped the oar and it fell with my mate over the seat. I picked up my rifle and pack with 2-3 days rations, etc. and 200 rounds of ammunition strapped to my chest. I jumped overboard up to my waist in water. I thought I might not be able to make it up to the beach but I did. I did not see a soul around, I just remember falling on the beach exhausted for a short time before I heard a call 'stretcher bearers'. I got to my feet, my brother Tom was standing near with a stretcher and his first words to me were 'Look, poor Mitch has got it.' He was a stretcher bearer with us from Mitcham, South Australia. He was lying dead between us and the water.



Mervyn Spencer, aged 93. Mr Spencer saw no further military service after he was evacuated from the peninsula. Following his discharge due to illness in 1916 he went to Britain to work as a foreman in an aircraft factory at Luton. In addition to his war medals, Mr Spencer is wearing a miniature of the Gallipoli commemorative medallion.

We soon got into action carrying in the dead and wounded. Calls for stretcher bearers were coming from every angle. Snipers were everywhere. Colonel Clark was hit by one leading the troops into battle, half an hour after landing. We worked hard until near midnight, the shooting was easing down and I lay down just where I stood, so tired, I was beyond being tired and did not care what happened to me. After a few hours repeat of the day before just carried one more to the beach.

Now there were hundreds and hundreds lying strapped on stretchers, some moaning, others silent and bewildered and so brave. Then a

shrapnel burst right overhead and one man started screaming. I made my way over the stretchers to help him but could do nothing as he had a piece of hot shrapnel buried in his groin—his cries became lower and lower, then I knew he had passed on and thanked God for that.

He was just one of the many thousands that suffered the same agony and horror at Gallipoli. This is what I went through and saw in the first two days at Gallipoli.

I have been re-living Anzac Day for 68 years and I know I will continue to do so until I join those brave Anzacs who gave their all for their country. Lest We Forget.

Book reviews in *Sabretache*

As an organisation of military historians and collectors, each member of which has a particular area of expertise, we in the Military Historical Society of Australia depend upon accurate and authoritative information in order to extend our knowledge of our various fields of interest. Corresponding members, particularly, rely upon the book reviews published in *Sabretache* to learn of new publications and ascertain whether they are worth buying.

In an attempt to extend the range of books covered by the society's journal a greater number of publishers are being asked to forward books of military interest for review in *Sabretache* by members of the society.

This will necessitate two major changes in the journal's book reviews section. Firstly, in order that reviews do not dominate the articles (the main purpose of the journal) reviews will tend to be shorter than they have been hitherto. There will, we anticipate, be more of them, however, and major new books on Australian military history or militaria will be reviewed at lengths appropriate to their importance.

Secondly, the editorial sub-committee hopes to obtain reviewers from throughout the society and would therefore like to hear from any members who might be willing to review books in their particular fields of interest for *Sabretache*. Members who have previously contributed reviews to the journal should also advise the editor of their intention to continue to do so.

Reviews need not be elaborate literary pieces; their purpose is to inform members of a book's content and provide an assessment of its value to interested readers. A word length of from 400 words will be allocated for each review. No payment can be made but reviewers may retain books.

Sabretache also welcomes unsolicited reviews of those books which may not have been sent to the journal for review. Where reviews of a book have been submitted from both solicited and unsolicited sources, however, the unsolicited review will, in most circumstances, be declined.

We anticipate that a number of members will indicate that they are interested in reviewing books in particularly popular areas. Members should therefore be prepared to wait some time before being contacted.

We hope that by this means reviews of books of military interest which appear in *Sabretache* will increase in number and in value, and that more members of the society will be able to contribute to our journal.

Please write to The Editor, *Sabretache*, PO Box 30, Garran, ACT, 2605 detailing your field of interest and indicating your willingness to contribute to *Sabretache's* book review section.

Book Reviews

Peter Stanley and Michael McKernan, *Australians At War 1885-1972*, Australian War Memorial 1984, \$29.95 hardcover.

You see in each of these men a very highly sensitised and at the same time very over-strung organisation. You can see it in their faces that they are men of imagination, you can see that they realise the possibility of each shell or of each salvo, and that they are more or less terrorised—yes, but not panicked. Not a man would turn back . . .

We hear much these days on the anti-hero theme, a persisting reaction to that of the legendary Anzac, unafraid and contemptuous of shot and shell. Neither view is, of course, true of the great mass of those who served their country well in danger through several wars, great and small. The above quotation, written by an Australian soldier on the Western Front in the 1914-18 war, is a fitting and fair description of their reactions. It is an extract from some 60 passages taken from letters, diaries and other personal papers, accompanying 200 photographs of Australians at war from 1885 to 1972 selected from the Australian War Memorial's collection. In their presentation, I feel that Peter Stanley and Michael McKernan, of the AWM staff, have captured the feeling and spirit of Australians at war.

I do not know how selective the editors have been, but knowing their credentials I feel sure that the work is a fair word and picture representation from the War Memorial's records. Naturally the bulk of the material covers the two world wars. The emotions portrayed include a due share of horror, anguish, sorrow and suffering, but in all the captions no more than four or five writers have displayed bitterness, rancour or anger against that authority, be it company commander or politician, who landed them in the mess; rather the message is one of a team in adversity determined to carry the job through.

Photographs of Australians in close combat with the enemy are comparatively few, despite the fearless work of Damien Parer and others. This is especially true of the 1914-18 war, but with notable exceptions, such as the Light Horse charge at Beersheba on page 95. Not all photographs taken in great adversity were, however, in combat. I was enthralled recently by a TV coverage of the work of a young soldier and amateur photographer who risked his life under appalling conditions to record life as a prisoner of the Japanese. He does not receive space in the book, probably because the War Memorial does not hold his work. Let us hope it goes there some day.

In his introduction, McKernan devotes some space to examination of the changing approach, over the years, by both the individual Australian and officialdom. How in 1914 all saw themselves as makers of history, and set out to record their impressions in word and pictures; how the indefatigable Bean saw to it that official photographs would show future generations of Australians what their troops had been through. These ideals were modified, some would say they declined, so that by the time of the Asian wars of mid-century, Australians held 'no sense at all that they were making history'. Bean's objective was abandoned and the physical examination of war in all its facets left to the press corps. A pity.

It has always been my impression that the quality of selected 1914-18 war photographs compares more than favourably with those of later conflicts. I have a photograph of my father, in a small group of soldiers at Brighton Camp, Tasmania, in 1914. It is faded now, but still of fine definition and a far better job, say, than several of myself taken at random through the 1939-45 war. As the introduction to the book points out, due to comparatively unsophisticated equipment, shots in those days, with some notable exceptions like the Beersheba charge, were of necessity confined to non-battle scenes, of weary soldiers coming out of the line, of fitter ones going up, or of snipers well down in the trenches as at Lone Pine. No doubt many photographs of those days were either posed or at least taken after due warning and preparation, witness the line of fine young recruits at page 27, all in best civvy suits, neat hats, stiff shirts with collar and tie and of course highly polished shoes. How would an impromptu shot of a recruiting line in, say, 1984 compare? Does the 1914 recruit picture suggest that the Australian civilian was more easily converted into a disciplined soldier than popular myth would have us believe? Or does it mean that the photographer of those days, with his equipment limitations, had to be more selective and controlled in what he took, compared with his more liberated descendants of 1984? Perhaps not vital questions for historians to ponder, but nevertheless enticing to the casual reader. I think that here is the prime value of an attractive and well presented book like this. Our present era is becoming steadily more removed from Australia's wars, which are now not even a memory to some. People of modest literary taste are perhaps unlikely to have the time or inclination to read the more serious and scholarly writings which continue to appear in a steady stream to satisfy the military history buffs; but I am sure that the casual browser could not resist an opportunity to glance through this book and would be held by its simple story. Then the producers will have achieved their stated aim—to show Australians at War.

D.V. Goldsmith

Brian Montgomery, *Monty's Grandfather: A Life's Service for the Raj*, Blandford Press, Poole (UK), 1984, 140 pp., 16 illustrations, 2 maps and index. Distributed in Australia by ANZ Book Company. Hardback, \$13.95.

The subject of Brian Montgomery's biography, Sir Robert Montgomery, GCSI, KCB, LLD, is also the author's grandfather, a fact which emphasises the somewhat irrelevant title. For Sir Robert (1809-87) did indeed give his life in the service of the British Raj in India and deserves to be known as more than the grandfather of an admittedly illustrious field marshal (the author's brother, Bernard).

Although commissioned in the Bengal Engineers in the forces of the Honourable East India Company, Montgomery transferred to the company's civil service before arriving in India in 1828. He became a magistrate and collector in Bengal but achieved notoriety (which at the time was probably regarded more as simply fame) when he participated energetically in directing the suppression of the mutiny in Oudh from 1857 to 1859.

Montgomery's biography is a useful book for those interested in the British in India and especially in the mutiny period. The author provides a valuable insight into the life of the company's civil officers and draws upon his own memories of India in an evocative way which adds much to the colour of his description. He gives a revealing picture of the savagery of the mutiny, particularly of the retaliation which it provoked from the beleaguered British rulers.

Monty's Grandfather is not, however, a wholly satisfactory book. Many of the anecdotes it contains are somewhat pointless, and it includes lengthy quotations from family and official correspondence which could more profitably have been summarised.

Like many biographies of relatives (whether famous or obscure) *Monty's Grandfather* was plainly motivated by the author's pride in his family. Unfortunately not all readers will share that pride sufficiently to carry them through this family chronicle. Despite these shortcomings, however, this book contributes to an understanding of a mutiny whose genesis was a colossal and tragic lack of understanding.

Peter Stanley

Philip Haythornthwaites, *The English Civil War 1642-1651: An Illustrated Military History*, Blandford Press, 1983. Illustrated by Jeffrey Burn, pp 160. Our copy from ANZ Book Co. Pty Ltd.

This is a book which brings together on relatively few pages the significant political and strategical aspects of a conflict whose outcome laid the foundation of the supremacy of the British parliament over the military forces of the country. It would be a useful book for the political scientist in that it traces concisely the military aspects of the war.

The military historian can glean as much of the politics as is necessary to his interests in the struggle between 'cavaliers and roundheads', labels which are dismissed by the author. The strength of this work lies in the wealth of equipment descriptions, the logistic detail and the illustrations of uniforms worn by the opposing forces. Slightly unsatisfactory is the treatment accorded by the author to such politico-military questions as the self-denying ordinance and how it affected the parliamentary armies—there were three at that time. Similarly, the student of the New Model Army would also be a little disappointed by the scant attention given to the improved training methods introduced in the New Model and to its organisation and order of battle. Other authors, such as Woolrych¹ or Barnett² have handled these problems better. The chapters on uniforms, colours and standards and to a lesser extent on the medals of the time are superb. The book is profusely and exceedingly well illustrated with many colour plates, line drawings and black and white pictures. The index and the select bibliography are adequate although, apart from Barnett one misses the very useful work by Barthop and Young³ and the standard work by Fortescue⁴. However, the book is well worth a place on the shelves of the historian interested in one of the most fascinating periods of British military and political history.

H.J. Zwillenberg

1. Austin Woolrych, *Battles of the English Civil War*, 1961.
2. Correlli Barnett, *Britain and her Army*, 1974.
3. Michael Barthop and Peter Young, *History of the British Army*, 1970.
4. Sir John W. Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, 13 Vols, 1899-1930.

Gavan McCormack, *Cold War, Hot War: an Australian Perspective on the Korean War*. Hale and Ironmonger, Sydney, 1983. Hardcover \$25, Softcover \$12.

This is a short work in which the author offers his view on the nature of Australian diplomatic initiatives which he feels were invoked during the Korean War. More specifically, the author offers his opinion on the decision-making processes which saw Australia's prompt commitment and continued support to UN/US objectives. In many ways, the work can be readily compared to Sexton's *War for the Asking*, on Vietnam, which is similar in style and content in examining the way in which the politics of alliance were developed. In short, Dr McCormack re-examines the roots of involvement and the reasons for commitment.

As such, this work is offered as a dissenting and alternative view to the official history of the Korean War (Volume I—Strategy and Diplomacy) recently completed by Dr O'Neill. Predictably, *Cold War, Hot War* is a polemic criticising the nature of the official policy-making capacity of the time. As such, some of the views are controversial and worthy of considerable debate. The author assumes one has a full understanding of the background of events so the 'official history' might be read first to put things in perspective.

The book alleges that any attempt to formulate 'a principled independent Australian position' was seen to be threatening to wider relationships. Dr McCormack contends that a commitment was made not so much to the United Nations as to Australia's own self-interest. The book might not find full acceptance unless one is disposed to Dr McCormack's view—that it was all a terrible mistake and the seventeen nations should not have become involved in what he saw to be a civil war. For Australia's part there was little hesitation; 70% of Australians polled supported a decision to commit troops.

Dr McCormack criticises the 'obscene' haste which saw Australia the first of all nations (after the United States) to commit forces—a decision being announced on 26 July, 1950. The author effectively challenges old assumptions and alleges that the Government's case on Korea was 'distorted'. Such a spirited stance will no doubt provoke the sort of response he would seek.

The work is an interesting, if brief, outline of some of the important issues which the author feels have been neglected. However, it should be read in conjunction with Dr O'Neill's official history and with the usual grains of salt.

Mike Fogarty

Max Hastings, *Overlord: D-Day and the Battle for Normandy, 1944*. London, 1984, pp 368. Our copy from Thomas Henderson Australia Ltd. \$25.00.

Coming right on the heels of Lamb's work on Montgomery covering the same time-span and areas, Hastings' book concentrates on the period from D-day on 6 June, 1944 to the 'closing' of the Falaise gap on 22 August. It is the story of 'an operation that eventually went according to plan but not according to time table' (p319). It is also a sobering story from the Allies' point of view. One gains the impression that, in the author's view, the eventual victory was due more to Hitler's obsessive reinforcement of failure (and, of course, the acknowledged massive Allied superiority in materiel and in the air) than to superior merits of allied leadership and the fighting competence and spirit (morale) of the allied troops. It is contended that in case of a Soviet advance across Western Europe 'it would be unhelpful (for) contemporary British and American soldiers...to believe that the level of endurance and sacrifice displayed by the Allies in Normandy would suffice to defeat the invaders'.

The work is a scholarly treatment of the momentous two and a half months which opened the second front. First, some comments on mechanical aspects of the work. The maps are good and not littered with confusing detail. While the black and white photographs are of high quality, they sometimes appear unconnected with the narrative. Line drawings of equipment and explanations are very helpful in appreciating what went on at company and platoon level. Manning tables and orders of battle are comprehensive for the British forces but scanty for the American army. The listings are not as clear to the uninitiated reader as they might be.

The author relies very largely on secondary sources, about ninety or so in all. However, his re-interpretations are complemented by some 500 interview reports, diaries, contemporary letters and the like, the majority obtained from junior officers and other ranks from both sides. The many interviews were utilised to create a work in which personal experience down to the lowest ranks

serve to introduce and fill out the strategic and tactical picture. The author's aim is 'to examine much less closely studied aspects of the armies' tactics and performance and to consider some of the unpalatable truths about what took place in the summer of 1944' (p13). The story of the 6th Duke of Wellington's Regiment is a case in point (pp 148-150).

The book has an abundance of interesting tactical detail. For example, the difficulties experienced with air drops are attributed to the inexperience of the Dakota pilots (p.74). The difference between the more cautious British and the obviously more reckless American tactics is highlighted on pages 90 and 91. A handsome compliment is paid to Australia by Major General F. de Guingand, Montgomery's Chief of Staff, on the morning of D-day: 'My God, I wish we had the 9th Australian Division with us this morning...' (p. 84).

Space does not allow this reviewer to mention many of the fascinating incidents and strategic/tactical/political 're-interpretations and re-evaluations' in this book, which is controversial to say the least. It is indispensable to understanding the military events in Normandy at that time and the price of \$25 is more than reasonable for a work of this nature.

H. J. Zwillenberg

Major-General John Frost, *2 Para Falklands: The Battalion at War*, Buchan & Enright, London, 1983 (192 pages plus photographs). Our copy from ANZ Book Co. Pty Ltd. Recommended price \$22.50 hardback.

This is a story of 2nd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment at war. It traces a seven week journey from Bruneval Barracks in Aldershot to Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. This journey took the battalion to San Carlos and then through subsequent operations at Darwin, Goose Green, Fitzroy and Wireless Ridge to victory at Port Stanley. It resulted in eighteen members of the unit being killed in action and 36 awards, including a Victoria Cross. The battalion overcame formidable problems including atrocious climatic conditions to defeat a numerically superior and, at times, very stubborn enemy; its contribution towards the recapture of the Falklands was significant.

Running through the chapters is a personal account of the battalion's part in the Falklands campaign, recalling many details about individual actions and personalities. The writer's high regard for the Parachute Regiment and its traditions shows through the narrative, as do his feelings towards certain individuals including Lieutenant Colonel Jones, the first commanding officer. Colonel 'H', as he was known by his troops, was posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions during the battle for Darwin Hill and two versions of the events leading to this award are included.

The personal nature of the account is to be expected because the author has based it very largely on a record prepared by Captain David Benest, the battalion's Signals Officer during the actions described. Despite this, the account is an attempt to present the battalion's experiences in an objective way; many of the unit's shortcomings are highlighted and the author admits that 'some basic lessons... were being relearnt'.

The concluding chapter does not appear to fit easily into the overall scheme of the book. It is not part of the record of the battalion's actions, but includes some general lessons from, and comments on, the campaign. These range from the shortcomings of the issue boots, through the role of the media and the employment of Special Air Service, to criticism of previous government decisions, some philosophical comments on the system of presenting honours and awards, and even questions about the need for the campaign.

The book contains a roll of honour, a list of honours and awards, a copy of the Victoria Cross citation, details from the log maintained by 3 Commando Brigade during the battles for Darwin and Goose Green and a detailed glossary. The text is accompanied by numerous black and white photographs and maps which help the reader follow the events described.

Professional soldiers should read this book: the fact that this battalion and the brigades to which it belonged had had to relearn so many basic lessons when called upon to put their training to the test provides a salutary lesson in itself. For anyone interested in how the battalion and the individuals who belonged to it added to the already illustrious traditions of the Parachute Regiment, the book is well worthwhile.

Rick Haines

Frank D. Johnson, *PT Boats of World War II*, Blandford Press, 1983, \$9.95 (Released through ANZ Books)

The cover and title of this book immediately conjured thoughts of *Gimme the Boats* by J. E. McDonnell, a yeoman who sailed concurrently in the cruiser *Hobart*.

The publication is well balanced in its coverage, tracing the origin of the PT boat from 1866 when Robert Whitehead, a Briton working for the Austrians, demonstrated an underwater self-propelled torpedo capable of running 1000 yards at 7 knots carrying an explosive of about 20 pounds. Apparently in those days patents were not necessarily in vogue as Whitehead sold his idea to the Royal Navy in 1871 and was suitably rewarded with £15 000. Within a decade small steam-powered launches and boats, appropriately dubbed 'torpedo boats' were apparent in every navy of consequence (and in many of no consequence).

The innovative idea of a torpedo boat led to the development of 'torpedo boat destroyers'. The first two words were later dropped and these vessels became known simply as 'destroyers'.

The author generously acknowledges the birth of the US PT boat as having originated in Great Britain, which developed small fast motor boats later to be involved in inter-country competition. As petrol propelled engines overtook steam, so did the performance of the craft. From 1903 countries participated in an award given by Sir Alfred Hansworthy. The organizational and governing procedures for these races proved invaluable for some forty years later. As an example of the competition generated from the races the book contains a fine photograph of the US boat, *Miss America*, a 38-foot hydrofoil which boasted a total of 6 400 hp from four supercharged Packard engines. This craft held the coveted prize for some years.

Two firms, Higgins and Elco, were prominent in building Patrol Torpedo Boats, each yard producing particular models. Aggressive weapons comprised two torpedoes and depth charges. Subsequent service showed that the range of the craft depended on ready access to servicing facilities. Because these facilities were not always available some questioned the worth of craft with such short operating ranges.

Initially, the PT craft lacked armour, hence the title of 'suicide boats', but during the second world war they saw a gradual but effective increase in both offensive and defensive armament. Armament created problems. Initially the torpedoes used were designed for destroyers and proved too heavy. Additionally the oiling of tubes and the employment of black powder to detonate the charge frequently led to ignition of the oil and grease which effectively betrayed their night position.

For the record, the first recorded 'angry shot' by a PT boat occurred at Pearl Harbor when one destroyed a Japanese 'Betty'. The PT boat acquired a romantic and perhaps artificial image from two events occurring in the Pacific, namely, the journey by General Douglas MacArthur from the Philippines to Australia and the rescue of Lt John Kennedy, USNR, (later to become US President) skipper of the PT 109 which was sliced in two by a Japanese destroyer.

PT boats served in a number of theatres, in the South Pacific, the English Channel, the Aleutians and in the Mediterranean. Three craft were transferred to the USSR.

While acknowledging the contribution made by these craft, particularly during the early months of the war when naval craft were at a premium, the author questions their usefulness in that their overall scope was limited and restricted to an occasional foray. Having served some time on patrol boats, including MLs, before graduating to a cruiser, I recognize the difficult and onerous work of the PT boats, which more often than not did not capture the imagination of civilians. Given these facts praise is undoubtedly due to the men who ventured to sea in what could be termed floating gasoline tankers given the fuel carried, a fact often overlooked.

The book's index carries lists of all PT boats constructed and where they served. This is supplemented by nicknames extended to the various craft, citing such glamorous names as 'Coughing Coffin' (PT45) 'Sea Bitch' (PT320) 'Ali Baba and his 14 Thieves' (PT325) while PT515, which served in the English Channel acquired the name 'Boomerang', perhaps suggesting some Australian association.

John Dean

Anthony Staunton

Vicmlex '84

THE Society's biennial Exhibition/Seminar was hosted this year by the Victorian Branch. It was the largest such display ever put on by the Branch and was carried out in a very successful manner on the weekend of 30 June—1 July. The name of VICMILEX '84 was adopted, the theme being Two Hundred Years of Australian Military History. It was held at Bougainville Barracks in North Carlton, the home of the 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse, Army Reserve.

Displays by members of the Society ranged from British campaigns to the British in Australia, Victorian local forces—awarded best Society display—Tasmanian local forces and all aspects of Australian military history. Women, POWs and the home front were all covered and I did a Victoria Cross display. There were displays relative to the Axis powers and the Viet Cong, on medals, documents, photographs, models, maps and militaria of many varieties—anything in order to make the show interesting and informative.

It was good to see how well represented kindred societies were at VICMILEX including the Naval Historical Society and the Colonial Police Historical Association. The Peninsula Light Horse—awarded best outdoor non-Society display—and artillery and infantry re-enactment groups came. The Victorian Military Vehicle Corps, the Mountain District Modelling Society and the Historical Bottle Collecting Society were also present. Displays were also put on by the RAAF Museum, Military Police, Australia Post, the Library Council and the 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse.

There were 45 displays in all from Society members and kindred societies. All were of high standard and they generally received favourable reactions from both members and visitors. I enjoyed the displays since nearly all lived up to the theme of VICMILEX and well covered two hundred years of Australian military history. I found VICMILEX, like most conventions, to be a broadening experience since I tend to specialise on the Victoria Cross. But I was pleased to see in the display Australians in the Boer War a map showing

where the six Australian VCs were won in South Africa. Another show contained information of particular interest to me about a VC winner of the 40th Regiment. The 8th Battalion display—awarded the best indoor non-Society display—had photographs of its VC winners from both world wars.

The official opening was by Sir Bernard Callinan, CBE, DSO, MC, a distinguished engineer who commanded the 2/2nd Independent Company on Timor in 1942. The President of the Victorian Branch, George Ward, introduced Sir Bernard and escorted him around the barracks to view all the displays and to meet each display organiser. The Federal President of the Society, Major H. Zwillenberg and the Federal Secretary, Lt Col. C. Sargent, travelled from Canberra to attend the weekend. On Saturday night a cocktail party for members of the Society and their guests preceded a barbecue. A meeting of members of the Society was held on the Sunday. Members from Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales and Canberra attended some part of the weekend. It was also good to see a friend from the NSW Military Historical Society.

Three discussion groups were held on topics of interest. Monty Wedd from Sydney spoke on colonial uniforms, Athol Chaffey from Launceston spoke on long service medals to Australians and Jeff Cossum introduced the subject of collecting Australian insignia. The Light Horse and the re-enactment groups performed on both days. The State Library of Victoria showed military artifacts, books and photographs from 28 June to 31 July to coincide with VICMILEX.

I was thoroughly impressed by the entire weekend and congratulate John Price, the convenor and the Victorian Branch committee and members for a job well done. This biennial event, a feature now of the Military Historical Society of Australia, has been further enhanced by the success of 1984. It is a great opportunity to open or renew friendships and to see how other members develop and exhibit their particular expertise and interest. I look forward to the 1986 convention.



Federal President Hans Zwillenberg (left) thanking Sir Bernard Callinan (centre) for opening VICMILEX '84. John E. Price, Secretary, Victorian Branch and convenor of VICMILEX is on the right.

Notes and Queries

Correction to New South Wales Sudan contingent honour roll

The July-September 1981 issue of *Sabretache* contained a list, contributed by Mr Peter Burnes, of the names of those members of the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan who died as a result of their service with the contingent. Due to an undetected typesetting error the list contained two inaccuracies. *Sabretache* apologises to Mr Burnes for the mistake and reproduces below the complete corrected list.

- 1214 Coburn, Thomas. Driver.
British-born regular soldier of the NSW Artillery (formerly a plumber).
Died at Colombo on 3 June 1885 aged 25 years.
- 150 Collister, John Douglas. Private.
British-born carpenter, member of the Infantry contingent.
Died at Colombo on 10 June 1885, aged 22 years.
43. Jackson, Philip. Private
A blacksmith, born at Milton NSW. A member of Infantry contingent.
Died at Suakin.
- 719 Lewis, Edward. Driver.
A regular soldier of the NSW Artillery (formerly a groom). Born Singleton NSW, enlisted in artillery in July 1880 aged 20 years.
Died at Suakin on 12 May 1885.
- 74 Perry, R. Private.
Member of Infantry contingent.
Died in quarantine on 23 June 1885 after return to N.S.W. Buried in Rookwood Cemetery.
- 1226 Robertson, James. Driver.
A regular soldier of the NSW Artillery (formerly a bootmaker). Born Hobart, Tasmania, and enlisted in Artillery in February 1885.
Died at Colombo on 31 May 1885, aged 26 years.
- 392 Weir, Robert. Private.
Member of Infantry contingent.
Died at Suakin on 1 May 1885.
Willows, Anthony. Vet-Surgeon.
Died at sea 9 June 1885.
- 183 Guest, Martin. Private.
Member of Infantry contingent.
Died at Sydney 27 June 1885, aged 30 years.

The Sudan Commemorative Figurine

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the participation of the New South Wales Force in the Sudan Campaign of 1885, the Society has commissioned *Fine Arts Selections*, Australian representatives of Buckingham Pewter, to sculpt and cast a pewter figurine of an infantry private of the contingent in field service dress.

The figurine, illustrated here, is based on a photograph from the Australian War Memorial collection. Details of dress and equipment have been provided by Peter Burness, member of the ACT Branch and Curator of Heraldry at the AWM.

Each figurine will be numbered. It will be 90mm high on a 25mm base. The front of the base will carry the badge of the NSW Forces and the Society crest will be on the rear.

Stocks will be available in December 1984—an ideal Christmas present.

The figurine will be available only through The Military Historical Society of Australia.

The price for each figurine is:

Direct sales — \$A35.00

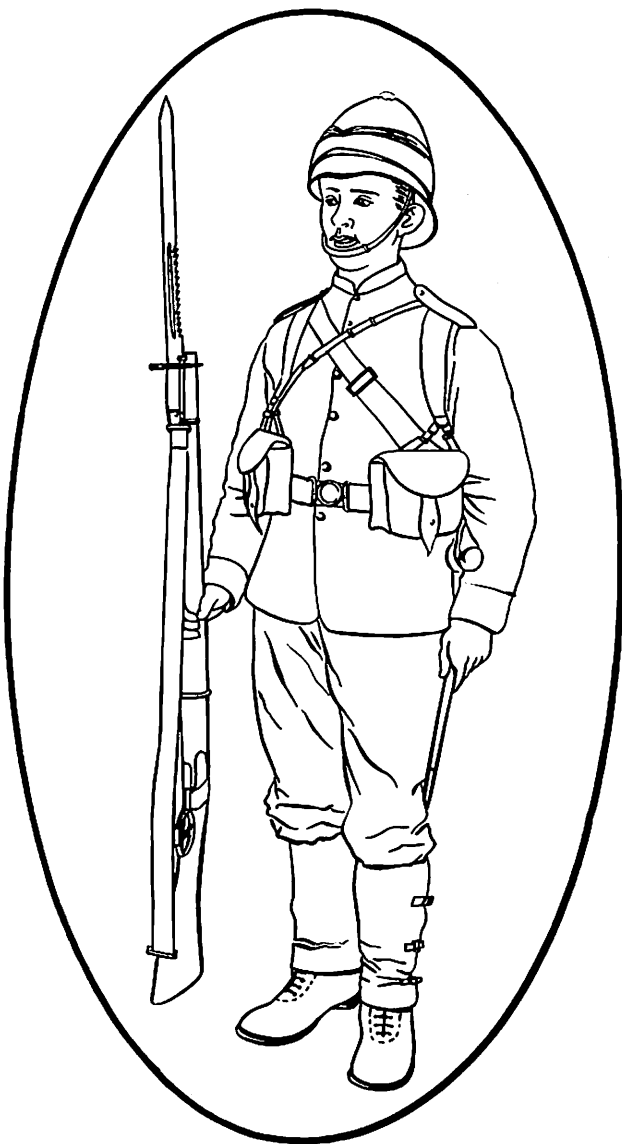
By surface mail in Australia and overseas—
\$A37.50 (including packing and postage).

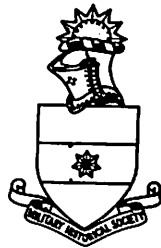
Overseas airmail rates and postage charges for multiple orders can be quoted on application.

Orders may be placed immediately with the Federal Treasurer:

Mr N. S. Foldi
9 Parnell Place
FADDEN, A.C.T. 2904.

Orders must be accompanied by full payment, including postage where applicable, in Australian currency. The orders will be fulfilled in order of receipt.





THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

President's Report for the year ended 30 June 1984

The year 1983/4 has seen steady progress for the Military Historical Society of Australia. The membership has increased, albeit slowly, so that the Society has now about 370 paying subscriptions to Sabretache excluding about ten free-of-charge distributions. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr Barry Clissold, our Honorary Editor, for his efforts over the last two years. During this time Sabretache has changed its style and format, very much for the better, I think. Mr Alan Fraser will be the new editor and the editorial sub-committee will be announced shortly. We wish Barry Clissold well in his new Australian Development Assistance Bureau appointment which will take him to China.

While the Society is quite viable and in good shape—our Treasurer will comment on this aspect in detail—I consider it absolutely vital to increase significantly the membership. This is the only way for the Society to meet, more readily, its aim, which is the encouragement and pursuit of study and research in military history in all its aspects and the promotion of public interest and knowledge in these subjects with particular emphasis on the history of the Australian armed forces.

In the furtherance of its aim our Society became involved in two major activities during 1983/4. One was the organisation and conduct of the Australian War Memorial Military History Conference workshop which concerned itself with the very practical problems of resources for historical research and the conservation of military objects such as medals and other militaria. It should be stressed that this highly successful event has been made possible through the very active assistance of the Australian War Memorial and its staff. The Society gratefully acknowledges the support and goodwill it received at all times from this national institution.

The other activity was the excellent and very imaginative Victorian Military Exhibition (Vicmixel) organised by the Victorian branch of the Society with strong support from kindred societies and some of the other branches in the region. The exhibition was opened by Sir Bernard Callinan, CBE, DSO, MC, ED and Federal Council was represented by the President and the Secretary. Great interest was shown in some of the pre-federation uniforms, equipment and enactments. The performance of the Peninsular Light Horse won the acclaim of young and old. A full report will be published.

Federal Council has discussed future activities. They include the production of pewter figurines and of a commemorative publication on the centenary of the Sudan war of 1885, another biennial display—the locality has not yet been decided—and a bicentennial activity in 1988, probably in Canberra.

As the outgoing President I would like to thank the Federal Council and in particular its Executive Committee for their untiring efforts in 1983/4. It is to them that all credit for the Society's healthy position must go.

H. Zwillenberg
Federal President

The Military Historical Society of Australia

Federal Council Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 30 June 1984

Income	\$	\$	Expenditure	\$	\$
OPERATING ACCOUNT					
Balance brought forward		4 432.87	Publication of <i>Sabretache</i>		5 139.00
Subscriptions received			Postage		528.02
1983/84	6 629.80		Federal Council expenses		
In advance	<u>260.00</u>		Stationery	24.34	
	6 889.80		Rental PO Box	20.00	
Less Branch Capitation	<u>177.60</u>	712.20	Address list	77.14	
			Sundry expenses	<u>49.40</u>	170.88
Advertising		223.54	Transfer to Investment		
Sale of publications		89.80	Account		2 000.00
Donations		95.00	Balance carried forward		3 893.33
Bank interest		175.71			
Sundry income		2.11			
		<u>11 731.23</u>			<u>11 731.23</u>
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT					
Balance brought forward		2 607.46	Balance carried forward		4 938.28
Transfer from Operating					
Account		2 000.00			
Interest		<u>330.82</u>			
		<u>4 938.28</u>			<u>4 938.28</u>

Notes forming part of Financial Statement for year ended 30 June 1984

OPERATING SURPLUS 1983/84

Balance of Operating Account 30 June 1984	\$ 3 893.33
plus transfer to Investment Account	<u>2 000.00</u>
	5 893.33
less balance carried forward 1 July 1983	<u>4 432.87</u>
	1 460.46
less Subscriptions in advance 1982/83	<u>464.64</u>
	995.82
plus Subscriptions in advance 1983/84	<u>260.00</u>
	<u>1 255.82</u>

There are no outstanding accounts and this is considered to be a very satisfactory result, bearing in mind the transfer to the Investment Account.

N.S. FOLDI
Federal Treasurer
10 July 1984

I have examined the books of account and records of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia and in my opinion the attached statements are a true and fair view of the affairs of the Society.

D.B. DAWES
Honorary Auditor
6 July 1984

Society Notes

Award to Society Member

Members of the Society extend congratulations to Major Neil Smith, of Elwood, Victoria, who was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Queen's birthday honours list. Neil received the award for services to the Australian Army in the field of explosive ordnance disposal in the Solomon Islands.

Wanted

Wanted to exchange, cloth titles and formation signs—Australian, NZ, UK and Canada.
Steve Jenkins, PO Box 68, Branxton, NSW 2335.

Wanted to purchase. 1902-12 1 to 5 over AE brass shoulder title. Brass numerals 3,4,5,7—17mm high.
G. McGuire, 12 Bernice Avenue, Underwood, Queensland 4119.

Election of Office Bearers for 1984-85

Federal Council

The following were elected at the Society Annual General Meeting on 16 July 1984:

President: Brigadier A. R. Roberts
Vice President: Major H. J. Zwillenberg, ED (RL)
Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel T. C. Sargent (RL)
Treasurer: Mr N. Foldi

ACT Branch Committee

The following were elected at the Branch Annual General Meeting on 16 July 1984:

President: Lieutenant Colonel M. P. Casey (RL)
Secretary: Miss Bronwyn Self
Branch Councillor: Mr R. Courtney

Victorian Branch Committee

The following were elected at the Branch Annual General Meeting in June 1984:

President: Mr G. F. Ward
Treasurer: Mr Ian Wilkie
Secretary: Major Neil Smith, AM
Editor 'Dispatches': Mr R. Kenner
Committee: Mr R. M. Dalton; Mr George Hellyer; Mr Ray Kenner

Western Australian Branch Committee

The following were elected at the recent Branch Annual General Meeting:

President: Mr P. Shaw
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr J. Grant
Committee Member: Mr N. Pegrum

Albury-Wodonga Branch Committee

The following were elected at the Branch Annual General Meeting held on 8 August 1984:

President: John Heafield
Secretary/Treasurer: Cheryl Johnson
Publicity Officer: Don Campbell
Committee: D. Horne, R. Johnston
Museum Representative: John Heafield

Renewal of Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 1984-85 became due on 1 July 1984. A number of members have not yet paid and they are required to forward their subscriptions to their Branch Secretary or to the Federal Secretary as soon as possible.

Those who have not paid by the end of October will not receive *Sabretache* for October/December 1984 or subsequent issues or other Society material. For economic reasons, Federal Council prints only that number of journals needed for financial members and is unable to provide for members whose subscriptions are in arrear and whose intentions to renew are unknown.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir,

Two enquiries. I wonder if you or any members of your Society might be able to help me.

Firstly, I am trying to list, sketch or photograph badges and insignia worn by the Airborne, Commando and Special forces of Britain, its Commonwealth and its allies during World War II. Would any of your members be interested in corresponding with me on the matter, please, to cover the Australian aspect.

Secondly, I am trying to find out about the duties and achievements of the 'Voluntary Camouflage Auxiliary' of Australia and in particular R.J. Hollister, one of its members. I, of course, would be most happy to reimburse any expenses incurred. I thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely
Keith Turner

369 Brentwood Road
Gidea Park
Essex RM2 5TH
England

Dear Sir,

I wish to draw readers' attention to an error in my article about RAN History Sources in *Sabretache* Vol. XXV, January-March 1984. Whilst RADM Stevenson was appointed FOCAF early in 1970, he was also appointed FOCAF, albeit for a short period, in 1972. The book reviewed correctly showed the second appointment. I therefore apologise to Lew Lind in attributing an error to him which more knowledge of the facts on my own part would have avoided.

Yours sincerely,
M.J. FOGARTY

Dear Sir,

Since the publication in *Sabretache* (July-September, 1982) of a preliminary article on 'The Australians In Macedonia', I have managed to identify many more, bringing the number of

Australians who served in British units in the campaign to 80, including one woman doctor in the RAMC, Elsie Dalyell. The 80 include five Rhodes Scholars, an Anglican padre and four airmen, and no less than 33 medical men. Nearly half were decorated or mentioned in despatches. Two received Greek awards for gallantry. Four later received knighthoods. Only one is still alive: Hew O'Halloran Giles, in Adelaide, aged 95.

The 80 mentioned do not include the 333 Australian Army nursing sisters in British hospitals in Salonika, nor the 12 Australians (doctors, a nurse, ambulance drivers and orderlies) who served in the Scottish Women's Hospital units in Salonika and at Lake Ostrovo in the western mountains.

I hope to complete my research on the Australians in the Macedonian campaign this year.

Yours sincerely
Hugh Gilchrist

Notes on contributors

Major Warren Perry, MBE, ED, MA(Melb), BEc(Syd), FRHSV, RL was formerly Federal President of the Military Historical Society of Australia and editor of the *Victorian Historical Journal*. He is a regular contributor to historical journals including *Sabretache*.

Max Chamberlain, MA, BCom(Melb), FASA is 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 a number of historical papers.

Paul Rosenzweig recently completed a graduate Diploma in Education, having already been awarded an honours degree in Zoology. He is now teaching science at Casuarina (Northern Territory) High School and is a sergeant (ARES) in the North West Mobile Force (Norforce).

George 'Hank' Vazenny is a long-time member of the Society. During his army service, he worked for some years in Central Army Records Office and has been a regular contributor to *Sabretache*.

MEMBERS

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for 1984-85?**

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contact your Branch
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as soon as possible.

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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	Jul.-Sept. edition mailed last week of Sept.
Apr.-Jun. edition mailed last week of June	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 July for July-September edition
1 April for April-June 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:
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THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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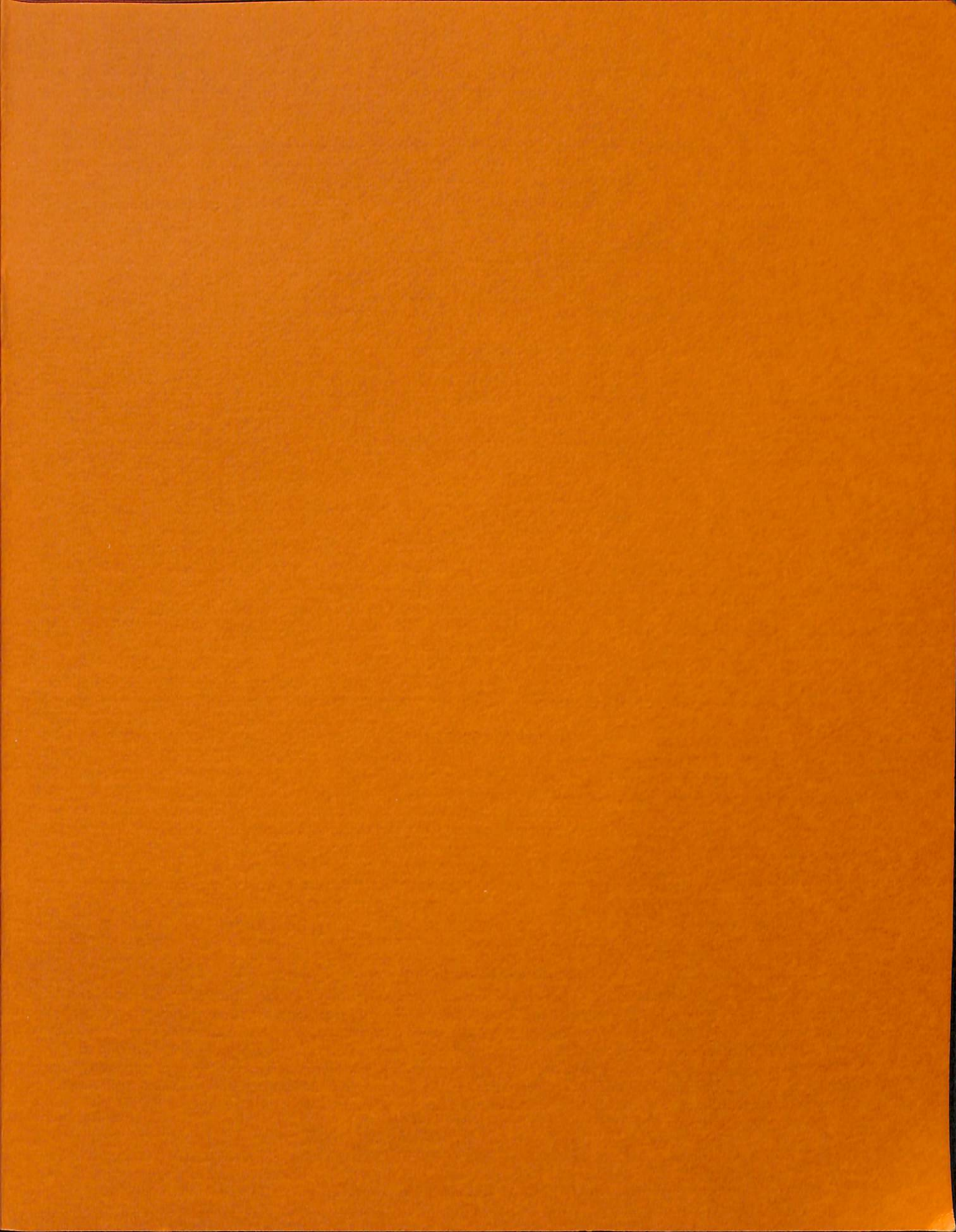
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