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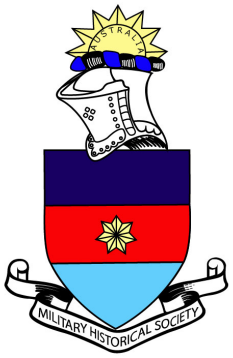
Sabretache



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Journal and Proceedings of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

SABRETACHE

Vol XXVI January/March 1985 Number 1

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH 0587

SABRETACHE

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

JANUARY-MARCH 1985
VOLUME XXVI-NUMBER 1

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

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

SABRETACHE

Editorial note As editor, I spend quite some time asking people for contributions to *Sabretache*. I find, however, that former service personnel, for instance, are often reluctant to commit their experiences to paper; they may fear an accusation of 'line shooting' or perhaps consider their experiences as not significant or of any real interest. One can understand these attitudes, but in general I think they are wrong; they all have a story to tell.

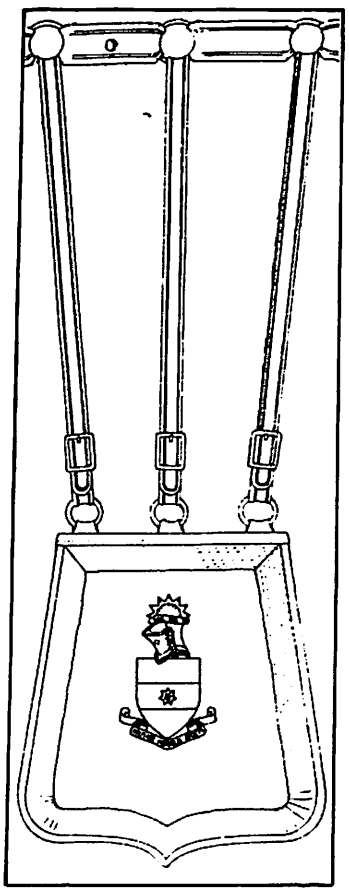
Nor should budding military historians who lack actual military experience feel over-modest about what they might contribute. As Professor Sydney Wise remarked at the recent AWM History Conference, 'military experience is of great value to a historian, but it is not essential and there are other ways of acquiring the requisite knowledge without being shot at'. He called for an understanding of military 'ABCs'—of the nature of military doctrine and organisation, of the conduct of operations and of the significance of leadership, communications, terrain, etc.

This is excellent advice; such knowledge can and should be acquired as a basis on which research into a topic or event can be built into authoritative and credible military historical writing.

The production of good history is, I feel, within the compass of us all and I hope that potential contributors may take encouragement from this note and keep *Sabretache's* need for contributions in mind as they write.

Alan Fraser

'G for George' A former radio operator of No 460 Squadron, RAAF, Mr Maurie O'Keefe, presented the Australian War Memorial with a radio transmitter and receiver of the original wartime type for fitting to the Memorial's Avro Lancaster 'G for George', the interior of which is under restoration. This important contribution represents two years of effort by Mr O'Keefe with the co-operation and assistance of a number of members of the Wireless Institute of Australia and others in seeking out the equipment and restoring its circuitry to the manufacturer's (Marconi) specifications.



The Memorial also has a requirement for radio equipment for its Mosquito (which Mr O'Keefe intends to take in hand) and for its B25 aircraft. A list of the items needed for the B25 is published in the November 1984 issue of *Amateur Radio*, the Wireless Institute's journal, from which this report was compiled.

Names wanted The Australian War Memorial is planning to honour with a commemorative book Australians who died while serving with units other than Australian forces.

The book will include Australians who served with forces of other Commonwealth countries or other allied forces, in the Merchant Marine, or as members of philanthropic bodies including the Australian Red Cross, the Australian Comforts Fund and the YMCA. War correspondents, photographers and artists will also be recognised in the book.

Director of the Memorial, Air Vice-Marshal J.H. Flemming, said production of the book had been hindered because available official records were inaccurate and incomplete and he has appealed for names and information to complete the book.

Information should be forwarded to the Director, Australian War Memorial, PO Box 345, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

Gordon of Khartoum 1833–85 The death of General Gordon at the storming of Khartoum by the Mahdi's forces on 26 January 1885 was one of the most emotional moments in the history of the British Empire; there was an outburst of national grief and the story passed into legend. Gordon was a devout and philanthropic yet unorthodox Christian, a serving officer in the Royal Engineers seconded by the British to assist friendly governments in Asia and Africa and an outspoken critic of the Egyptian authorities in the Sudan. He was nonetheless sent by Britain to save the perilous situation in Khartoum. Although a complex figure General Charles George Gordon has become the archetype of the Imperial hero.

The National Portrait Gallery in London is holding an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of Gordon's death. It will reflect all facets of his character. Over 50 items will be on display, notably the Mandarin dress presented to Gordon by the Dowager Empress of China and his portrait in the costume by Val Princep, both lent by the Royal Engineers, as well as paintings, drawings, sculpture, personal items and commemorative souvenirs, some lent by the Gordon Boys' School, Woking. Among these, G.W. Joy's The Death of Gordon (Leeds City Art Gallery) will form the impressive centrepiece, immediately recognisable as the popular image of Gordon and of the way in which he died, and the inspiration for the scenes in the epic film starring Charlton Heston. This exhibition is a timely reappraisal of the traditional concept of heroism and will be of interest to Australians because it was Gordon's death which prompted the despatch of the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan, the centenary of which the Society commemorated earlier this month.

Captain William Mair's Journal

Extract from a journal kept by William Mair, Captain in Her Majesty's 99th Regiment of Foot. Probably about 1885 he decided to destroy old diaries and papers but before doing so he was persuaded by his youngest daughter Helen to allow her to write, at his dictation, supplemented by entries from the diaries, a brief account of his career in the Imperial Army, the Volunteers and the Civil Service.

Introduction

THIS memoir by Captain William Mair appeared in the October 1968 issue of *Sabretache*. The typescript of the memoir, which had originally appeared with the permission of Mair's great-great-grandson, Mr W. W. Edgar, was apparently bequeathed to successive editors of the journal. In 1984 the Sabretache editorial sub-committee considered the article for publication, unaware of the fact that it had previously appeared, only to learn quite late in preparing the issue from a member of long-standing (Clem Sargent) that it would thereby be repeated. The sub-committee decided, however, that Mair's memoir should be reprinted. It is one of the relatively few autobiographical accounts written by British officers who served in Australia and deals with the career of an officer who was not only a member of the British regiment serving longest in Australia (the 99th) but who also went on to a distinguished career within the colonial military and civil services. Moreover, in its original published form the memoir was available only to members of the society at that time and was reproduced in a necessarily cruder way than the society can now afford. Indeed, back copies of Sabretache are now something of collectors' items, so to make this interesting account accessible to a wider readership which displays a renewed interest in Australia's colonial military history, *Sabretache* is pleased, once again with the permission of the author's great-great-grandson, to reprint 'Captain William Mair's journal'.

The Journal

Captain William Mair, VD, was a son of [illegible] Mair, an officer who served in the Britis[illegible] for forty six years, being with [illegible] Bla[illegible] (42nd Highlanders) from 1793 until th[illegible] 1814, including the Egyptian campaign the whole of the Peninsular War und[illegible] of Wellington.

Born at Glasgow, Scotland on 31 August 1806, his journal tells us that 'in 1814, when seven years of age, I went by sea to Inverness by way of Edinburgh to meet my father . . . who had returned with the second battalion of his regiment... a short time previously'. I went to school in Inverness for a few months under a clergyman who treated his pupils very severely. They nearly all spoke Gaelic and I was obliged in self-defence to adopt the same language.

On the reduction of the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Highlanders my father, and other officers placed on half-pay, returned with his family to Glasgow, travelling with two other officers of the regiment overland by Blair Athol, Perth and Stirling where we visited in those towns the French prisoners retained there since the peninsular war and purchased articles of bone, ivory, etc. made by them.

In 1815 I distinctly remember the rejoicings and illuminations for the victory gained by the English at the battle of Waterloo. From that date until 1824 I remained in Glasgow and was a pupil of Mr Dovie at the opening of the new grammar school in 1821.

In 1824 my father, having joined a Veteran battalion, proceeded with his family to the north of Ireland and was stationed for some time at Dungiven in the County of Londonderry in command of a detachment of his regiment to aid in suppressing illicit distillation. Here my principal occupation was coursing, shooting and fishing. We subsequently removed to the City of Londonderry where I attended school until 1830. Early in this year, whilst waiting a commission in the army for which I had been trained since 1825, I was promised an appointment in the island of St Lucia, West Indies, by the late General Stewart of Garth, then governor of the Islands, and in May of that year embarked at Liverpool for St Lucia.

On my arrival at Castries I found to my great disappointment that the General had died a few days previously. I remained in the island for a few weeks as a guest of the Commissariat-General and then, hearing that the late General Stewart had a brother in Trinidad, I decided to proceed there and visit him. I sailed for Trinidad in a French chassmarre and on my arrival at Port of Spain went to Mr Stewart's agents in the city from whom I learnt that he had died on his estate at Napperima two days previously. I need scarcely say that I felt utterly disgusted with the West Indies and determined to take an early opportunity of returning to England. Before doing so, however, I thought it advisable to go back to St Lucia where, on my arrival, I was offered an appointment by the acting Governor as Marshal of the Vice-Admiralty Court, which I accepted and held for a short time.

Whilst thus employed I was attacked by colonial fever from which I became so debilitated that the medical officer who attended me advised my immediate return to England. On the voyage home we experienced very stormy weather, ran short of fuel and provisions, had to break up the hen coops for firewood and for two or three days before reaching the west coast of Ireland the only other passenger and myself were reduced to living upon a ham bone. I arrived in Scotland sometime in October and learnt from an aunt with whom I stayed that my mother had died about a week before I arrived.

On 26 November 1830 the influence of Sir George Murray, then Master General of the Ordnance Department procured my gazettal to an Ensigncy in Her Majesty's 99th Regiment of Foot and I was ordered to join at Clare in Ireland. My health, however, not being sufficiently re-established, Sir George obtained for me from the Horse Guards six months leave of absence, the principal part of which I spent on the west coast of Scotland in the island of Arran, etc.

In June 1831 I joined the depot of my regiment, then quartered at Nans in Ireland and commanded by Major Philip Mair. After having completed my drill, an order was issued for a draft of officers to proceed from the depot to join the headquarters of the regiment at Mauritius. I was given by Major Mair the option of going on foreign service and accepted it. The draft consisted of Lieutenant O'Leary and Ensigns O'Connell, Anderson and myself with our soldier servants.

We left Nans in October 1831 and embarked at Portsmouth on board the Royal George, an old East Indiaman. On the voyage out, when beyond the Cape de Verde Islands, we fell in with a piratical schooner which kept following the ship for two days, evidently waiting an opportunity to attack her but doubtful of her character as she was a very large ship and carried guns. At last we adopted the expedient of making our soldier-servants dress in their uniform and show themselves on deck, when the pirates, supposing it was a troopship, at once sheered off and we saw nothing more of her.

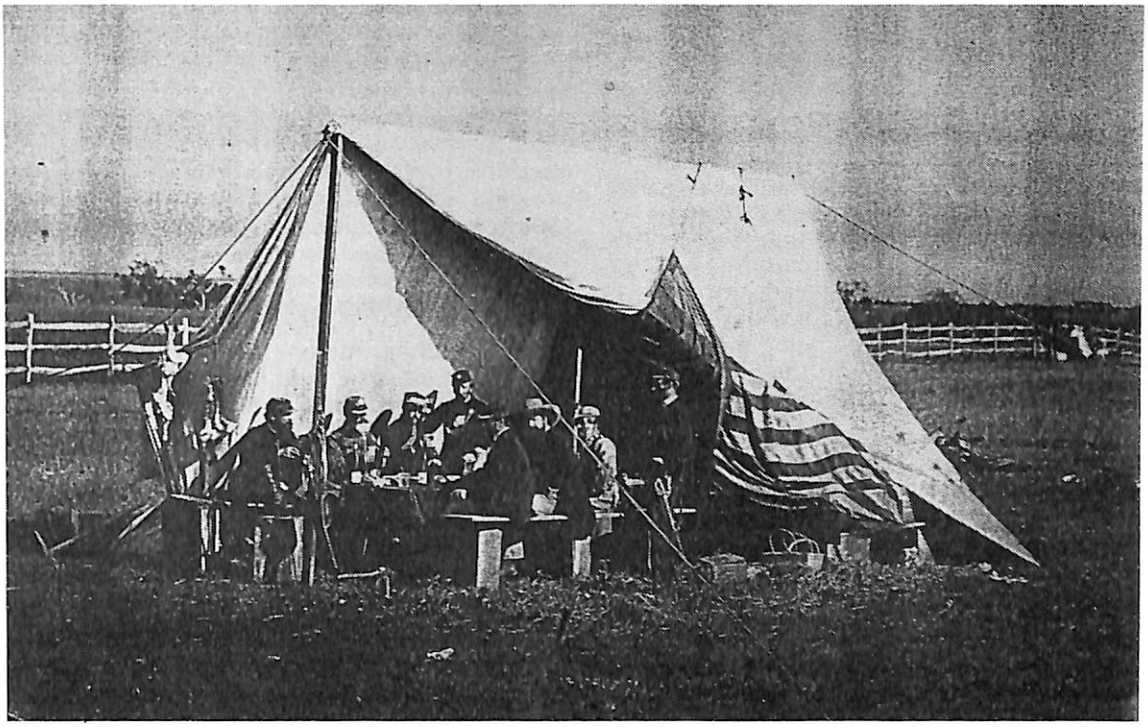
I landed at Port Louis in January 1832 and served in the island until 1836 having been stationed at various outposts during that period, including Powder Mills and Cannoneer Point.

Whilst in Port Louis in 1836 a serious disturbance occurred in the emancipation of the slaves. After the arrival of Mr Jeremie, the Attorney-General, when he was being sworn in at the Supreme Court a strong guard was told off for duty owing to riotous proceedings of the French inhabitants. The Captain in command took one half of the guard into the Courthouse leaving the other half under my command at the outside entrance. My men were drawn up under a verandah facing the street; a very large and excited crowd had assembled and were with difficulty prevented from forcing an entry into the Courthouse. They pelted the guard with stones and were very violent in their conduct and language. I succeeded in keeping the peace although I was obliged more than once to make a pretence of charging them with the bayonet.

I had no idea that anything I had done on this occasion had merited the approval of the authorities until the following day, when my Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone delivered to me a message from the Governor-General, Sir Charles Colville, thanking me for my conduct on the occasion and this afterwards appeared in general orders, followed by an invitation from Sir Charles to spend a week at Reduit...

When the ascent of Peterbolt (a lofty mountain overlooking Port Louis) was made by Messrs Lloyd, Philpott, Taylor and another, it was watched by the inhabitants and officers of the garrison — 99th, 89th and 87th. We were seated in the verandah of the barracks facing the mountain most part of the day and saw the whole proceeding with our glasses, as well as the descent on the following day, which was quite as perilous as the ascent. One of the party, Lieutenant Philpott, was a sleepwalker and whilst they slept in the neck of Peterbolt, had to be strapped to another officer lest he should walk over the precipice during the night. The French inhabitants were greatly exercised in their minds by this undertaking as none of them had succeeded in getting up the mountain, and their astonishment was great when they saw the Union Jack hoisted on top of it by a party of British officers.

When at Mahebourg...a French ship was wrecked and we made up a party of four to board and examine her. It was rather difficult to get on



Sunbury (Vic) Encampment 1866—Colonel Mair second from left.

board as the vessel rolled against a reef with every sea and her large spars were lying alongside. However, we managed it and visited the cabin where we found a lot of playing cards strewn on the floor showing evidently that the vessel had gone on shore through carelessness whilst the people were playing cards. She was laden with very costly merchandise consisting of silks, satins, jewellery, wine, etc. and a great deal of plunder had apparently taken place. After the crew had made their escape to Isle Maryanne (?) close by, for weeks afterwards the negresses of the place were to be seen parading about with silk parasols, etc. The French inhabitants armed themselves and established military posts in several parts of Port Louis, showing such determined opposition to Mr Jeremie's remaining in the colony that the Governor, fearing a collision with the troops, allowed Mr Jeremie to leave the island and proceed to England. Shortly after, however, he returned accompanied by the 9th Regiment of Foot and Sir Charles Colville was recalled from his command and replaced by Sir William Nicolay.

In October 1836, I received my promotion to Lieutenancy and left Mauritius for England. The vessel in which I sailed was a small merchant ship deeply laden with sugar. When off Cape St Mary, the west point of the island of Madagascar, we encountered a terrific storm carrying away our jib-boom, royal masts, etc. and narrowly escaped foundering. On arrival at the Cape of Good Hope I learned that a ship which had preceded us from Mauritius with invalid officers and soldiers had been wrecked off Cape Agulhus and every soul lost, amongst others Lieutenant Walker of my regiment and his wife. I identified several articles of his that were recovered from the wreck.

After leaving Cape Town the ship, having been so strained in the previous storm, sprang a leak and we had to put in to St Helena to have it stopped. We arrived off Deal about Christmas of the same year, where I landed in an open boat with great difficulty as it was blowing a hurricane at the time and two or three wrecks were visible on the Goodwin Sands.

On reaching London I obtained leave of absence until the return of the headquarters of the regiment which was then under orders for England. I spent my leave principally in Ireland and joined the depot under Major Mair at Fermoy in November 1837.

The regiment shortly afterwards arrived from Mauritius. After a short time it marched to Kilkenny, when I was stationed on detachment at Callan for several months. The Church of England clergyman, Mr Stephenson, was an old military officer, having served in the Scots Greys as a Captain at the battle of Waterloo, and was very fond of relating to his guests after dinner a number of military anecdotes. He was very hospitable and usually entertained frequently the

officers stationed at Callan and any military officers passing through the village. From Callan I went to headquarters at Kilkenny and during part of the time that I was stationed there acted as adjutant under Sir Gaspard Le Marchant.

Some time before leaving Fermoy I was on detachment with Captain Maxwell and Lieutenant Jauncay at Mitchelstown where we received some attention from Lord Kingsborough whose castle was in the immediate neighbourhood. From Kilkenny the regiment relieved the 46th at Athlone, where we remained for about two years, boating, fishing and hunting being the principal amusements. The scenery on the Shannon and especially near Lord Castlemaine's residence being very fine.

In 1839 the regiment was ordered to Dublin and whilst there it was called out for the election of Daniel O'Connell at which serious rioting occurred and subsequently when Mr O'Connell held a large political meeting at Belfast a wing of the regiment under Sir Gaspard Le Marchant was ordered there and proceeded by sea in the month of December. I accompanied it and when we anchored in Belfast Lough I was ordered by the commanding officer to take over the barracks for the men. I landed in an open boat and we had to cut our way through the ice to reach the town. On the night before the meeting we were stationed in the market-place along with a troop of cavalry. It was desperately cold and we passed the time smoking and talking. Owing to the preparations for keeping the peace, O'Connell's address the next day, immediately opposite where the troops were placed, passed off quietly. After a few days we were ordered to return to Dublin, marching overland through Armagh, Dundalk, Drogheda and Balbriggan. The march was a very severe one, the whole country being covered with snow; but I travelled very comfortably having the use of a private outside jaunting car belonging to my Captain Alston.

Before leaving Athlone I was stationed on detachment for some months at Maryborough in Queen's County under Captain Currin, a very sporting character with whom I visited the Curragh several times. Whilst in Dublin Lieutenant Le Winton and myself went on a walking tour through the County of Wicklow to the Vale of Avoca, which we enjoyed very much.

In this year I had leave to England and spent a few weeks in London with an uncle. I also had leave a second time, which I spent in Lancashire where I was present at the Chartist riots and on one occasion saw the mob burn down the Court House at Bolton.

During my tour of duty in Dublin, Lord Normanby was Lord Lieutenant and the time was principally passed in mounting guard at the Castle

Commissioner's tent and officers' quarters, Forest Creek, Victoria, December 1851. As Commissioner in Charge of Gold Fields, Mair occupied the tent on the left. (From ***The Gold Diggings of Victoria,*** *Melbourne, 1852)*

and Bank of Ireland, varied by occasional visits to hounds and sham fights in Phoenix Park under General Sir Edward Blakeney. Prince George of Cambridge, the present Commander-in-Chief, was then attached to the 12th Lancers which were stationed in the Royal Barracks with the 99th Regiment. The 98th under the late Lord Clyde, then Colonel Colin Campbell, was also stationed in the same square with us. Prince George's barrack room arrangements were of the simplest kind, a small iron cot with a leather bolster and the usual table, two chairs, etc. He was in the habit of riding out to Phoenix Park in the early morning and looking at our drill.

In 1841 the regiment was ordered to Chatham and from Liverpool I went by rail to Manchester, travelling on the first railway line, then just opened, in England. I had been but a few weeks in Chatham when a draft was ordered to escort prisoners to New South Wales and as one of the senior Lieutenants, it came to my turn for this duty and with a guard of one sergeant and twenty-nine rank and file I embarked at Deptford on 13 October 1841 on board the ship *Richard Webb* (486 tons) commanded by Thomas McLaughlin. We sailed on the 15th and from that date until 1 November were knocking about in the Channel having nearly the whole of the time constant gales and head winds off the coast of Cornwall and Land's End. We anchored in Kingston Harbour, Dublin, on 1 November and from the 5th until 11th embarked 204 male convicts and sailed for Hobart Town, Tasmania on 15 November.

During the passage four convicts died and were buried at sea. On 4 January 1842, an intended meeting amongst the prisoners, called with the object of seizing the ship and putting the officers and guard to death, was overheard by Private Fitzgerald when on sentry in the main hatch and reported to me, upon which I put convicts Cuddy and McCabe in irons. We anchored in Hobart Town harbour on 4 March 1842 and landed prisoners on 9th, two days previously being occupied in registering them. I had the irons taken off the two mutineers and sent them on shore with the other prisoners, not wishing to be detained in Hobart during their trial. We sailed for Sydney on 15 March with detachments of the 28th and 96th Regiments, arrived on 22nd, disembarked and went into barracks.

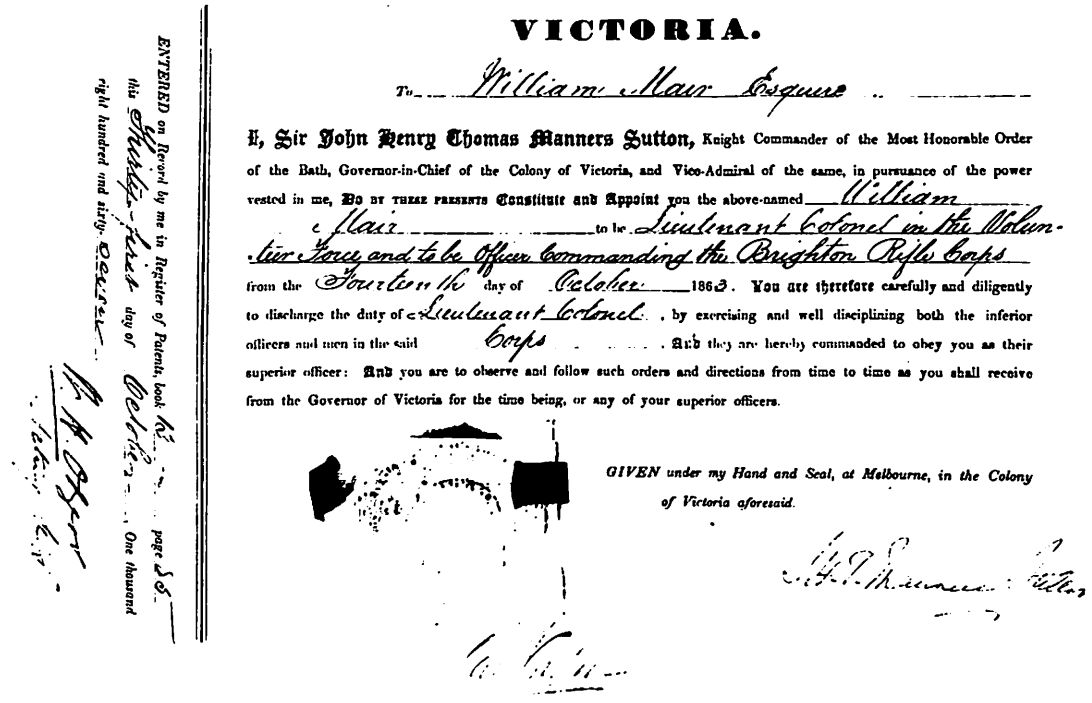
Shortly after my arrival I forwarded to Sir Gaspard Le Marchant a report of the voyage and some observations on the conduct and discipline of the military at that time in Sydney. It came under my notice, and I learnt afterward, that he was so disgusted with the prospect of service in Australia that he effected an exchange with Colonel Despard then recruiting in Cork. By degrees the regiment arrived in Sydney, detachments having brought out prisoners to Tasmania. At this time, and for about two years after, my work was very heavy having in addition to my own duty that of pay-master to the regiment as well as the mounted police duties as Adjutant and Paymaster.

One of the most serious episodes of my military life was a mutiny which occurred in my regiment which was quartered in Sydney. On 15 November 1845 I was in the Barrack Square superintending the drill of mounted police recruits under the Sergeant Major (Feeny), an old Life Guards man, when I noticed some unusual excitement at the gateway of a back square where corporal punishment was being inflicted on a 99th soldier. I went to see what it was, when I found the regiment under Bt Lieutenant Colonel Jackson, standing in a hollow square with fixed bayonets, the Colonel and Adjutant in the centre apparently quite nonplussed. The punishment cuts were over, but when the order to unfix bayonets was given, not a man moved—a file on the right flank was then ordered to unfix without effect. The two prisoners then marched to the Guardroom and Colonel Jackson leaving the square went to the Orderly Room, and sent off a message by one of mounted men to the General, Sir Maurice O'Connell. On O'Connell's arrival he ordered the two men in confinement to be brought and said he hoped the men would return to their duty, as we had no power to disobey the Order from home to discontinue the issue to troops under his command of liquor in kind and substitute for it ordinary allowance. The men were eventually marched off to their private parades but still continued refractory, one Company, No 2, throwing their loaves of bread into the Barrack Square at breakfast hour refusing to go on guard when ordered.

The General a second time came to Barracks and visiting a barrack room asked the men for guards individually, if they would go on duty; they all refused and said they wanted their grog. He said he could not give it to them and that if they did not at once return to duty he would send for the prisoners from Hyde Park Barracks and disarm the Regiment. Upon that, No 2 Company rushed to their arms and fell in outside saying they would not let themselves be disarmed.

On the following day the General, finding that the men were beyond control, ordered their grog to be issued and some few days afterwards the original order discontinuing the issue of grog was again published in an amended form which appeared to satisfy the men and they received from that date a money allowance in lieu of liquor. Not a man was punished for his mutinous conduct and the regiment took up its duty as previously.

The headquarters of the regiment having moved to Parramatta, I had to visit that place generally



VICTORIA.

To William Mair Esquire

I, Sir John Henry Thomas Manners Sutton, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria, and Vice-Admiral of the same, in pursuance of the power vested in me, Do by these presents Constitute and Appoint you the above-named William Mair to be Lieutenant Colonel in the Volunteer Force and to be Officer Commanding the Brighton Rifle Corps from the Fourteenth day of October 1863. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Lieutenant Colonel by exercising and well disciplining both the inferior officers and men in the said Corps And they are hereby commanded to obey you as their superior officer: And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from the Governor of Victoria for the time being, or any of your superior officers.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria aforesaid.

ENTERED on Record by me in Register of Patents, book No. page 56 this fifteenth day of October One thousand right hundred and sixty-three.

William Mair's appointment as OC of the Brighton Rifle Corps 1863.

Other documents of this nature held by Mr Edgar include instruments of appointment of William Mair as Marshal in the Admiralty and Instance Court in the Island of St Lucia, dated 25 June 1830; as Lieutentant in the First West Indies Regiment, 22 April 1836; as Captain commanding the Brighton Company of the Victoria Volunteer Rifle Corps, 25 October 1860 and as Lieutenant Colonel in the Victorian Military Forces (addressed to William Mair Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel in the late Volunteer Force), 20 April 1866.

twice a week, the duties of Quartermaster as well as Paymaster devolving upon me then for some time. In the absence in England of those officers I performed my journeys in a light gig, drawn by a very powerful and handsome Arab entire horse, called 'Silvertail', doing the fifteen miles generally in an hour and ten or fifteen minutes.

When I arrived in Sydney, the Adjutancy of the Mounted Police was held by Lieutenant Fitzroy, 51st Regiment, son-in-law of General Sir Maurice O'Connell, until February 1843, when through the influence of the late Colonel Shadforth in whose Regiment, the 57th, Sir Gaspard Le Marchant had served as a Captain, I succeeded to the appointment. The Corps was under command of Major Hunn of the 86th Regiment, an easy-going and rather eccentric old man who was fond of a little show and a great deal of gold lace.

I found, therefore, that my duties were very light and easily performed and whenever I got tired of Sydney I had only to say so to the Major that I was going off to visit the outstations. I would take a mounted orderly with me and remain up country as long as I felt disposed. My visits comprised Maitland and Jerry Plains and as far as New England on one side, Parramatta, Penrith and Bathurst, Liverpool, Berrima, Goulburn and Yass.

On 7 December 1843 I left Sydney by steamer and arrived in Melbourne on 11 December in order to visit the stations in the Port Phillip District. I waited upon Superintendent Mr Latrobe whom I found at his office, a miserable wooden building on the top of Batman's Hill. He was dressed in a blue frockcoat with silver buttons like a police officer and stood writing at a high desk. Everything inside the room was covered with dust. I told him I intended visiting all the police stations in the district. He was very civil but expressed a doubt as to my being able to carry out my intentions. However, he gave me letters to some of the principal persons in the Western District and I started, accompanied by a mounted orderly, on the 15th for Portland via Geelong where I arrived on 22 December visiting Port Fairy and intermediate stations and returned to Melbourne on 30 December, having travelled 264 miles. The blacks were then numerous especially about Mount Rouse and at Colac and the Hopkins. The native grass was up to my horse's shoulder.

I left Melbourne on 4 January 1844 on the return journey overland to Sydney passing through

William Strutt
Sergeant of Melbourne Mounted Police *1856*
Mitchell Library, Sydney. DLPXX 9f18a

Albury, the Murrumbidgee crossing, Yass, Goulburn and Berrima, arriving at Sydney on 19 January. Distance travelled was 594 miles.

In October 1846 Mr La Trobe arrived in Sydney in order to see Governor Sir Charles Fitzroy on the subject of serious riots which had commenced in Melbourne on 12 July of that year between Orange and Ribbon factions and had continued without interruption until the date of Mr La Trobe's leaving; he reported his utter inability to keep the peace, even with the assistance of a military detachment of the 80th Regiment stationed in the town, and urged upon the Governor the necessity of additional assistance. He had a detachment in Port Philip of military mounted police of about 25 men but they were scattered all over the district and there was no commissioned officer in charge.

After Mr La Trobe's interview with the Governor, he dined with me at mess in barracks and during the evening asked me if I would care to take command of the Port Philip mounted force, remarking that as I knew the country well it would, under the circumstances, be a very desirable arrangement and that if I agreed to go I would require to start overland at once, taking with me en route all the mounted men on the line of road. I agreed to go, resigned my position as adjutant of the Sydney force to Lieutenant Cooper of the 58th Regiment, and started on 13 October for Goulburn travelling by Yass, Murrumbidgee and Albury to Melbourne, where I arrived on 27th, bringing with me all the available mounted force I could muster. I found the town in a very disturbed state, the opposing parties having had recourse to the use of firearms on several occasions.

As soon as I possibly could I brought my mounted party into town from Jolimont and stationed it in the stable yard of the old Melbourne Club, Collins Street, from whence on disturbances arising outside I was enabled to appear with it at once on the scene of rioting and to disperse the mob. In the course of four or five days, by pursuing this system, order was at length restored to the city, very much to the satisfaction of the Superintendent who stated that previous to my arrival, for three months, all attempts on the part of the infantry detachment to check rioting had been futile, the soldiers being simply drawn up on the footway in Collins Street when riots occurred and unable to pursue the offenders.

From this period I continued to hold the appointment of Commandant of Mounted Police visiting the whole of the country districts from Albury to Portland every three months until the end of 1849 when the force was recalled to Sydney and there disbanded.

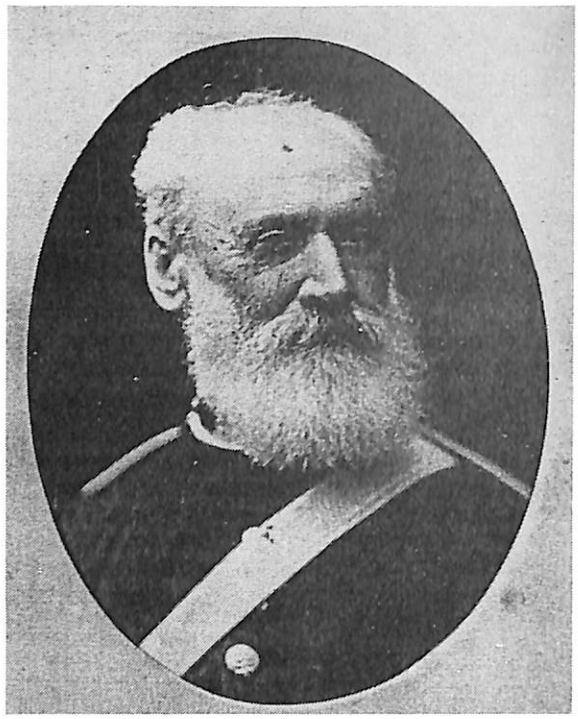
On my arrival in 1846 I was appointed a Magistrate of the City and in December 1849 was appointed by Sir Charles Fitzroy a commissioner of disputed boundaries for Gippsland. I left Melbourne for Sale about the end of December taking with me an old mounted policeman as

servant and groom. Mr William Dana, then an officer of native police, also accompanied me with a party of his men. The road at that time to Gippsland was something frightful, passing through scrub; a badly defined track and crossing rivers without bridges. When Mr Dana left the open country and entered the scrub, he began to undress, first taking off his epaulettes, sword, spurs, etc. He handed them to his black troopers. On reaching Sale I had a double Indian marquee pitched close to the creek; there I remained during my stay of some months. My duty was a very unpleasant one as I had to deal with several men who had taken up large tracts of country far beyond their requirements and upon which they had put cattle and huts in different portions of it so as to make good their claim to possession of land. The consequence was that a lot of evidence of a very conflicting kind had to be taken for and against the claimants.

Under such circumstances although repeatedly invited to the houses of these individuals I decided not to avail myself of their invitations until I had completed the whole of my duties lest any suspicion of favouring one or another should have been created. Before leaving the district and when I had quite finished my work, I visited the principal parts of it — Lake Wellington, Lake Tyers, Bairnsdale and the Mitchell River. On my return to Melbourne and submitting my report to the Superintendent in 1850 I found that of the eight commissioners appointed at the same time with myself, I was the first who had furnished the required information and was complimented by Mr La Trobe upon the expedition with which the work had been completed as well as its accuracy.

Being still on half pay as an unattached Captain in HM Service, I was appointed by Mr Superintendent La Trobe on 16 January 1851 as Stipendiary Magistrate for the Western District with instructions to form police Benches at Belfast, Warrnambool and Horsham and to do duty at each of these places which I continued to do until September of that year when the first gold discovery was made at Ballarat. I was then, on 1 October 1851, appointed Police Magistrate for Buninyong and Ballarat and subsequently Commissioner-in-Charge of the Gold Fields there, which position I continued to hold till 31 December 1851.

At this period, by an Order-in-Council, the Gold Licence fee was raised from thirty shillings to three pounds and such excitement was caused by this amongst the diggers that it was openly stated that the increase in the fee would be resisted. My own opinion at the time, however, was that if enforced it would have been collected and that a serious mistake was made by the Government in cancelling the order and thereby showing its



Lieutenant Colonel William Mair, J.P.

All illustrations for this article, except William Strutt's ***Sergeant of Melbourne Mounted Police,*** *courtesy of Mr W.W. Edgar.*

inability to enforce its regulations. There is no doubt that the Government felt itself in a position of extreme difficulty being at this time entirely destitute of any properly organised police force. Under the circumstances, I was requested by the Governor to undertake the enrolling, equipping and drilling of a mounted police force for escort and other duties at the gold fields, with instructions to make Carlsruhe, near Kyneton my headquarters.

I accepted the appointment as Commandant, gave up my position as Police Magistrate and Gold Commisssioner at Ballarat, formed a recruiting depot in Melbourne at Collins Street West and in a short time succeeded in enrolling a mounted Corps consisting of twelve Officers, eighteen Gentlemen cadets and two hundred and fifty troopers and during the year 1852 organised and carried out the gold escort duties between Sandhurst, Castlemaine and Melbourne, besides affording protection to the inhabitants of the gold fields. The duties were most arduous owing to the difficulty of retaining men in any employment during this time, even at the highest rate of wages. I was fortunate however in securing the services of very good officers and a superior lot of young men as cadets, many of whom were gentlemen and younger sons of good families in England, the Governor having at my suggestion authorised

their employment in this way. It was the first cadet corps which was raised in the Colony.

At the end of 1858 it was decided by the Government to amalgamate the several bodies of police and form them into one general police force of which the corps under my command with its officers and cadets formed the nucleus. The position of Paymaster and Commissioner at a salary of seven hundred pounds per annum was offered me by the Government in recognition of my previous services under it and which I accepted. My salary in 1854 was raised to eight hundred per annum with an allowance of four hundred for quarters.

The general police force was raised under an Act of Parliament which made provision for a liberal retiring allowance after thirty years' service and believing my position to be one of perfect security under it I sold out of the Army sacrificing future promotion. The Act was subsequently however repealed and in 1856 my salary was reduced to six hundred per annum and without any allowance for forage or quarters, although all the officers junior to me retained these privileges and my retiring pension after thirty years' service was thus reduced to three hundred and sixty per annum.

In October 1860 when there was a probability of a Russian attack on the Colony and the Volunteer Force was raised under the late Major General Pitt, I enrolled and commanded a rifle corps at Brighton and on 8 February 1868 was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the local forces. On 8 April 1867 I was promoted to the command of the St Kilda Military District and on 26 January 1875 to that of the Home or Melbourne District. On 26 January 1884 I joined the present Militia as Lieutenant Colonel on the unattached list.

I retired from the Victorian Militia on 1 January 1886 with the honorary rank of Colonel under the Act of Council. I had retired from the Imperial Service by sale of my commission as Captain in the 99th Regiment on 13 May 1855 after a military service of 25 years and left the civil service on 1 January 1875 after 30 years colonial service.

On the first introduction of local government in the Colony I organised the original Moorabbin Road Board in 1862 and held the office of Chairman for five years.

* * * * *

Colonel Mair retired to Nyora, Gippsland, where he died on 1 January 1904.

Anzac Day: seventy years on

THIS April sees the seventieth anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli. Dr Michael McKernan and Peter Stanley, authors of *Australians at War 1885-1972: photographs from the collection of the Australian War Memorial,* are creating a book which will record the ways in which Australians celebrate Anzac Day 1985.

The book, entitled *Anzac Day: seventy years on* will contain up to 200 black and white photographs which will be contributed by amateur and professional photographers from all over Australia. They will record their impressions of dawn services, marches and reunions in cities, suburbs and towns on or around Anzac Day 1985.

Their participation in producing varied interpretations of how Anzac Day is celebrated seventy years after the landing on Gallipoli will make a notable contribution to the understanding of an important part of Australia's national identity as well as an attractive and interesting photographic book.

Photographs will be selected for inclusion in *Anzac Day: seventy years on* on the basis of their quality as images of Australians' responses to Anzac Day 1985. They should reflect the varying attitudes towards Anzac Day and what it represents; from the solemnity of services and ceremonies and the excitment of marches to the conviviality of reunions and even the attitudes of those who are unsympathetic or indifferent to the ways in which Anzac Day is customarily commemorated.

The book will attempt to obtain a wide geographical coverage, from metropolitan marches to services in small towns in every state of Australia, and possibly including groups of Australians overseas.

All contributions will be acknowledged. Photographs selected for publication will be credited appropriately.

Photographs cannot be returned irrespective of whether they are selected for inclusion but those not published will be donated to the Australian War Memorial to form an unique record for preservation as part of the national collection.

Photographic contributions to *Anzac Day: seventy years on* are welcome from any amateur or professional photographer. If you expect to be interested in participating in making this unique record of Australia on Anzac Day 1985 please contact:

Anzac Day: seventy years on
PO Box 42
FARRER ACT 2607

Peter Jensen

Coincidences of a 'Goldfish'

In 1984 Mr Peter Jensen of Pymble, NSW donated to the Australian War Memorial his 'Goldfish Club' badge, a memento of his service with No. 461 Squadron RAAF. The badge indicated that he was one of a select group of allied airmen who survived the ditching of their aircraft. The badge is now on display in Aeroplane Hall at the Memorial. In composing a caption for the badge as part of my work in the Memorial's Historical Research Section, I wrote to Mr Jensen in order to obtain further details of the incident for which he was invited to join the club. The ensuing correspondence reveals several coincidences which will be of interest to readers of ***Sabretache.*** *Mr Jensen has given his permission to publish the following extracts from his recollections.*

Peter Stanley

I was a member of the crew of Sunderland 'U' of 461 Squadron which sank U-boat U461 on 30 July 1943, relics of which are also on display in Aeroplane Hall.

On the way home after the action in which U461 was sunk, we sighted and attacked another U-boat but were damaged by cannon fire and were lucky to reach the Scillies. Our aircraft was so badly damaged that it had to go back to Shorts (the manufacturers) for a complete rebuild, and we were issued with 'E'.

On 16 September 1943 we were on patrol at about the same place that we had sunk U461 (about 100 miles west of Cape Finisterre) when we were attacked by six Ju88s. Combat lasted 40-45 minutes during which we 'damaged' one Ju88 (last seen heading for the drink streaming black smoke—but they wouldn't give us a 'kill'). Finally after losing three engines we ditched with miraculously only one crew member seriously wounded. We took to our one remaining dinghy (the other two had been holed), were located by a 'Leigh Light' Catalina during the night and next day were picked up by the same group of sloops that had picked up the survivors of U461.

After we had ditched we all climbed out on the wing of the Sunderland with all our gear and inflated the two forward dinghies on the wing. The remaining five Ju88s were circling, watching us, then the leader peeled off and bored in. I stood at the edge of the wing and watched—as soon as I saw gun flashes I was going to jump. But there were no gun flashes; he swooped over us, waved his wings then they were all gone.

Some months later I had finished my tour of operations and was acting squadron adjutant for a while. As such I could see various secret and semi-secret documents and one day in a publication called *Coastal Command Review* I came across a photo captioned 'Captured German photograph of the crew of a ditched Sunderland taking to their dinghies'—and it was us! We found out that the Ju88 had been shot down over Britain with the film still in the camera containing a shot of us in the drink. I had some prints made but unfortunately they are not very sharp as the picture in the magazine was only a half-tone print. I am sorry now that I didn't try to get an original print at the time. Anyway it is unique—there can't be too many air force bods with similar photos. You will note that the port inner engine had been on fire and the port wing was under water to the inner engine.

In 1979 I led a group of 'Sunderlanders' and their wives on a trip to the UK to visit our old bases. We also spent a week in Germany as guests of the *Luftwaffenring* (German Air Force Association). Whilst there I made enquiries as to whether there were any survivors of U461, but according to the German records the boat was lost with all hands—this was also confirmed at the U-Boat memorial at Keil which we visited. This, however, was puzzling as we had seen about 30 survivors in the water and had dropped them one of our dinghies. We only left the area when the sloops arrived on the scene. Also when we were picked up, the captain of the flotilla (Captain F. J. Walker, RN) told us that they had picked up survivors, including the submarine's captain (Korvetten Kapitan Wolf Stiebler) and had taken them to England. Captain Walker gave our skipper (Dudley Marrows) the life jacket worn by Stiebler—which is now in the possession of the Australian War Memorial.

Last year we made another trip to the UK to present a memorial cushion to St. Clement Danes Church, and afterwards a group of us went to Regensburg in Bavaria, this time as guests of our German counterparts—FaG 5, which flew Ju290s on long range Atlantic patrols. During discussions

their president, Georg Eckl, asked if I would like him to contact any survivors of U461 but I told him that it appeared that there were none—later we heard from Georg that Herr Stiebler had been located and recently received the following letter from him:

Translation

It would have been possible to write in English but as there are some difficult words (hard to translate) its easier for me to write in German. I take it for granted that you have some acquaintances to translate this letter.

From Mr Eckl I received your letter of 9th August, 1984. He had looked for my address and found it.

I was the commander of U461. On 3rd August, 1943* my U-Boat was sunk. Several depth charges hit the U-Boat and it broke in two halves and it sank with 63 of my crew. 11 men were later picked up by the English destroyer 'Woodpecker' and fairly treated. I went first to England in various interrogation camps within London, and then to the north of England in a huge camp and from the beginning of 1944 we were sent by ship to Canada. There I was in various camps and was released on 24th October, 1947 and was sent via England home to Germany.

The whole time I was separated from the rest of my crew. I have got no contact with them, and am unfortunately not able to report on them.

After the war the years were very difficult for me, as I was a seaman and a soldier and I couldn't use these skills any more. I was employed by the Americans, where I rolled petrol drums and was paid DM 1.23 per hour. I became supervisor at an American Service Station. The garage later belonged to a German petrol company, who took over from the Americans.

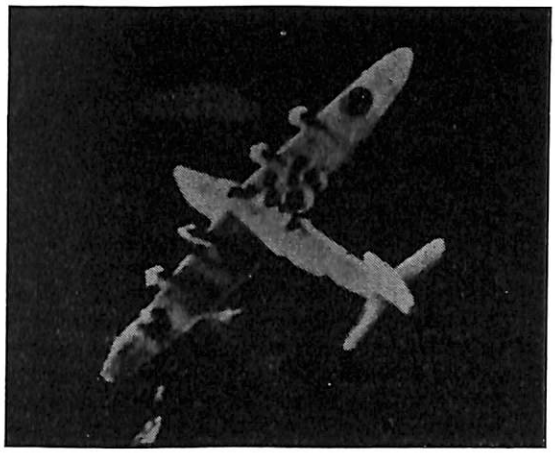
I improved my position in that company until I became Manager. At the age of 64 I was pensioned off, and am now living with my wife in Munich in an old age home.

That a life-jacket of mine is exhibited in Australia, I find amusing and original. It must have come from one of the three captains which I had picked up in December, 1942 from U128 (Heyse, commander of U-Boat) and taken to St. Nazaire. For them it must not have been a nice journey. I hope that they had been treated fairly during their captivity (or imprisonment).

From my captivity, I like to forget the bad things, and only say that it was all O.K. I belong to the 'Guild of Cape-Horners' as an old captain of the merchant navy with many years experience, and had my apprenticeship on the old sailing boats, which sailed around Cape Horn. We took part in the meeting in Adelaide in 1979 which we connected with a world trip on the Italian steamer 'Galileo'.

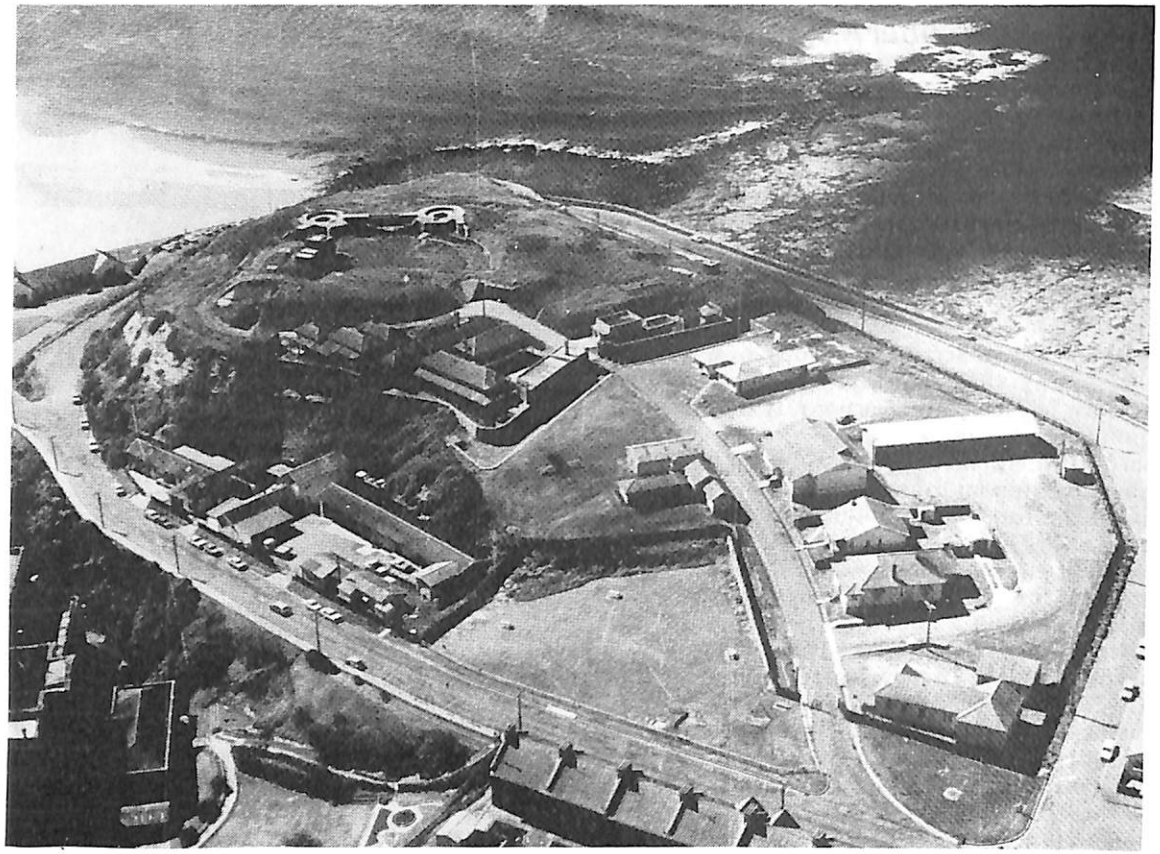
On this occasion we visited in Australia, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. We also called in to Tasmania and New Zealand. Now we are too old and the health of my wife doesn't allow any journeys or festivities.

Now I have mentioned all about myself, I would be interested from you what you had experienced. It is certainly a pity that we have not heard from each other before, especially as I was twice in Australia. I will keep in contact with Georg Eckl. He told me that you intend coming to Germany in 1986. It is doubtful on my part my health will allow me to promise a meeting. I enjoyed having the opportunity to find this connection to you. I would be very keen to hear about the captains which I had for a few days on my trip. It must have been an unexpected experience for them. Please give them my regards.



A captured German photograph of the crew of Sunderland 'E' of No. 461 Squadron, RAAF, taking to their dinghy after being shot down in a battle with six Ju88s over the Atlantic on 16 September 1943.

* This date does not coincide with Mr Jensen's recollections or the date given in the Official History.



Fort Scratchley in 1974. Some of the buildings on both sides of the road, middle right, have since been removed.

to any special agreements made by the Council and of which the Committee shall be notified.'

The Newcastle Maritime Museum Society (currently the Newcastle Regional Maritime Museum Society) was granted permission in 1977 to occupy some portions of the restored barrack-room/office complex but to date (February 1985) their activities have required expansion into the whole of this group of buildings and of the large garage in the outer fort area. This building had been the gun and vehicle shed in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

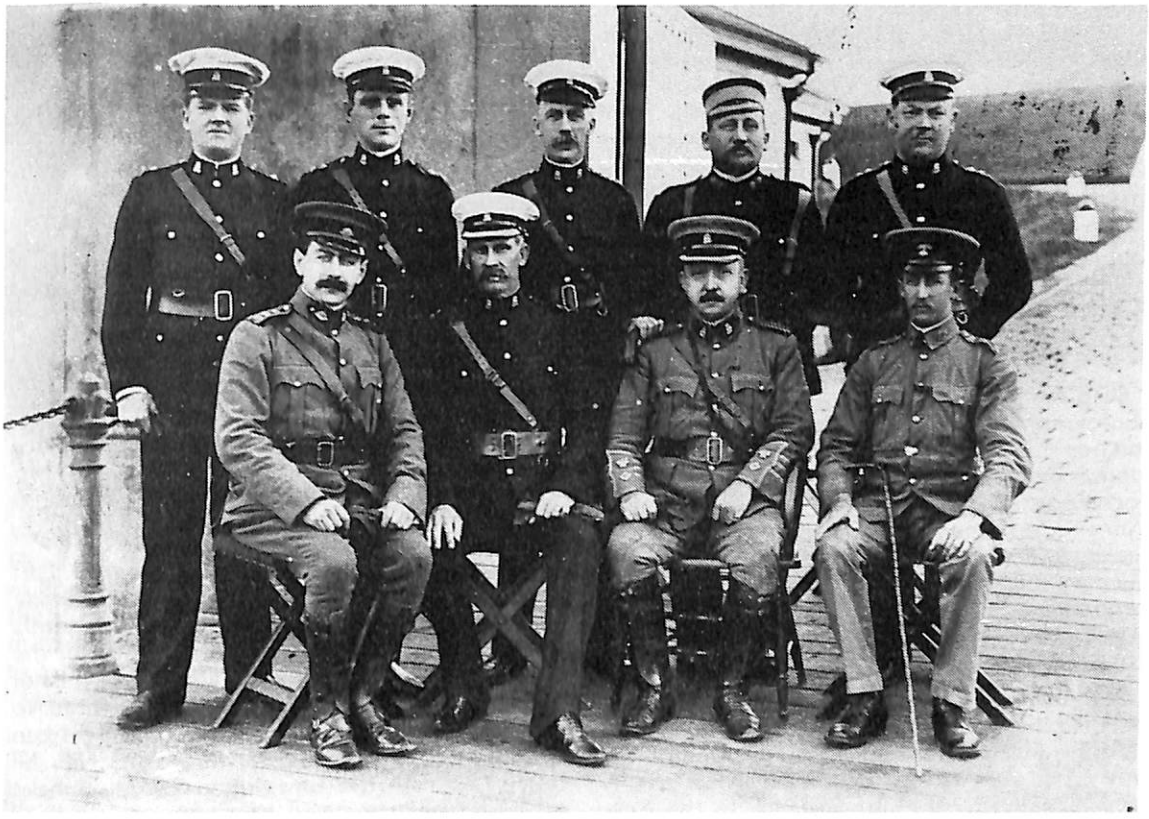
Of the funds made available for restoration work, the second instalment of $60,000 was allocated for work on the Commandant's Quarters which had been used during the 1939–45 war as the Officers' Mess for Scratchley Battery. This building is currently being used by the Fort Scratchley Military Museum Society as its main administrative and display area.

The Military Museum Society

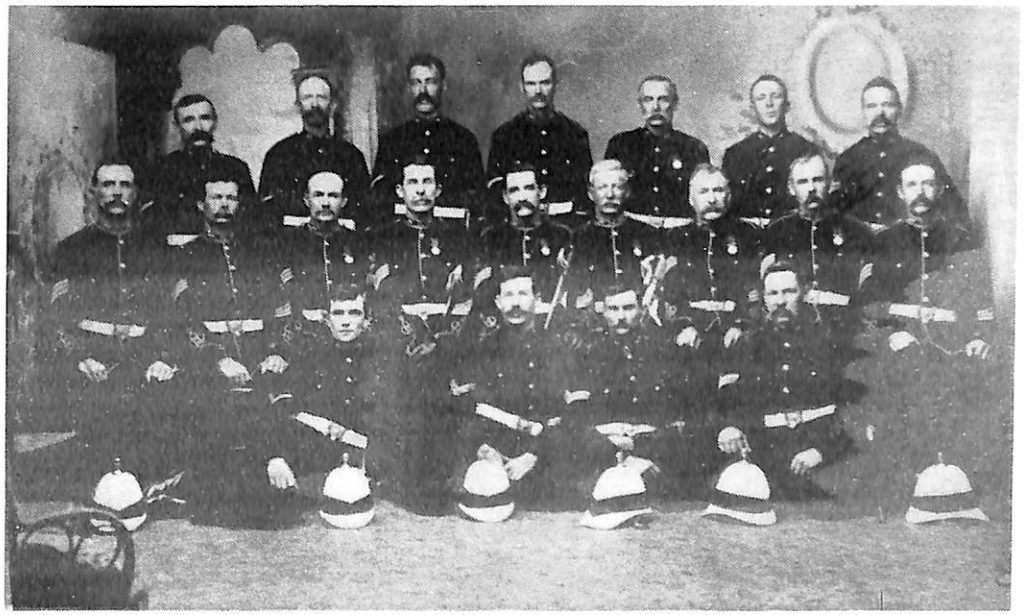
The first positive step towards the establishment of a military museum was a display of photographs, documents, plans and a few artefacts organized by Mr Bruce Dawbin, managing architect for the Department of Works and Housing, as a contribution to Heritage Week, 21 to 28 March, 1981. The public visited the display in reasonable numbers and as a result a Steering Committee was set up to establish a military museum and it first met on 11 May 1981.

The Steering Committee, in order to launch the Military Museum Society, convened a public meeting on 10 February 1982. This was attended by some fifty people who elected a small interim Committee to institute the Fort Scratchley Military Museum Society, to draw up a constitution and to set up the nucleus of what has become a very interesting museum.

Mr Ernest Boulton, who had been elected as president at the inaugural meeting, did a fine job during the few weeks following to ensure a very worthwhile official opening by Major General J. Whitelaw, AO, CBE, on 3 April 1982. This date was chosen as being the exact centenary of the completion of the Fort to Colonel Scratchley's original design. The Newcastle Morning Herald, on 4 April 1882, reported that 'Yesterday the last of the heavy guns in connection with the fortification armament on Allan's Hill was finally placed in position.' (Allan's Hill was one of the many early names for the site of the Fort.)



Group of officers thought to have been taken during an Easter camp in 1903. Names are unknown and the Museum Society would be grateful for any identifications.



Group of NCOs, No 3 Company, AGA, 1902. This company was the Newcastle militia unit in 1902. Identifications of personnel would be welcome.

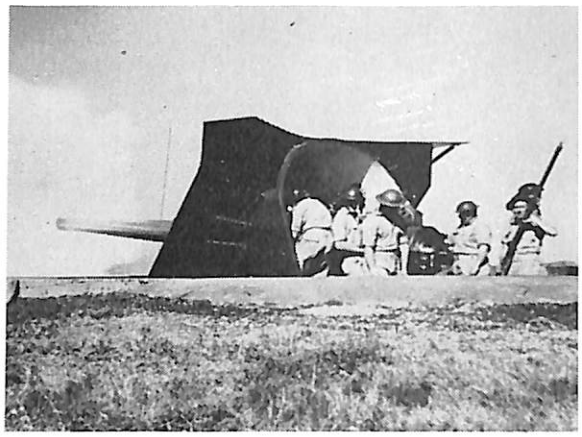
The Society, comprising interested persons, has continued to grow, and now numbers ninety financial members.

The Museum.

As indicated earlier in this article, the Military Museum consists of the original commandant's quarters, completed in 1886, the battery observation post and the main fort complex of gun emplacements, casemate, magazines, ammunition supply systems, store rooms and artillery store. The artillery store has been converted into a shop for the sale of souvenirs, sweets, drinks and other items.

Displays of artefacts, with a selection of photographs and documents, occupy one large and one small room in the quarters, while another room is devoted to a display of photos, uniforms, documents and artefacts connected with the women's services. Other rooms are used as a Society office and library and research centre. Changes of items on display are effected as frequently as a busy work-load on a small group of voluntary workers permits, usually about every 4 to 6 months.

Within the main Fort complex the major items are, of course, the two 6-in. breech-loading Mark VII guns which have the distinction of being the only coast guns in Australia fired at an enemy warship engaging the fort and city. In the early hours of 8 June 1942, Japanese submarine I 21 fired some 20-odd rounds at Newcastle, the BHP steelworks, the fort and the searchlights. Fort Scratchley fired four rounds in reply and while not claiming a hit, the shooting was sufficiently accurate to force the submarine to break off the action. It is worth recording that the breeches of the two Mark VII guns have been restored to working order after twenty years, having been welded prior to their transfer to Obelisk Hill. All concerned with the unwelding operation have expressed amazement at the comparatively small amount of corrosion to the working parts and the rifling of the respective bores.



Gun team of national servicemen at full-calibre practice in 1953. The projecting shield was the remnant of a rear-protection shield installed in 1942. It was removed in the late '50s/early '60s.

Major R.S. Mort, OC 13 Medium Coast Bty, RAA, Sergeant S.T. Newton (at telescope of DRF) and an unknown range-reader. Taken in 1953.

Another item of special interest is the barrel of one of the 6-in. Mark V 'disappearing' guns which had been mounted in the fort originally in 1892. It was removed in 1910 when the Mark VIIs were being installed and served until the mid-1960s for training coast gunners in repository or moving ordnance drill. After spending 16 years between 1968 and 1984 at the School of Artillery, North Head, Sydney, it was returned to Fort Scratchley on 13 July last for a much-needed clean-up and a new coat of paint. While currently mounted on wooden blocks, it is hoped one day to remount it in a replica of a disappearing mounting.

The Society has been advised by the RAA Historical Society in Sydney that it is intended in the near future to make available for placement in the casemate one of the two 1¾-pounder Nordenfeldt Q.F. guns at present outside the Sergeants' Mess at the School of Artillery, North Head. The two guns formed part of the armament of Fort Scratchley from 1898 when they replaced the original armament of 80-pounder rifled muzzle-loaders in the casemate. They were moved to Sydney in 1918.

Among the more interesting documents held in the library are Samuel Holt's first commission issued in February 1861, his certificate of promotion to captain in August 1869, two certificates of efficiency and his oath of allegiance. (Holt was 'elected' to be First Lieutenant of the Newcastle Volunteer Artillery Company by the members of the unit; he had convened the meeting by a public notice in the Newcastle Chronicle over his signature as 'Secretary'.) Holt's son, Hugh, was to become the sergeant major of the unit and several of *his* documents are also held.

The Museum also has a reasonably complete set of copies of early plans of the Fort, two of which, while not particularly interesting in themselves, bear the personally signed approval of Sir Wm Jervois and Colonel Peter Scratchley. The originals of these plans are currently held by the Victoria Barracks, Sydney, Museum.

The collection of 700–800 photographs includes originals taken last century and at many periods of this century, while audio-visual material includes 8mm colour movie of two of the final practice shoots of the 113 Coast Battery using 6-in. ammunition.

The Future.

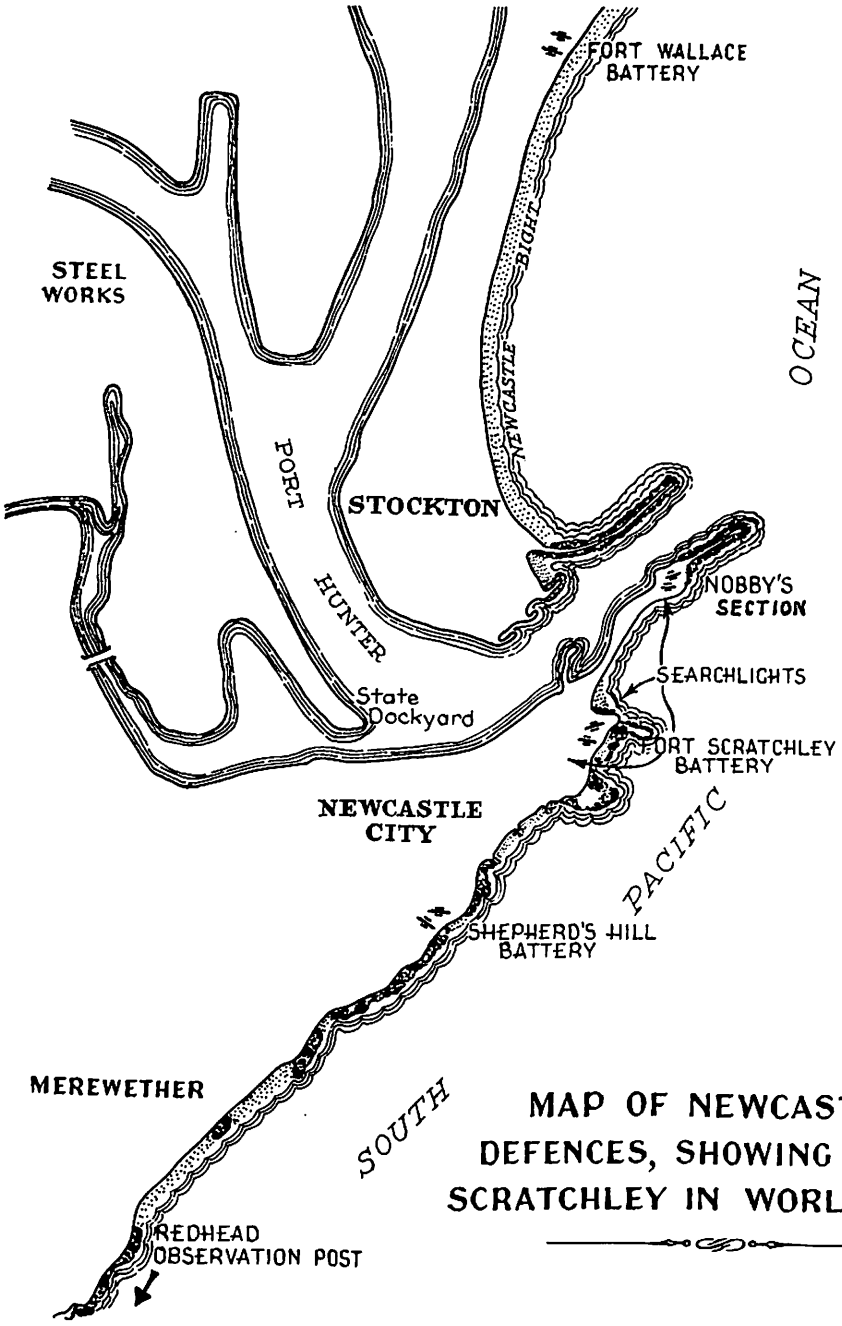
Considering the Museum is not yet three years old, is operating with a small but enthusiastic body of voluntary workers (some ten or a dozen) and to date has operated without any financial assistance from federal, state or local government, the Society feels justifiably proud of what has been achieved so far. Among the younger members of the Society are a few imaginative engineers who have visions of constructing a model 80-pounder rifled muzzle-loader and, as indicated earlier, a replica of a mounting to take the 6-in. Mark V barrel recently returned from Sydney.

On the matter of accommodation, it is understood that the Newcastle Regional Maritime Museum Society is seeking other quarters for their expanding collection; if and when they vacate their present quarters it is hoped that the Military Museum will be allowed to expand into the whole complex.

References

1. Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, KCMG, CB, RE (1821–1897), was educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Military service between 1841 and 1855 took him to South Africa and the Channel Islands where he was employed mainly on defensive works. He served terms as Governor of the Straits Settlements, South Australia and New Zealand and in 1892 was appointed Colonel Commandant, Royal Engineers. He returned to South Australia the same year but became too ill to return to England and retired in Adelaide. He died in 1897 and is commemorated by the Jervois Range in South Australia.
2. Major General Sir Peter Scratchley, KCMG (1835–1885), entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich as a gentleman cadet and was gazetted into the Royal Engineers as a second lieutenant on 20 June 1854. He saw active service in Crimea and in the Indian Mutiny and in June 1860 arrived in Melbourne in command of a detachment of engineers to prepare the defences of Victoria. After further service on the defences of Australia, he retired in 1882 with the rank of Major General. In 1884 he was appointed Special Commissioner for Great Britain in New Guinea but his health was failing and he died of malaria the following year.

   Sir Peter is regarded as the founder of the Corps of Engineers in Australia. At a meeting over which he presided in the Duke of Rothesay Hotel, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne on 15 November, 1860, the rules and regulations of the Corps of the Victorian Volunteer Engineers were drawn up and adopted, thus authorising the first engineer formation to be raised in Australia. In his honour the defensive works at Newcastle, NSW, are named Fort Scratchley.



MAP OF NEWCASTLE'S DEFENCES, SHOWING FORT SCRATCHLEY IN WORLD WAR II

Peter Burness

'For Valour'

On 13 April 1981 His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, opened the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Valour. The display at that time consisted of 28 of Australia's 96 Victoria Crosses together with other significant medal groups. In little over three years more than four million visitors have visited the exhibition which has proved to be one of the Memorial's attractions.

In a relatively short time the War Memorial's medal collection has grown considerably. Because of this, and the proven popularity of the Hall of Valour, the Memorial recently expanded the gallery to almost double the original area. The new exhibition shows more of Australia's gallantry awards than ever before.

Thirty-six Victoria Crosses are included in the new display and there is a larger range of other gallantry awards including such rare combinations as Lieutenant Frame's DSC, MM and bar. The increased number of Victoria Crosses displayed illustrates the high level of donations the Hall of Valour is attracting. Recently the Memorial received the Victoria Crosses of Captain H.V. Throssell, VC, Lieutenant Colonel J.E. Newland, VC, and Lieutenant T.C. Derrick, VC, DCM.

The donation of Captain Throssell's Victoria Cross after its purchase by the RSL received considerable publicity. Those of Newland and Derrick were not announced until the medals were placed on display. Both are quite outstanding medal groups and will, no doubt, be of considerable interest to the War Memorial's many visitors.*

James Ernest Newland won his VC when a captain in the 12th Battalion in France between 7–15 April 1917. His medals are quite remarkable as they span the Boer War, World War 1 and World 2 and include Long Service and Meritorious Service awards. A long-serving regular soldier, he was also mentioned in dispatches.

Lieutenant 'Diver' Derrick was one of the great identities of the Second AIF. Serving in the famous 2/48th Battalion he won the DCM at Tel el Eisa. After graduating as a lieutenant in 1944 he rejoined his unit and won the VC at Sattelberg and appropriately it was Derrick who raised the Australian flag after the battle. Unfortunately this outstanding soldier was killed in action on Tarakan Island on 23 May 1945.

The extensions to the displays and donations of this importance ensure that the Hall of Valour remains a place of great interest and pride for all Australians.

* Decorations and medals of Lieutenant Colonel James Ernest Newland:—

- Victoria Cross. Impressed reverse 'Capt. J.E. Newland 12th BN. Aus. Imp. Force 7/8 APR. 6/9 APR. & 15 APR. 1917'.
- Queen's South Africa Medal. Impressed around edge '2354 TPR. J.E. NEWLAND. AUST. C.H.' Bars 'TRANSVAAL' and 'SOUTH AFRICA 1902'.
- 1914–15 Star. Impressed reverse '2 W.O. J.E. NEWLAND 12 BN, A.I.F.'
- British War Medal 1914–20. Impressed around edge 'CAPTAIN J.E. NEWLAND. A.I.F.'
- Victory Medal with MID. Impressed around edge 'CAPTAIN J.E. NEWLAND. A.I.F.'
- George VI Coronation Medal. Unnamed as issued.
- Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Geo V). Engraved around edge 'Q.M. & HON. MAJOR J.E. NEWLAND V.C. A.I.C.'
- Meritorious Service Medal. Engraved around edge 'Q.M. & HON. MAJOR J.E. NEWLAND V.C. A.I.C.'
- British War Medal 1939–45. Impressed around edge 'J.E. NEWLAND'.
- Australian Service Medal. Impressed around edge 'J.E. NEWLAND'.

* Decorations and medals of Lieutenant Thomas Currie Derrick:—

- Victoria Cross. Named on reverse.
- Distinguished Conduct Medal (Geo V). Impressed around edge 'SX7964 SGT. T.C. DERRICK. AIF.'
- 1939–45 Star. Impressed reverse 'SX7964 T.C. DERRICK'.
- Pacific Star. Impressed reverse 'SX7964 T.C. DERRICK'.
- Defence Medal. Impressed around edge 'SX7964 T.C. DERRICK'.
- British War Medal 1939–45. Impressed around edge 'SX7964 T.C. DERRICK'.
- Australian Service Medal. Impressed around edge 'SX7964 T.C. DERRICK'.

Peter Stanley

The Soldiers on the Hill: the defence of Whyalla 1939-45

Part 2 1942: *'shot off to Whyalla'*

BY December 1941 Australia had been at war with Germany, and then Italy, for over two years. Australian troops had fought in the desert of North Africa, and in Greece, Crete and Syria. Australian ships had served alongside the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean Sea and its airmen had flown with the Royal Air Force and in Australian squadrons over Britain, German-occupied Europe and North Africa. Over the hot summer of 1941-42 Australians found themselves at war with another enemy—Japan. The Japanese were to carry the war to the shores of Australia itself, and to involve its people in a hard-fought struggle in the islands and seas to the north for nearly four years.

Early in December 1941 the newspapers noted an increase in tension in relations between Japan and the European powers in the Pacific. In the early hours of 8 December the Japanese attacked British troops at Kota Bharu in northern Malaya, and shortly afterwards launched an air attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, bringing the United States into the world war.

On the evening of 8 December the prime minister, John Curtin, broadcast to the nation, declaring that 'we are at war with Japan'.

Over the next ten weeks a dramatic series of defeats occurred in south east Asia as the Japanese advanced into the European colonies in Malaya, the East Indies, New Guinea and the Philippines.

A few days after the declaration of war Britain and its allies were shocked when the powerful warships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* were sunk by Japanese bombers. By Christmas, Hong Kong had fallen. On 22 January Rabaul was captured. A week later the defenders of Malaya, including the Australian 8th Division, retreated to Singapore. On 3 February the first bombs fell on Australian territory at Port Moresby. The 'fortress' of Singapore surrendered after two weeks, instead of after the expected six months siege. By late February commanders in Australia were expecting attacks, or even invasion, by the Japanese.

Though remote from the battles in the so-called 'Malay barrier', South Australia's defenders, like those of Australia as a whole, were galvanized by the speed and success of the Japanese advance. The military forces stationed in the state shortly before the beginning of the Pacific war amounted to one cavalry brigade, an AMF battalion, a garrison battalion and some 6000 members of the Volunteer Defence Corps. Naval units included three auxiliary mine sweepers and three motor patrol boats. These forces were considered to be 'sufficient to meet sea-borne raids not exceeding one brigade in strength and not including tanks'.[1]

The preparation of plans for defence against invasion is a sensible military precaution and does not necessarily signify an expectation of attack. The Japanese were, however, an unknown quantity whose unorthodox tactics in Malaya—particularly 'infiltration', which seemed to become an explanation for all that went wrong—precluded complacency. Early in 1942 therefore, staff officers in South Australia compiled a 'military directory' for the use of forces called upon to defend the state in the unlikely event of invasion. The directory also provides a useful summary of the town of Whyalla at the beginning of the year during which it was considered a Japanese target.

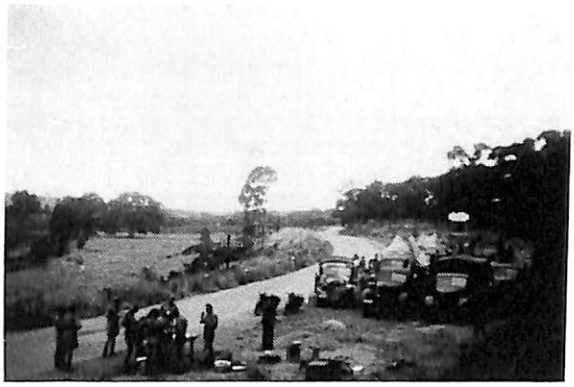
The coastal mangrove swamps of the Whyalla district presented some obstacles to armoured fighting vehicles, 'but suitable landing places are numerous, with flat gradients leading up from the sea'. The town itself was described as consisting of 969 buildings and 6500 inhabitants. The population figure was an approximation, such was the instability resulting from wartime expansion in the town's industries. The report noted Whyalla's poor sanitation and water supply—not until the following year would a reliable water supply arrive by pipeline, first from the reservoirs of the mid-north and in 1944 from the Murray. It was estimated that a thousand men could be billeted in the town which, because of its industries, was well equipped as a base, having road, air and water transportation facilities, including well-equipped workshops.[2]

As a vital strategic industrial centre, Whyalla had been identified as requiring defences. In mid January the commander of military forces in South Australia arrived to personally select a suitable location for anti-aircraft guns, a measure of both Whyalla's importance and the lack of preparedness before 8 December 1941.[3] In the meantime the BHP superintendent arranged for 'the Port Pirie Bombing School to have Fairey Battle aircraft bombed up ready for immediate action'.[4]

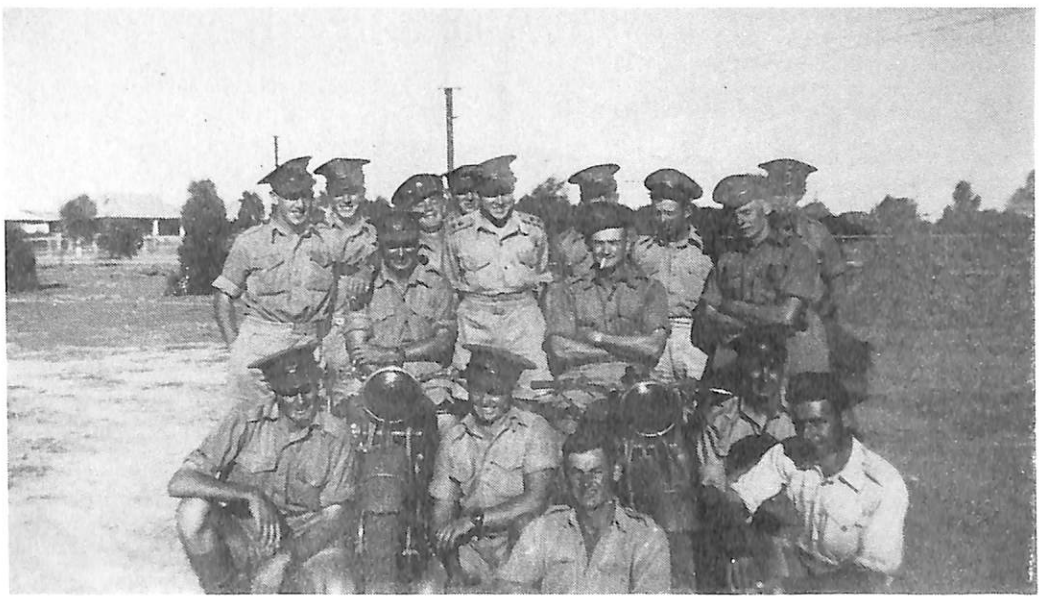
The assistance of the RAAF in the defence of Whyalla was not required for long, however, for Whyalla's defenders were already being raised and formed. In October 1941 the state's anti-aircraft defences were described as 'weak'. Ten days after the outbreak of war with Japan the Military Board authorized the formation of 26th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery (AIF) to be raised for service at Whyalla by January 1942. The battery's official life began when on 4 February Lieutenant R.L. Moorfoot was transferred from 12th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery and appointed to command the new unit from 29 January. Four days later Lieutenant Moorfoot selected 88 men from gunners at Fort Largs in Adelaide as the nucleus of the battery he would take to Whyalla.[5]

In the meantime the guns which Whyalla had been allocated were dispatched to the town. Early on the morning of 30 January 1942 a convoy of seventeen three-ton lorries, a water lorry and a mobile kitchen formed up in the ordnance yard at Keswick Barracks in Adelaide. Under the command of Lieutenant A.C. Smith of 108 Reserve Motor Transport Company the convoy travelled up the old main north road at a steady twenty miles in the hour. After stopping at Melrose overnight the convoy arrived in Whyalla at 1 p.m. on 31 January.[6] The move had been attended by great secrecy; the guns were covered and inspected at each halt and an armed picquet posted overnight. In the way of such things, however, the convoy's purpose was difficult to conceal. Lieutenant Smith remembered that:

> the arrival of the Anti-Aircraft Guns was of great interest to those in the know in Whyalla... after off-loading the guns and equipment... a tour of inspection of the shipbuilding yards (was arranged). A special dance was organised for our 40 drivers.[7]



The convoy transporting the guns to Whyalla halted for lunch north of Clare. (Photograph courtesy of Mr A. C. Smith)



Men of 108th Reserve Motor Transport Company pose with the officer commanding the convoy, Lieutenant A. C. Smith, after arrival at Whyalla. (Photograph courtesy of Mr A. C. Smith)

These boys have been roadmaking, trench digging and carrying out all manner of arduous duties in ironstone country in a light-hearted and cheerful manner, but naturally they are now getting a little homesick...[18]

Captain Moorfoot replied that his unit was short of men and he needed all of his 76 gunners to man his four guns. Married men were being allowed leave first, he explained, but he needed enough men in Whyalla to operate the guns in case of attack. Though we now know that attack was never even contemplated, Moorfoot's dilemma was that he was asked to defend Australia's only source of iron ore with four guns and a half-trained battery. It is easy to see why he was reluctant to let his men go on leave.

Training began as soon as possible. Moorfoot and his few experienced gunners instructed their recruits in the 3.7-inch anti-aircraft gun and the complicated drill involved in firing it. Captain Moorfoot's selection of men probably assisted their acquisition of artillery skills. On 8 May the battery conducted its first practice shoot using live ammunition. A Fairey Battle aircraft from the RAAF No. 2 Bombing and Gunnery School at Port Pirie flew over towing a drogue, a canvas target about the length of a cricket pitch. The newly trained gunners were well-taught, for they destroyed the drogue after firing 26 shots.[19]

By the middle of 1942 26th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery was ready to fulfil its role in the defence of Whyalla.

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Mike Fogarty

The 1985 Australian War Memorial History Conference

SOME 270 people from all Australian states and New Zealand attended the Fifth Annual History Conference held at Burgmann College, Australian National University, Canberra from 11 to 15 February 1985. As before, the theme of the conference was the history of Australia at war and its impact on society.

The conference was officially opened by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Arthur Gietzelt who, in his first opportunity to speak publicly after his assumption of responsibility for the War Memorial, gave assurances that the commemoration of Australians who died in wars and the entailed education, research and conservation functions would continue to be fulfilled under his stewardship. He said the Memorial, particularly through these conferences, should assist the aim of raising public awareness of the sources of great power rivalry and the origins of international differences and conflicts and generate an understanding of the causes of war and of the terrible cost, in human, environmental and economic terms, of even conventional warfare.

Professor Sydney Wise, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at Carleton University, Ottawa and first visiting professor at the Australian War Memorial, set the tone of the conference

with a brilliant keynote address in which he compared progress on the writing of official military history in Canada with the progress made in Australia, and outlined his views on techniques and attitudes towards the conduct of military research. The professor was applauded by the partisan audience for acknowledging that in the 1914–18 war it was indeed an Australian soldier who shot down the 'Red Baron', notwithstanding Canadian claims to the contrary.*

Professor Wise was formerly Director of History at Canadian National Defence Headquarters, where he was responsible for the official history of the Royal Canadian Air Force, publishing the first volume in 1980. Together with Dr John McCarthy of the Australian National University, he conducted a seminar on the Empire Air Training Scheme (or British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, as it was known in Canada).

Papers presented during the conference included the following:—

- Peter Sekuless, 'A comparison of RSL policies on major national issues with prevailing public opinion.' (Drawing on published public opinion surveys.)
- Brian Clerehan, 'Serendipity at Fall River: what went right for once.' (Felicitous choices made in the planning and preparation of the Milne Bay campaign of August-September 1942, an operation plagued by interference from MacArthur and his inexperienced staff.)
- Peter Stanley,' "Don't let Whyalla down": the voluntary war effort in an Australian town, 1939–45.' (Civilians' commitments in time and money to the war effort.)
- Peter Edwards, 'The Australian commitment to the Malayan emergency, 1948–50.' (Policy aspects taken from the research for the official history of Australia's involvement.)
- Paul Bartrop, ' "Military considerations take precedence over all others"; refugees, enemy aliens and Australian security, 1939–42'. (Policies controlling the fate and future of refugee immigrants.)
- Robert Walton, 'Japanese espionage in Australia, 1900–41: a preliminary survey of types and methods'. (Including espionage by personnel of commercial ships, warships and aircraft, surveys of economic resources, cable communications, map-making, surveys of beaches for landing troops, etc.)
- Richard White, 'Post mortems: the impact of war on Australian society'. (Alternative approaches to the impact on and changes to society relationships.)
- Chris Pugsley, 'Gallipoli—a New Zealand perspective'. (The New Zealand view and differences in attitude and national approach to Gallipoli between Australia and New Zealand.)
- Robin Prior, 'The Suvla Bay tea party: a reassessment'. (A new and close view of circumstances existing at the Suvla operation not taken into account in official histories.)
- Ian Jones, 'The case of the vanishing regiment: the 4th Light Horse in France and Belgium, 1916–18'. (4ALH in mounted actions as well as trench service on the western front, hitherto neglected by the official and other historians.)

A variety of symposia, seminars and similar gatherings were held in the afternoons, streamed to allow coverage of a number of topics. Subjects included the art of military biography, the Empire Air Training Scheme, Australian strategy in the 1939–45 war (including the 'Brisbane Line'), development of Australia's colonial forces, creating a new gallery at the AWM, the work of the AWM's education section and a showing of the Damien Parer film 'Kokoda frontline'. As in previous years, a work-in-progress session was held, giving twelve students and amateur historians the opportunity to review briefly (in ten minutes) the progress of their research. Topics took in the home front and activities of all three services—including awards of the Naval General Service medal to the RAN, the Officer Cadet School, Portsea and aircraft flown by No 21 Squadron RAAF. Contributions by ladies attending the conference were a reminder that military history is not entirely a male preserve.

Matters attracting particular interest during the conference included the extraordinary revelations contained in papers on Japanese espionage in Australia, the Suvla Bay operation and the mounted actions of the 4th Light Horse on the western front.

The conference was undoubtedly a success, attributable largely to Professor Wise's contributions and the new format providing a greater variety and choice of subjects. The next AWM history conference is planned to be held in Melbourne from 10–14 February 1986.

* The text of Professor Wise's address will be published in a future issue of the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial.*

T.C. Sargent

Two Peninsular Pairs

Part I—St Sebastian

MOST Australian medal collectors, when pairs are mentioned, seem to turn their thoughts to the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Egyptian Star or to the Queen's and King's South Africa Medals; perhaps to 'Pip and Squeak'—the British War Medal and the Victory Medal—or even amongst those collecting in a later period, the Vietnam Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. However, there are pairs which pre-date all these, the best known undoubtedly the Military General Service Medal, 1793-1814, and the Waterloo Medal. In this, the first of two articles on Peninsular War pairs, two different medals to two different recipients will be considered. While the purists may believe that it is stretching credibility to look on these two medals as a pair, the link is that both were awarded for the same event and are firmly identified so.

The two medals, illustrated here, are the Military General Service Medal (MGS), 1793-1814, awarded to Lieutenant William Dawson, 2nd Line Battalion, King's German Legion, and the Naval General Service Medal (NGS) 1793-1840, to Ordinary Seaman John Hill of HMS *Andromache*. The nexus is the clasp *St Sebastian,* awarded for the siege of St. Sebastian, July-September 1813. Both medals carry the clasp for this action—Hill's NGS as a single clasp and on Dawson's MGS as one of four.

St Sebastian was the final battle fought on Spanish soil by the forces under the command of Wellington in the Iberian Peninsula. It was the only Peninsular battle for which a clasp was awarded to both the Royal Navy and the British Army. In its drive to complete the expulsion of the French from Spain following the victory at Vittoria on 21 June 1813, the British army invested the fortress of St Sebastian on 7 July and the Royal Navy established a blockade to prevent the French running in supplies and reinforcements by small craft from Bayonne and St Jean de Luz. Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Graham, later Lord Lynedoch, commanded the besiegers, the British 5th Division and a Portuguese brigade.

The first assault on the beleagured garrison was made on 25 July 1813 and repulsed with considerable loss. Wellington was not impressed with the performance of the 5th Division and, considering that the division should not believe that they had 'been called upon to perform what is impracticable',[1] in one of his characteristic morale-busting directives, told Graham on 28 August that 'I have ordered 300 men of the 4th and Light Divisions to march to Oyarzun [about 12 kilometers from St Sebastian] tomorrow morning; and I shall be obliged to you if you will order 400 of the 1st Division to assemble at the same place. [Graham had the First Division under his command but they had not been committed to the siege.] I should hope these and some of Lord Aylmer's brigade would be enough to show the way to the breach, if it should be practicable to storm it.'[2]

While this order raised the ire of every member of the 5th Divison and increased their determination to be first to the breach, it presented the opportunity for Lieutenant Dawson in the 2nd Line Battalion of the King's German Legion Brigade of the 1st Division to volunteer for this duty. As on all such occasions in the Peninsula, competition was fierce to gain a place in the storming party.

The King's German Legion (KGL), in 1813, was composed of the remnants of the old Electoral Army of Hanover who had travelled to England after Napoleon overran their country in 1803 and the Electoral army was disbanded. In 1808 one Hussar regiment, two Light and four Line battalions, mainly native-born Hanoverians, were in the Peninsula but as the war progressed it became impossible to maintain the strength of the Legion with genuine Hanoverians.[3]

William Dawson, an Englishman, had been appointed an Ensign in the 2nd Line Battalion of the Legion, at the age of 16, on 2 May 1812. He had been promoted Lieutenant on 6 May 1813 and had fought at the battle of Vittoria. After St. Sebastian he was with the KGL at Nivelle and Nive and ultimately was awarded the MGS with the clasps for these four actions. He was at Waterloo, went on to the English half-pay list on 24 February 1816 and died in 1859. For some part of his post-army life he lived in Berne, Switzerland.[4]

St Sebastian fell to a second assault mounted on 31 August 1813 and the final stronghold in the

Obverse *Reverse*

Military General Service Medal 1793-1814.

Castle of La Mota on the Monte Urgull surrendered on 8 September. Of the volunteers from the KGL sixteen men were killed and two officers and thirty-five men wounded, but the 5th Division and the Portuguese Brigade, in their determination to prove their worth to the reinforcements allocated by Wellington, lost 664 killed and 1047 wounded; casualties, in their proportion to the troops involved, comparable only to the bloody battle of Albuera.[5]

While the Army had been committed to a set piece siege of St Sebastian on land, at sea the Royal Navy conducted a desultory blockade to prevent additional men and material reaching the fortress. The lack of naval resources and the way they were employed were matters of great annoyance to Wellington, reflected in his testy letter of 21 August 1813 to Viscount Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty: 'I complain of an actual want of necessary naval assistance and co-operation with the army, of which I believe no man will entertain a doubt who reads the facts stated in my reports to Government.[6]

Nevertheless, sixteen ships, including the frigate *Andromache* were awarded *St Sebastian* as a clasp to the Naval General Service Medal. The NGS shown here was awarded to Ordinary Seaman John Hill. He joined the Royal Navy at Plymouth as a sixteen year-old volunteer and was signed aboard HMS *Princess Charlotte* as a 'Boy, Second Class' on 7 June 1804. The *Princess Charlotte* was renamed *Andromache* in December 1811 and Hill saw out his ten years service as a member of its crew. His only promotion was the automatic advancement to Ordinary Seaman on 9 August 1809. When Napoleon was banished to Elba in 1814 the fleet was reduced, *Andromache* was paid off on 23 July 1814 and Ordinary Seaman John Hill was discharged at Deptford.[7]

Perhaps it is stretching the imagination to look at these two medals, Dawson's MGS and Hill's NGS, as a pair. However, as a 'pair', they illustrate an interesting aspect of the co-operation which existed between the Royal Navy and the army which relied for so much of its strategic flexibility on the support which the RN gave. And *St Sebastian* was the only clasp which the two services shared in the Peninsular War.

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Note: More background on the siege of St Sebastian can be found in Oman's *History of the Peninsular War* Vols VI and VII.

Obverse *Reverse*

Naval General Service Medal 1793-1840.

Don Wright

Broken Medal Groups

MEDAL collectors, how often have you encountered medal groups which are not complete? How often have you seen medals advertised in dealers' lists where the group is not complete?

Perhaps the dealer offers a Queen's South Africa Medal for the Boer War and the list states 'entitled to a King's South Africa Medal'; or a King's South Africa Medal where you know that the recipient must also be entitled to the Queen's Medal. Sometimes it is a group with the words 'Victory Medal, name erased', or the single World War One items often included in dealers' lists. For the collectors of Australian or British medals, where in the main the items are named, it is most frustrating to get a group of medals which you know is not complete.

In most cases medal collectors are keen historians and researchers and use the medals they collect as a key to researching the story of the recipient's service. In many cases it is only people's medals that survive the ravages of time to show their military service for their country. Only by having the complete medal group is the full picture of this service obtained.

It should be the aim of all medal collectors to re-unite these groups where possible and what better way of doing this than advertising through the pages of Sabretache. Society members may place, at no cost, one advertisement of approximately forty words in the 'Members Sales and Wants' section each financial year. If you are not the one doing the advertising, then make the effort to go through any 'oddments' that you may have, in the chance that you might be able to help someone else. The pleasure in getting a group back together again certainly makes any effort worthwhile.

How do the medals become separated in the first place? There are many reasons for this, and they would include the following:—

- Being broken up to divide amongst the relatives in a family. This in fact happened in my own family where my grandfather's World War One trio was divided between three members of the family. It was over twenty years later that I managed to get the three medals together again.
- Sometimes a family will sell all the named medals but keep the Military Cross or other decoration or award.
- Groups may be broken up by dealers; not necessarily medal dealers. Coin and second-hand dealers may not realise the importance of groups.
- Groups often lack the silver medals which have been sold for scrap.

In some cases, perhaps in many cases, the group cannot be completed due to the items being lost or destroyed. But it should still be the aim of medal collectors to do the best they can to join up broken medal groups.

When trying to re-unite medals one has to watch for the recipients having different numbers and units, which can happen, especially with Australian World War One items. In one case I had the Victory Medal of a private in the First Battalion who was also entitled to a Military Medal. Years later I obtained the Military Medal which showed that when it was awarded he was a Lance Corporal in the Fourth Pioneer Battalion. His number however, had remained the same. Now that I have both ends of the group I am still looking for his 1914–15 Star and British War Medal.

Over the years I have had reasonable success in joining up World War One trios and pairs, etc often obtaining the medals from different sources. On some occasions I have been able to help other collectors to complete their groups. I think my greatest success was with the following. In 1970 I obtained a British War Medal and Victory Medal pair, both named to the Australian Voluntary Hospital. You can imagine my surprise when in 1979 a dealer offered me a single 1914 Star to the same recipient in the Australian Voluntary Hospital. After some urgent telephone calls I was able to obtain this item and made the group complete again.

Like other collectors, I still have a number of broken groups including a World War One pair to a member of the Twenty Sixth Battalion where the recipient is entitled to a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Doubtless, if a collector is holding the Distinguished Conduct Medal, he would like to have this pair. I also have the single Victory Medal of a Major, AIF who is entitled to a Queen's South Africa medal with five clasps, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal and Officers Volunteer Decoration, so the person holding the main part of this group would be most interested in the Victory medal that I hold. Of course there is the problem of who gets what, but I think collectors could work out an agreeable solution, keeping in mind who has the 'best' part of the group and who wants it. One would have to arrange a price or trade agreeable to both parties.

Medal collecting, like other hobbies, can only give back what you put into it, so let us strive to get those broken medal groups back together again. It gives one a lot of fun and makes the hobby more worthwhile for all concerned.

Review Article

Nigel Hamilton: *Monty: The Making Of A General, 1887–1942,* Coronet Books, London, 1984, pages xv + 828 including maps, bibliography and index plus illustrations.

Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein occupies such a pre-eminent place in modern military history that the publication of a biography of him is usually a special event in military circles. Even in his lifetime he became one of the most publicised and most controversial higher commanders of the War of 1939–45.

Before Monty's death in March 1976 several books on him and his battles were published and these included Alan Moorehead's *Montgomery* (1946) and R.W. Thompson's *The Montgomery Legend* (1967). In his lifetime Monty himself published several books including *The Memoirs of Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein* (1968) and in the same year his *A History of Warfare*. In 1976—the year of his death—Colonel Alun Chalfont's *Montgomery of Alamein* was published. For students of Montgomery the commander, and his methods of preparing and conducting military operations, there has been no dearth of information since the war of 1939–45.

But now Nigel Hamilton has published this first biographical volume of a trilogy on Monty and it is a work apart from all others previously published on him. It is described as 'The first volume of the authorised life of Britain's greatest hero since Nelson' and is based on hitherto unavailable information.

Monty: The Making of a General, 1887–1942 is a superb study in personality and performance and its style is both simple and arresting. It begins with Monty's birth in November 1887 in the London suburb of Kennington and it ends with his conspicuous defeat of the Axis forces at the battle of Alamein. Like many other British officers of his time Monty was the son of an Anglican clergyman who became Bishop of Tasmania in 1889. Therefore, he spent impressionable boyhood years in Hobart until 1901—an experience which does not seem to have had in later years any special significance for him. It did however leave its mark on the tonal quality of his voice.

Except for the prompt intervention of his mother, Monty's Army career might have ended at Sandhurst, because of his prominent part in some horseplay in which another cadet was injured. In September 1908 he was gazetted to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and three months later joined its 1st Battalion in India. He served with distinction in command and staff appointments in Europe during the War of 1914–18; he was awarded a DSO and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the BEF.

If Wellington won the battle of Waterloo on the playing fields of Eton, then it could be said that Monty won the Battle of Alamein, during the inter-war period from 1919 to 1939, by the physical industry and the intellectual labour which he devoted, but with an educationally dangerous single-mindedness, to the profession of arms.

He entered the Staff College, Camberley in January 1920. Richard O'Connor was a fellow student and John Dill and Philip Neame, VC were instructors. Monty worked hard and did well; he shunned 'socialising' and was not popular with other students. At the end of the course he was posted to Ireland, then seething with unrest, as a brigade-major in Cork. He threw himself into his duties with vigour and effectiveness and while in Ireland published a book of training instructions. In October 1924 he was reported on as 'An officer of very marked ability', 'an excellent instructor and lecturer' and 'a student of his profession'.

In March 1925 he returned to regimental duty in the 1st Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a company commander. From the outset he was determined to make his company the model company of the Battalion. It was soon recognised that he had studied the 'business of soldiering' as, at that time, few others had. He spent little time on drill—most of it he devoted to theoretical and practical training in tactics.

As from January 1926 he was again at the Staff College, Camberley, but this time as an instructor. It was commanded by Ironside and from May 1926 by C.W. Gwynn. Senior instructors included Colonel Alan Brooke, RA and Alexander was one of the students. Although Monty's military thought did not always bear the stamp of either novelty or originality, his success as an instructor was due to his outstanding ability to impart knowledge and skill in the lecture room and at practical exercises in the field. He also acquired a high standard of skill in writing and as such he would have made a good journalist. His reports and orders were characterised by brevity, clarity and completeness.

But mixed with these good qualities were others of a less pleasing kind. He was sometimes deficient in tact, discretion and tolerance and he could unpredictably be rude and ungenerous.

In January 1931 Monty assumed command of the 1st Battalion, R.War.R. in England, then about to sail to Port Said for duty in Palestine. There he gained wider professional experience. Towards the end of 1931 the battalion moved to Egypt and two years later, in January 1934, it moved to Poona. By this time Monty had become, for a mere battalion commander, rather too self-confident and too self-opiniated. He expressed these characteristics in different ways. He had a marked aversion to drill and especially to ceremonial drill; he had a fanatical interest in all forms of field training but especially tactical training; he believed ardently in promotion by merit only; his scorn for horsed cavalry was undisguised and his contempt was manifested, sometimes recklessly, for idle and incompetent higher commanders.

In June 1934 he became Chief Instructor at the Staff College, Quetta with the rank of full colonel. He infused a new spirit into the College; he widened the military horizons of the students and possibly of other instructors too and made students more familiar with field exercises and with the use of sand-tables as training aids. He 'hammered home' the need for higher commanders to have a clear understanding of the functions of the various arms and services of field formations, and of how these arms and services could be best employed and effectively co-ordinated to produce the maximum effect at the right time and place for the attainment of the commander's object. These views had been expressed earlier in Monash's *The Australian Victories in France in 1918*. For Monty himself all the teachings which he had expounded and practised as an instructor came to full fruition when he conducted his battles in North Africa in 1942. In the meantime his final Confidential Report from Quetta described him as 'an outstanding officer' with 'a strong personality and decided views' who had 'had a marked influence on the course'.

In August 1937 he assumed command of 9th Infantry Brigade at Portsmouth with the rank of brigadier. An early major task was to conduct an Officers' Study Week at Portsmouth in November 1937. One officer present said 'every minute of it was of the utmost value and we were instructed in every conceivable aspect of the whole art of war'. Instruction and practice in the art of command at various levels and in the methods of instructing had long been prominent features also of Monty's training programmes. He believed that the scarcity of good commanders and good instructors was due largely to spasmodic and ineffective training at various levels from platoon commanders upwards.

Another feature of Monty's methods of training was their scientific and therefore experimental character. He thought out his exercises clearly and in detail; he reduced them to writing; and then he rehearsed them on the ground and, whenever possible, with troops, because TEWTS do not give officers skill on commanding units and formations. He did in fact rehearse his commands in the manner of a conductor, who rehearses his orchestra, so that when the curtain is in due course raised each participant knows fully and clearly what he is expected to do. Moreover, he defined the terms he used, he analysed the expressions he used, and his creative military imagination enabled him to visualise tactical situations, real or imaginary, in which he was interested.

By the time that war came in September 1939 Monty's own personal training during the past two decades was for all practical purposes complete. Thereafter, he did in war what he had, in peace, trained himself and others to do. But he had not reached this stage in his career via a path of roses. Although Monty admired Wavell's publications, Wavell regarded Monty in 1939 as an unpopular officer and an awkward and uncultured subordinate.

Monty, who had commanded the 3rd British Division since October 1939, took it to France. There he commanded it throughout the 'phoney' war and the real war with success and brought it back, through the Dunkirk evacuation, to England in June 1940. From then until August 1942 he served in the UK and did not attract the eye of selectors for an overseas command. His chance came, unexpectedly, in August 1942 when the fall of Cairo was a probability. When he assumed command of the Eighth Army in North Africa, without local permission, on 13 August 1942, he was still an unknown soldier to the British public and Alexander had still not taken over in Cairo from the outgoing C-in-C, Auchinleck.

Monty quickly diagnosed the ailments of his new command under the headings of organisation, training and leadership. Concurrently, he made his presence felt like an electric shock by his abrasive personality, his unconcern for the susceptibilities of others including Ramsden, and his want of good manners. Henceforth, he ensured that all ranks knew his objectives and his plans for their attainment and he declared that the mandate of the Eighth Army was 'To destroy Rommel and his army'. Another discovery by Monty was that although the Eighth Army had done much fighting, it had done little training and so he personally assumed responsibility for this training.

Monty's first operation in the Desert was the Battle of Alam Halfa—a defensive battle with a limited object. It was brilliantly conceived and executed. It began when Rommel attacked on 31 August 1942. After this six-day battle Rommel was forced to retire, but Monty's troops were forbidden to pursue the Axis forces. Nevertheless, the Eighth Army were elated by this success and their morale rose to hitherto unknown levels. Monty was a cautious commander who refused to take offensive action until his preparations were adequate and complete. His next battle was an offensive one, that of the Battle of Alamein. Monty postponed its opening until the night 23/24 October 1942. Rommel returned hurriedly from hospital in Germany to North Africa. But he resumed command too late to swing the battle his way. A final shattering blow inflicted by the Eighth Army caused the Axis forces to collapse. Then on 5 November 1942 Monty called his war correspondents together and said: 'Gentlemen: this is complete and absolute victory.' This victory made him the Allies pre-eminent field commander. His pursuit of the retreating and progressively disintegrating Axis forces to Tobruk and Benghazi and into Tripoli is beyond the scope of this book.

The sources studies in the writing of this book are impressive in range and variety. While the book can be regarded as a 'Bible' for all officers who aspire to higher commands, it can also be recommended to the general reader for its style is not overloaded with military jargon. The sole objection that can be entered in this appraisal is the frequency of the author's use, without any precise meaning, of the word 'professional'.

Warren Perry

Book Reviews

H. Taprell Dorling, edited and revised by Alec A. Purves, *Ribbons and Medals*, Osprey Press, London, 1983, 320 pages, $40. Regal Coin Company—Reg Williams, Melbourne.

This twentieth edition features perhaps the most attractively presented set of colour plates that the reviewer has seen. Medallists Spink and Son of London extended their full knowledge and experience to the publishers in the production of this book. The black and white photograhs of the medals incorporated throughout the text are a most valuable aid in understanding the topic.

It is also said to be thoroughly revised and updated and re-illustrated—to more than double the size of the previous edition of nearly ten years ago. Over 550 specially-commissioned photographs, to a good size, are integrated into the text, and there are twenty-four pages of colour for the ribbons.

Significant features of the new edition are summarised as follows:-

a. inclusion of the new Australian awards (including 'longevity' awards);
b. the comprehensive set of UN medals;
c. extensive information on the 1974 Queen's Gallantry Medal;
d. British medals for the Falklands campaign;
e. Commonwealth and foreign awards not previously shown.

There are, however, some features which are less than satisfactory:—

a. the three-column layout is hard on the eyes;
b. the colour section on US medal ribbons has been cut by half—it is not clear why;
c. much of the description is too sparse to allow adequate analysis;
d. more background on eligibility would be useful and in some cases on numbers awarded.

To the real buffs, I would say 'buy it', but note that it has been displayed in some shops at $64! It is almost worth buying to discover on page 149 that the standard UN medal with the pale blue ribbon is awarded to military personnel attached to the UN secretariat in New York during peace-keeping operations!

Mike Fogarty

E. Daniel Potts and Annette Potts, *Yanks down under 1941-45: The American impact on Australia*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1985, 406 pp, annotated, bibliography, indexed, illus., $35.

When asked to review this book, I agreed reluctantly thinking that it would be just another book on the Yanks having saved Australia. On the contrary, I found that it interested me enough to make me want to read it again, taking my time to relish some of the long forgotten memories that have eluded me over the years.

The Potts team has, apparently painstakingly, gone to great trouble to track down their informants, or the many sources from which information was obtained. In many cases the descriptions of places frequented by American troops during the war will, in years to come (and even now) prove invaluable for researchers who try to find those places which have long since vanished.

Descriptions of day-to-day life in Australia during the war years are important. Without detailed research, the reader interested in this period would find it extremely difficult to locate such a mass of information and statistics. Unfortunately, the very bulk of this information may prove distracting to a casual reader.

The attitude of US troops to a culture which was aligned to, but very different from, their own, is interesting and still very relevant. The 'we came to save Australia' theme was used, and believed in, by many Americans who were ignorant of the fact that by being in Australia they were protecting American interests and territories. The Bataan Party came to Australia only because it was the nearest safe place from which to carry on the war.

The American's predilection for or against many things, particularly food, is pointed out on a number of occasions and heralded the coming of such goodies as Kentucky Fried, MacDonalds, etc, which have now become a part of the Australian way of life. However, the American attitude of 'if we want it, we get it', even at the expense of others, is quite apparent throughout the book.

My first criticism is what I considered to be an over-emphasis on the US attitude towards negroes. There was some racial discrimination against negroes, but the majority of it was from the higher, official, level. Except for the occasional Southerner, I struck very little discrimination among US troops—only from the authorities, and this came down from the highest levels as can be seen from the USAFIA Order of Battle of July 1942 (not included in the book) which shows the word '(coloured)' after the designation of all units consisting of negroes.

My second criticism is about the tales told of the US MPs (not to be confused with Provosts). They are hearsay and mostly exaggerated. There were a few 'bad apples', but the great majority of the MPs that I knew never drew a gun, or used a nightstick (baton).

My third and final criticism is about the coverage of the 'Brisbane Riot', which has apparently been taken from the periodical media reports published since the war, plus statements from those 'who were there'. One of the 'reliable' witnesses quoted had been caught out on a number of items in his statements made to the Queensland police. By his own admission, he was drunk before the start of the fight; was involved in the fighting all night; and had been injured by being struck in the back by a baton (not a nightstick) wielded by a member of the Queensland police. It was later shown that he was one of the five Australian soldiers who had precipitated the incident and, at that time, was AWL and awaiting court-martial for having previously been AWL. One half of his total Army service was non-effective—AWL or in detention.

The major cause of the riot was the inaction of the Australian provosts at the scene—one officer and at least twelve others in the vicinity. With two exceptions, provosts were conspicious by their absence for the rest of the night, having removed their armbands and disappeared. The claim that commandos were involved is a complete exaggeration. One commando was involved—he is the one that the Potts team mentioned as having been sentenced to six months but in addition he was dishonourably discharged—he was one of the provocateurs at the scene urging on the rioters. On the following day, not only were commandos not involved in disturbances; three of them saved a US MP from a mob of drunken Australian soldiers. It should also be noted that the Australian provosts, including the Provost Marshal, were transferred out of the Corps almost en masse within a few days. The commandos were reported on by all authorities—favourably.

The above information has been taken from reports of investigations by the US and Australian Army, Queensland Police and Security.

I hope that my criticisms will be taken as correctional, and not as destructive. Hopefully the reader will realize that a book of this scope must contain some errors made by misleading information being provided. Should anyone doubt my intentions, or my observations, I am an ex-GI with five

years in the US MPs, followed by twenty-eight years in the Australian Army, including six years in the Provosts.

Overall, I found the book most interesting and informative, and gladly recommend it to anyone seeking an insight into the problems faced by both Americans and Australians during the war years in Australia.

George R. Vazenry

H.P. Willmott, *June 1944,* Blandford Press, Dorset, UK. ISBN O 7137 1446 8. 16 maps, 32 photographs, 224 pages. Index & Glossary. $17.65. Available through military bookshops.

For me the opportunity to review *June 1944* was a nostalgic return to the year that, although my eighteenth birthday was passed, I attained manhood. For, whilst our platoon was completing its infantry training, Allied armies in France, Italy, Eastern Europe—including the Finnish front—Burma, the Chinese mainland and the SW Pacific, were fighting consequential battles which would decide the war, and the future of the world. There was an air of confidence in that, at last, we were upon the threshold of victory. A clairvoyant peep at the uncertain years of the ensuing decades could not have dampened our optimism.

Up until the previous May the Axis powers, with the exception of Italy, had retained hopes of avoiding defeat. But by June 1944 the tide of war had turned away from Germany and Japan for, after their earlier victories, they had failed to consolidate these triumphs. Furthermore, they had miscalculated the widening scope of the conflict, which had accelerated momentum, developing into a war of attrition that they could not possibly win. The cream of their armed forces had been weakened in the crucial battles of 1942 and 1943, those remaining having lost the initiative. However they still retained the power to destroy millions of the subjugated peoples under their control and the Axis forces could be depended upon to fight to the death in defence of their homelands. The German and Japanese high commands knew that the most decisive battles of the war were at hand and should the Anglo-American invasion of NW Europe, or the Allied thrusts into the Western Pacific, be blunted it might be possible to escape total defeat and destruction. Nevertheless, from June 1944, their outlook was gloomy.

It is an enthralling book to read; the part and chapter headings virtually yell at you, making it simple to find one's 'favourite' campaign, wherever it was fought in those heady days of mid-1944. It is all there; the thrusts, the counter-thrusts and the outcome. For it is an impossible task to pluck the month, no matter how momentous, out of seventy two and ignore the rest.

The photographs are refreshingly new and well captioned and the maps are drawn expertly. However it startled me a little to view Western Europe from Berlin's angle. Also, as a late arrival on the Burma front, the maps showed me, almost for the first time, what had already been achieved. There are three Orders of Battle. One of Saipan in the Marianas and the Philippine Sea; another of the Allies in Western Europe, naturally enough showing D-Day, 6th June 1944, and the other, surprisingly, April 1945 which falls out of the book's sphere.

A table of the listing of war dead which, assumably, gives the entire total for World War Two, highlights the staggering losses of the Soviet Union. However it grates a little to be informed that the British totals do not include Empire losses.

Whilst the book was first published in Britain, and we are advised that this volume was printed there, it may be 'nit-picking' to comment on the American-style spelling or on the glossary which is heavily biassed on Allied code names for offensives. Apart from that it is a most readable book; an excellent companion to *War Maps of World War 2* by D. Chandler.

John E. Price

Patsy Adam-Smith: *Australian Women at War,* Nelson, Melbourne 1984. Price $29.95

This book is a tribute to the role of Australian women during war. From the first contingent of Australian women to serve overseas—the 14 nurses who sailed to the Boer War in 1900—through to a greatly expanded role in the Second World War, Patsy Adam-Smith has shown the enormous contribution made by women for the 'war effort'.

Before the Second World War, women—with the exception of nurses—were hardly recorded in the work force; society at the time considered it was not their place. During the First World War women were encouraged to help the war effort by knitting socks or by fund-raising. With the outbreak of the Second World War, however, women demanded the right to help defend their country. The author has written in a most entertaining manner of the various women's activities during the six years 1939–1945. Not only do we see the expansion of the women's services, the AWAS, WAAF and WRANS with all their initial problems, but also the role of the VADs (of which Patsy Adam-Smith was a member), the women in munitions factories, the women's Land Army, the Red Cross, the women on the assembly line making Beaufort bombers and many others. She has written of such diverse activities as the coast-watcher stationed on Vanikoro, an island 500 miles from Guadalcanal, to the railway women of Quorn in South Australia who fed up to 600 troops a day on their way north to Darwin.

The author met and talked with many of the women whose stories appear in her book. She stated her main aim was to record the many instances of 'endurance, devotion, bravery and self-sacrifice' which these women displayed. She has certainly succeeded in her task. The book is extremely well illustrated with black and white photographs.

Australian Women at War is not only a valuable document for the military historian involved in research, but is also an excellent record of social history.

Dorothy Hart

Art (A.W.) Cockerill, *Sons of the Brave: The Story of Boy Soldiers.* Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg, London. £Stg 12.95.

Reports of the current conflict along the Euphrates have drawn adverse criticism of the use of boy soldiers, who on capture have cried for their mothers. *Sons of the Brave* is a timely reminder, however, that the enlistment of boy soldiers has been a feature of armies of most nations for centuries and that such breakdowns are always a possibility, particularly under harsh conditions such as was the case in the Peninsular War of Bugler John MacFarlane of the 71st. For that matter, emotional breakdowns by adults are not unknown under considerably less hardship.

Cockerill concentrates on boy soldiers rather than boy officers, although his book echoes Wellington's dictum that what he wanted of an officer on leaving school was the capability of taking command of a guard and bringing a boatload of convicts to New South Wales without trouble—no small feat, as the history of transportation shows.

For the first time a chronological and searching inquiry has been made into the history of boy soldiers from earliest times, with an emphasis on English-speaking nations. This task has been competently performed in an easy style, and because of its nature has perforce resulted in an encapsulated history of the British Army at home and abroad up to the end of the nineteenth century. The story of boy soldiers has nevertheless been carried forward to the present.

From time to time interesting side issues are explored, such as the contribution made by children in the production of arms, gunpowder, shot, boots and accoutrements during the seventeenth century, and even in more recent times.

The history of the Education and Band Corps in the British Army is briefly covered from the establishment of the Royal Hibernian Military and The Duke of York's Royal Military Schools, as well as the part played by the 'father' of the Education Corps, that 'energetic, intelligent, highly-educated, dedicated opportunist', the Reverend G.R. Gleig.

This book is a valuable addition to military historiography. Minor criticism can be directed at the general assumption that the drummers were all boy soldiers and *a priori* were responsible for meting out corporal punishment. Drummer James Wade of the 9th was not the youngest soldier enlisted (on his seventh birthday), since William Jamieson was enlisted in the 102nd at the age of five years and 162 days. While most of the drummers of the same regiment were admittedly young

(12 to 19 years) there was one well into his forties. This particular regiment is quoted because it is the only British Army unit whose Description and Succession Books are held in Australia.

Moreover, most Australian readers will be disappointed with the few pages dealing with 'Easy Grace Down Under'. The Boy Conscription Act is unlikely to be recognised as Part XII of the Defence Act—'Universal Obligation in respect of Naval, Military or Air Force Training'—commonly known then and since as 'Universal Military Training', Lord Kitchener's contribution to which is not mentioned.

The story of Australia's defence is intimately connected with the transportation system; colonial struggles towards self-government; British strategic concepts and moves towards federation and is far removed from boy soldiers. Nevertheless, a few words here and there would have vastly improved the few sparse pages of this chapter.

In spite of these criticisms, however, this is an important, interesting and moving story, largely from the Boy Soldiers themselves, and is certainly not as

> tedious as a twice told tale,
> Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man.

M. Austin

Gail Braybon, *Women Workers in the First World War,* Croom Helm, London, 1981; $23.95. Penny Summerfield, *Women Workers in the Second World War,* Croom Helm, London, 1984. $31.95. Our copies from Croom Helm Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney.

There is no doubt that the events of the two world wars have had a profound effect on the shape and structure of contemporary society—as well as upon the lives of those who lived through those years. Nonetheless, virtually all published works of military history have been focussed on the part played by men in the two conflicts. Very little research has been done into the part played by the other half of the population—many of whom experienced the same, or similar horrors, hardships, privations, abuses, victories, defeats and so on. While, as a recent article in the *Australian* claimed, men may love war, they are not the only ones upon whom the influences of war both short and long term have made an impact.

Indeed, twentieth century war has in many instances been very much a universal societal experience. An experience that in the words of historian Lyn Macdonald was to violently disturb 'the rocklike foundations of British society'. Moreover, the recent research of writers like Martin Middlebrook and Macdonald reveals the extent to which the Great War intruded into and profoundly effected the destinies of millions—most of whom had previously led peaceful civilian lives.

While Macdonald's 'roses of no-man's land' and Middlebrook's men of the Somme exemplify the horrors and sacrifices of the Western Front, Gail Braybon has written of the experiences of working class women who made the implements of modern warfare—the shells, the guns, the uniforms and the aircraft. In contrast to the wealth of information regarding the experiences of men, little is known of what happens to women during wartime, or of the attitudes of the community and governments towards them.

Braybon and Summerfield thus seek to explode some of the traditional myths that have surrounded the question of women's war work. What is revealed is a litany of appalling double standards, class divisions and hypocrisy. Governments, and in many instances, trade unions, have been most willing to ignore or even discourage female workers—until the mass enlistment of males in the armed services resulted in severe labour shortages. It has only been in these circumstances that British women have been actively encouraged to join the industrial work force. Many, as both writers have shown, responded willingly to such requests. Often however, they were met with hugely ambiguous responses from both fellow workers (usually male) and employers. Their working conditions and pay also tended to be less than those of male workers and they were frequently regarded as totally dispensible at the conclusion of hostilities.

The evidence clearly shows that many men felt threatened by the employment of women in what they considered were 'men's jobs'. Furthermore, little attempt was made in either war to acknowledge that women workers often had two jobs—the paid one and the unpaid domestic one. In the Second World War issues like child care facilities, shopping hours and 'the adjustment of hours to counter the negative effects upon productivity of the double burden' (Summerfield p.185),

were hardly addressed by either governments or employers. Summerfield thus goes on to question the standard view that the events of the world wars dramatically altered the position of women in society.

Both books are highly readable and thoroughly researched and contribute much to an understanding of the complexities of modern warfare. One useful addition to each book would have been the inclusion of some photographs illustrating women's war work. Finally, both writers have been concerned to raise questions, not simply about who in society has the right to work, what is a fair wage and who should be responsible for the burdens of domestic work; but about the inequities or otherwise of a capitalist society.

Susan E. Johnston

Dudley McCarthy: *Gallipoli to the Somme—the story of C.E.W. Bean,* John Ferguson publishers, Sydney, 1983, photographs, pp 400. $29.95.

For too long the student of Australia's military involvement in the 1914–18 war has had resort to the Official History and the other books written or edited by C.E.W. Bean without having at his disposal the detailed means to understand readily the man behind that most enduring and impressive legacy to the service and sacrifice of the Australian Imperial Force. This superbly written and perceptive biography of C.E.W. Bean by Dudley McCarthy has remedied the situation.

McCarthy provides a valuable insight into the character of this dedicated and admirable historian. The book traces Bean's early life in its first chapters but then focusses in particular on his war years as Official Correspondent and Historian. It tells not only of his untiring efforts to discover the details behind the battles but also of his vision of a history which would be a lasting reminder of the bravery and other qualities of the men of the AIF, especially the front-line soldier. But Bean wanted more than a history. He strove relentlessly until there was established a War Records Section with photographic and war relics sub-sections, all under Australian control. He also secured the services of many eminent artists to capture war scenes with oil and crayon. Bean was determined that the sacrifice of those 60 000 dead should never be forgotten. He was the driving force behind the establishment and growth of the Australian War Memorial as a monument to them. And as General Editor of the Official History he ensured that detail, accuracy and careful explanation did not take second place to expediency and personal reputation. Bean's determination and success in all these areas are well described by Dudley McCarthy.

In recent times there has been some criticism of Bean's work. It is said that he omitted to point out the Australian soldiers' failings. McCarthy puts forward convincingly the reasons for Bean's tendency to her worship and comments that this naturally came to be directed at the men of the AIF. However valid the criticisms are, and in my opinion there is little substance to them, Bean was concerned that the small number of bad aspects should not overshadow the vast number of good and thereby unfairly tarnish the reputation of the AIF. And he was correct when he finished his sixth volume with:—

> What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mist of ages, a monument to great-hearted men; and, for their nation, a possession forever.

McCarthy makes considerable and effective use of Bean's diaries and personal papers in the work. The failings of the book, the omission of footnotes on quotes from Bean's writings and the absence of a bibliography, do not detract in the least from its readability and simple yet sensitive style. The work also provides interesting comment on Bean's relationship with W.M. Hughes and his opposition to Monash's appointment as AIF Corps Commander in 1918.

In this book Dudley McCarthy has produced a well-written and perceptive account of the life and methods of Australia's most important military historian. It stands as a tribute to Bean's devotion to the men of the AIF and his compassion and, if I may say so, adds considerably to both his stature and that of the men about whom he writes. I recommend if unhesitatingly as a lucid means to a better understanding of the role of the AIF in the 1914–18 war and of the remarkable man who recorded that role for the benefit of generations of Australians.

Matthew Dicker

Mick Irwin: *Kicking with the Wind,* Sunnyland Press, Red Cliffs, Victoria, 1984, pp 64 (illustrated), paperback.

Kicking with the Wind is an apt title for this small book. The narrative covers the fortunes of some Australian soldiers of the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment during the Second World War. The author, Mick Irwin, has used the notes of Gunner Neil Collinson and some other members of the unit to present a brief description of life as a wartime soldier. The book touches on the training of this unit of the 8th Australian Division, the intense but shortlived action against the Japanese during January and February 1942 and the harrowing years that followed as prisoners of war after the surrender at Singapore.

The book is a personal view and it is not as comprehensive as books such as Rohan Rivett's *Behind Bamboo* or Russell Braddon's *Naked Island.* Neil Collinson selected some entertaining highlights and his style is reminiscent of World War One soldiers' tales. There are card games, stolen trains and the inevitable drinking escapades and there are observations which are an important record of Australian military and social history.

In compiling the book in 1984, Irwin and Collinson could provide the reader with a glimpse of the soldiers years after the war. The suffering has not been over-emphasised, but there is a gentle reminder that war is not a glorious prank. There is also a clear warning—and this may not have been the deliberate intention of the author—of what happens to units which are inadequately equipped and their soldiers only partly trained—they are beaten in battle. Collinson does not explore this situation; as a soldier he accepts what happens and he even adds a kind word for his divisional commander, Lieutenant General Gordon Bennett (p 37).

There is an interesting side story of the Mildura Highland Pipe Band. Regimental bands have received little acknowledgement in war history, in spite of their contribution to 'esprit de corps' and the tremendous efforts which went into raising and maintaining them. In this case Pipe-Major Bill Brown has added an account of how his pipe band enlisted as a group, due to the foresight of the regimental second-in-command, Major F.A. Fleming (well known to pre-war school cadets of Scotch College, who also had their own Pipe Band). The Mildura musicians provided their own instruments and the regimental band gave excellent service in Victoria and Malaya when other military duties permitted the men to play. Sadly some of the musicians died and all of the instruments were lost in the debacle. On a happier note, the pipe band is active in Mildura today.

There are parts of the book which make strange reading. For instance, the soldiers believed that it was the non-smokers who succumbed to disease (p 42)! The valuable contribution which the authors have made is that they have recorded what the soldiers thought in that different world of the 1940s. One quote is offered to end this review—'Fortunately for us...two Atom bombs were dropped on Japan just five days before our execution date' (p 55). There are people in Australia and New Zealand today who should read this book.

J.J. Shelton

Barry Hunt and Adrian Preston (eds): *War Aims and Strategic Policy in the Great War,* Croom Helm, 1977. £12.95 hard cover.

This collection of six original essays by American, Canadian, British and German historians makes depressing reading. Not that there is anything amiss with the various learned contributions, only that they confirm that neither politicians nor generals can be trusted with other people's lives. I suppose we all knew this, but there is only a limited degree of satisfaction obtainable from fresh revelations of (often preventible) human folly.

Co-editor Hunt sets the tone with his opening sentences :

...the Great War was a senseless catastrophe, an incomprehensible tragedy which, once begun, seemed to set loose forces which cynical statesmen and myopic generals could barely comprehend, much less control. Propelled by a grim self-induced logic and sustained by propaganda that helped to justify the enormous costs, the war persisted until peace finally happened four years later, only to reveal that the world it was fought to preserve had been utterly destroyed in the process.

Although most of the deviousness and bungling discussed in these essays came from 'statesmen' who were usually able to manage spectacular 'shifts' in policy for the flimsiest of reasons, the High Commands of the warring nations do not escape.

Professor Edward Coffman, writing about the balancing act of the US Government before the Americans finally entered the European conflict in 1917, shows how well the President (Wilson) understood the legitimate function of his military forces. A short item appeared in the Baltimore Sun in the autumn of 1915 noting that the US General Staff was 'preparing a plan' in case of war with Germany. Wilson was furious. He instructed Acting Secretary of War Breckinridge to see if the report was true and, if it was, 'to relieve at once every officer of the General Staff and order him out of Washington!' Of course what happened was that planning continued—but under camouflage.

In the essays are buried, as in all good works of history, some small surprises. It was, for example, a surprise to be reminded—by a reference to speeches by the German Chancellor in 1914—that the proximate cause of the Great War was a decision of the Tsarist Russian government—even though Nicholas didn't want war. Fritz Fischer mentions this only briefly (p 118); those further interested could, with benefit, delve into J.N. Westwood's *Endurance and Endeavour: Russian History 1812–1971* (Oxford, 1973) where Nicholas is shown to be a victim of railway timetables in making this decision.

Bruce Muirden

Philip Thomas, *Army Doctor: The Reminiscences of a West Australian Army Medical Officer During the World War 1939-45,* J. Pilpel & Co, Perth, 1981, 109 pp, illus. Copies available from author, 86 Wichmann Road, Attadale, WA, 6156. Softcover, $7 including postage.

One way and another, review of this book gave us a good deal of trouble. We lost the first copy in the system and had to ask the author for another, a request with which he cheerfully complied. We then referred it to a knowledgeable historian who is also a retired major unit commander. Although we at *Sabretache* expect our reviewers to give us 'warts and all' assessments, we were not prepared for the unrelieved condemnations of our reviewer and the terms in which he expressed them. As the review was virtually unprintable, in the view of the editorial sub-committee, it was decided the editor should take a look at it.

In most respects, our reviewer was quite right. The book is not good history; there are too many errors of fact and other deficiences. The author served throughout the war as an army medical officer in the Middle East, Greece, Crete, New Guinea and Australia, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and his reminiscences are a chronicle of events based on diary notes written at the time. He recorded events as he saw them, in his own job and what he could make of its context, and from newspapers and 'latrinograms'. Unfortunately, much of this was incorrect and remained uncorrected.

The author says in his foreword that the book does not pretend to have literary merit. I would go along with that. He also says it is fairly humdrum, but that is only in the sense that so much of a junior medical officer's duties were routine and tedious; relative to, for example, ensuring hygienic food preparation, potable water, vaccinations, disease prophylaxis, care of the feet and like preventive medicine. He deliberately avoids writing about his and other doctors' work in action in the field. But his many journeys in small ships between Sollum and Mersa Matruh and Alexandria conveying wounded, for example, do not sound humdrum to me.

The book is sometimes annoyingly repetitious; the author manages to mention what must be virtually every West Australian medical man who served in the war and many of his tutors and student colleagues from Melbourne University; in this respect, it is almost a social diary.

Having said all that, that it is inaccurate history, badly needs expert editing and careful proof reading, etc, I must say I found it to contain much of interest and value as background to a medical officer's life and of the campaigns in which the author served. Some things surprised me. Am I the only one who did not know that after the action in Syria the Australian army organised two brothels, one for officers and one for other ranks, in Aleppo (and other places)?

Although I wouldn't 'set my clock by it', I think readers can get a lot out of this book.

Alan Fraser

Max Hastings and Simon Jenkins: *The Battle for the Falklands,* Pan Books, 1983, Paperback, 448pp. Price $7.95.

On picking up this book one could be excused for expecting another epic of 'instant journalism' of the sort that commonly appears during or immediately following important events. In this respect the Falklands war has already seen numerous publications (refer *Sabretache:* Vol 24, No 1, pp 34–35, and Vol 25, No 3, p 38). Considering that the media personnel accredited to accompany the Task Force comprised three television reporters, two camera crews, two radio reporters, two photographers and fifteen newspaper correspondents then there are likely to be several more accounts to come.

This book is exceptionally well written by two very able journalists. Max Hastings accompanied the Task Force as a correspondent and for his reporting from the battlefront was named Journalist of the Year in the British Press Awards. No stranger to war reporting he has previously covered the Middle and Far East and is the author of several other books on military themes, primarily relating to WW2. Simon Jenkins, as the Political Editor of the *Economist,* was able to call upon exceptional sources in Whitehall to piece together the events in London, Washington and Argentina. These qualifications notwithstanding the authors claim also to have personally interviewed every central British figure of the war to ensure the reliability of their account. Both combined to reach the conclusions but their individual writing styles are so similar that it is often difficult to detect where one author stops and the other begins, a factor which makes the book very readable indeed.

The Battle for the Falklands is primarily an account of British decisions and the naval and military operations. The authors make no claim to cover the problems of the Falklands Islands and their inhabitants, nor does it purport to show the war from Argentina's point of view though it does draw on a number of first-hand sources in Buenos Aires. The book covers the historical background of the long-standing sovereignty claims to the Falklands by Argentina and Britain, the Argentine invasion, political initiatives in Britain, the USA and the UN prior to and during the conflict, the war front and the aftermath. Also included are seven maps (indicating British tactical deployments and movements for all the major battles), thirty-four photographs, and three appendices which give a complete breakdown of the British Task Force (with details of every ship and the principal aircraft involved), a complete listing of all personnel named in the Falklands Honours List and excerpts from the Franks Report (the official enquiry into preliminaries to the war). There is also a glossary of the military terminology used, a chronology of significant military and political events, and an excellent index running to fifteen pages of fine print.

The Falklands war was no walkover for the British and more than once it could have ended in disaster. Several times their forces survived potentially disastrous situations through nothing more than sheer good fortune. In retrospect it can be seen that their successes often depended on circumstances beyond their control, for example weather, failure of the Argentinian forces to press home attacks at crucial times and the fact that most of the Argentine bombs failed to explode on impact. The book clearly shows that in this age of increasingly sophisticated technology the outcome of warfare is still decided by the level of skill, training and dedication of each individual involved irrespective of rank.

The account discusses the very significant problems that can face modern military operations because of politicians who don't understand the requirements of modern warfare or the implications of modern news media reporting, and equipment untried in all military circumstances or designed specifically for countering weapons of a predetermined enemy.

The front cover carries the statement that it is 'the definitive account of the war in the South Atlantic', and the authors do justice to this claim. Until an official history of the conflict is written this book by Hastings and Jenkins is likely to remain the most authorative overview of the conflict. As an account of modern warfare I believe the book will appeal to anyone interested in military history irrespective of their particular period of interest. It should be compulsory reading for all Federal politicians, members of the news media and service personnel. If you are considering reading a book about the Falklands war then this is the one to start with. Highly recommended.

Colin Simpson

But little glory

The Society's latest publication, *But little glory: the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan 1885*, was launched at the GPO, Canberra on 4 March 1985.

The Federal President of the Military Historical Society of Australia, Brigadier A.R. Roberts, introduced the speaker, Mr Greg Cornwell, Member of the ACT House of Assembly, to the large gathering of members and visitors, including some who have family connections with the Sudan contingent. The President's introductory remarks were as follows:

Yesterday, Sunday 3rd March, was the 100th anniversary of the departure from Sydney of the first officially 'Australian' military expeditionary force—the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan. This centenary has been marked by a number of commemorative activities—most, fittingly, in New South Wales. Here at the Canberra Post Office, we have the 'Colonial Military Uniforms' stamp issue available for sale, complemented by the Australian War Memorial display which you see behind me.

The Military Historical Society of Australia has decided on two commemorative activities. We have commissioned and put on sale a limited and numbered edition of a pewter figurine of an Infantry Private of the contingent—a sample is displayed here today.

We have also published a book on the contingent to mark the occasion and it is to launch that book that we have assembled here.

As Federal President of the Society, I would like to welcome you to this occasion. I have been asked by Sir Anthony Synnot, Patron of the Society and Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial to apologise for his absence but as a member of the Stony Creek Bushfire Brigade he is presently trying to save or protect properties in the Queanbeyan area threatened by bushfires. We welcome Air Vice-Marshal Jim Flemming, Director of the War Memorial. I welcome also all members of the Society and all of you who have shown interest in and supported the Society by your attendance. I would like to thank Mr Ray Rodda, the Canberra postmaster and his staff for allowing us to use this venue for our book launching and I again draw your attention to Australia Post's commemorative stamps which are on sale. Our book and the figurine will be available for purchase here today or can be ordered for mail delivery.

Brigadier A.R. Roberts, federal president of the Military Historical Society of Australia, informing guests at the launching of ***But little glory*** *that the book is dedicated to Clem Sargent, the Society's federal secretary.*

Ladies and gentlemen, our centenary Sudan book is dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel Clem Sargent. Clem has combined distinguished careers in the Australian Army as a Survey Corps officer and in the Division of National Mapping with over 25 years of service to the Military Historical Society, the last seven years as our Federal Secretary. We acknowledge that service with pleasure and gratitude and welcome Clem and his wife Betty here today.

To launch our book, we are fortunate to have with us Mr Greg Cornwell, a member of the ACT House of Assembly and—as he will tell you—a Canberra citizen with a close personal association with the Sudan contingent. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Greg Cornwell.

Mr Cornwell's carefully researched and informative speech outlined his own close family interest in the Sudan contingent and reads as follows:—

Mr President, Lieutenant Colonel Sargent and Mrs Sargent, Air Vice-Marshal Flemming, ladies and gentlemen.

I am flattered to be asked to launch this book *But little glory: the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan 1885* edited by Mr Peter Stanley

and published by the Military Historical Society of Australia, in this the centenary year of the event.

My involvement obviously is peripheral, but perhaps not as peripheral as others of you here today because of this medal that I have the unjustified honour to wear, namely the Egypt Medal, with the clasp 'Suakin 1885', affectionately known as the 1930 penny of Australian medals because of its rarity.

It was awarded to my paternal grandfather, William Charles Cornwell, regimental number 941, of the artillery battery that saw service in the Sudan and I am indebted to Chorleys here in Canberra for preparing the medal so that I can display it so satisfactorily.

I also have found another personal peripheral link with the Sudan contingent—or rather its departure from Sydney depicted so well in the painting reproduced at page two of this book. I refer to Mr Richard Collingridge of Sydney, a friend of mine for 25 years, who is the grandson of the Arthur Collingridge who painted the picture—the original of which is in the Australian War Memorial.

Apart from a general interest in history, my knowledge of this campaign against the Mahdi or 'Mad Mahdi', as he was called by the troops, was confined to a memorable movie of yesteryear 'Four Feathers' and to Major General Charles 'Chinese' Gordon and his favourite but prophetic hymn 'Abide with me'. This book *But little glory* very comprehensively fills in the gaps in my knowledge and, I submit, in yours, because it not only covers the 13 weeks of the New South Wales contingent's absence from Australia, including seven weeks in the Sudan itself, 'the first formal involvement in an overseas war', as the book states, of Australian troops, but also explains the historical beginnings of the whole campaign and of its conclusion—long after the New South Wales contingent had departed from Suakin and the Sudan.

The book is well referenced, with good maps: indispensable requirements for an historical record of this importance to Australia. It examines the possible political motivations for the decision to despatch the force, suggesting perhaps that it was unconstitutional to do so, and further suggests that nothing much has changed in a century because even 100 years ago there were objections to our participation. If all of this sounds rather dry, it is also a rattling good yarn showing that the 'Four Feathers' movie, at least in the military action scenes, was not far from the truth.

The book's title *But little Glory* is an abbreviated recorded quote from Colonel A.J. Bennett, who served as a corporal in the contingent. 'Intense heat, dust, insects, thirst and stench from bodies of dead Arabs and animals provided sufficient horrors of war, with dysentery and sunstroke claiming tremendous toll. A few skirmishes and many weary marches produced much sweat, *But little glory.*'

The title is fitting because in those three so appropriate words is summed up the general and frequent boredom and frustration of any military campaign as so often felt by its participants.

Why then, as the book explains, was there such a rush to join the contingent? Why did other states try to raise their own forces to take part?

The avenging of General Gordon's death or the spirit of adventure can be cited, but it seems to me that that old fashioned and today often denigrated word 'patriotism' sums it up.

Today such an overseas involvement no doubt would be frowned upon, yet this should not detract from the commitment and courage of those 770 men who journeyed to an unknown and inhospitable part of the world to fight for what they believed was a just cause—as indeed our many military forces have done since.

Mr Greg Cornwell, MHA, launching ***But little glory*** *at the Canberra GPO on Monday 4 March. Mr Cornwell wears the Suakin campaign medal awarded to his grandfather.*

Happily the complete muster list of this force is documented and thus can provide military historians with the foundation upon which to build a more detailed record of this historic campaign. Again, we must be indebted to the Military Historical Society of Australia and the editor and compilers of this book for their diligence in tracking down the information, including the medal tally. I might add that when I read the galley proofs of the 770 medals issued, for all participants received one, there were 141 medals whose whereabouts were known and these were marked in the proofs by an asterisk. There now are 142 because this medal that I wear subsequently has been included.

Hopefully the publication of this book will bring to light more of these historic records of what I might boldly suggest is the beginning of Australia's proud military heritage—a military heritage, I add, of which we Australians have nothing to be ashamed, even in these days of justifiable desire but naive expectations of how to achieve peace.

Already in one small and to me, personal, way the publication of this book has assisted in adding to our comparatively limited knowledge of this one hundred year-old campaign. I am pleased to announce that in research for this speech I contacted my brother in Sydney and he has found two photographs of grandfather in uniform; possibly before and after photographs of his participation in the Sudan expedition. However I warn editor Peter Stanley that some corrections might be necessary to the inevitable second edition because Gunner W. Cornwell in the before photograph appears to have corporal's stripes and in the after photograph perhaps even those of a sergeant.

Considering that grandfather joined the New South Wales permanent artillery on 13 November 1882, that is 2½ years before the departure of the contingent—and I thank the War Memorial for this information—family honour demands that he should have progressed some way up the promotion ladder. However, irrespective of my ancestor's capacity or not to rise through the ranks, in consultation with my brother and my sister, it has been decided that this Egypt medal and the two recently discovered photographs will be presented at a later date this year to the Australian War Memorial, which we believe is the proper repository of items relating to Australia's military history.

Ladies and gentlemen, I said earlier that this book's title *But little glory* was fitting but I also suggest to you that it was a suitably perceptive, even droll, understatement. Our military involvement in the Sudan was little as was our glory, however it also was the beginning of our military involvement and commensurate glory has continued to rise over the subsequent century and thus we have every reason to be proud of this history.

We have cause particularly to be thankful for the efforts of the Military Historical Society of Australia for their endeavours to record and publish these important Australian military records. I pay especial tribute to the Society because they carry out this vitally important task with funds raised by themselves—a spirit of self-help and probably, at times, improvisation: two characteristics that certainly have been commendable features of Australian military forces themselves since a century ago in the Sudan.

Mr President, my congratulations to Mr Peter Stanley, as editor, and to his painstaking and knowledgeable contributors and my further congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Sargent for having such an excellent publication dedicated to him.

I am pleased and deeply honoured to now officially launch this historic book: *But little glory: the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan 1885.*

The editor of *But little glory*, Mr Peter Stanley, responded on behalf of the Society, thanking Mr Cornwell and presenting him with one of the Society's commemorative Sudan figurines. He went on:—

I would like to comment on the book's contributors, without whom this launching would not be taking place. The contributors include members of the professional staff of the Australian War Memorial and members of the Society. They may be referred to as 'professionals' and 'amateurs' respectively, but when something like this book appears, I think that the folly of such distinctions can be seen. The people who produced the book have contributed to Australian military historical research, no matter what their formal qualifications or employment, and on their behalf, I thank you for supporting their efforts.

Society Notes

Election of Office Bearers to Federal Council

In accordance with part 1, 10(1) of the Society Constitution and Rules for Elections — Part 1, nominations for the following officers of the Federal Council are called, to take up office at the Annual General meeting of the Society to be held in Canberra on 15 July 1985:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Nominations are to be in the hands of the Federal Secretary no later than 1 May 1985. Nominations may only be submitted by financial members of the MHSA and those nominated must also be financial members. Nominees must indicate their acceptance on the letter of nomination.

T. C. Sargent
Hon. Secretary

The Federal Secretary, Clem Sargent, will be overseas from the end of March to mid-October 1985. Lieutenant Colonel R.C. (Rick) Haines has been appointed to act as Federal Secretary in his absence. Correspondence may still be addressed to PO Box 30, Garran, ACT 2605.

Member John Pryor of Tamworth, NSW advised that a gun show, organised by a local collector, was held at Tamworth on 1/2 September 1984. Other collectors were encouraged to display their holdings and gun dealers were also invited to attend, subsequently reporting good sales. Two well-known medals and badges dealers also attended.

This is now expected to become an annual event.

Letters to the Editor

48 Elphin Road
Launceston 7250
7 January 1985

Dear Sir

The collection of reproduction 'decorations and campaign medals awarded to Australians' for which an advertisement was included with the last *Sabretache* is billed as 'a proud remembrance and reminder of our Australian heritage and history'.

May one be permitted to ask where the representative RRC (1st and 2nd Class) is? Perhaps the efforts of Australian nurses aren't to be 'proudly remembered'.

Sincerely
(Miss) Julieanne Richards

MHSA member John Meyers of Wide Bay Antique Militaria, Gympie, Qld, who is marketing the collection, states that the point raised by Miss Richards is both correct and valid. His letter goes on:—

It is acknowledged that the RRC/ARRC should have been included on the Medal Display Board. We wish to make it quite clear that this was an inadvertant omission and not in any way a reflection against the fine job carried out by Australian nurses during their involvement in the different conflicts.

Prior to production, the prototype was shown to a number of authorities in this area and quite a number of corrections were implemented. Unfortunately, this omission was not detected prior to production. Our sincere apologies are made to all nurses, that these important awards were not included.

Obituary — Ian Crawford

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Burnie member, Ian Crawford, on 4 January 1985. Ian had been hospitalised for some two months and was at home with his family for the Christmas-New Year when he passed away.

Ian would not be known to many members outside Tasmania but those of us who had the pleasure of meeting him at the first AWM Military History Conference quickly learnt that beneath his quiet and unassuming manner was a depth of knowledge on his own interests—military firearms, with particular interest in Webley revolvers and Tasmanian unit badges. Ian was a strong and consistent supporter of the Society and its aims. He will be sadly missed by his friends in the MHSA.

To his wife, Judith, and their family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

TCS

Members' Wants

The following 1914-18 war medals are required for my collection and to complete groups:

Trios

1364	Pte R. Tucker	15 Bn, AIF
1327	Pte J.C. McIntosh	4 Fd Amb, AIF

1914-15 Stars

97	A/Cpl B.R. Byrnes	5 LHR, AIF
85	Pte L.K. Browning	1/AN & MEF

Victory Medals

	Lieut A.H. Armstrong	AIF
17009	Pte A.P. Dodd	15 Fd Amb, AIF
6114	Pte J.B. Murphy	1 Fd Amb, AIF
	Lieut T.J. Vallis	AIF
	Capt C. Shellshear	AIF

Any medals to the family name 'Timmins'.

Donald A. Wright, 25 Hobart Avenue
CAMP HILL, Qld 4152

MHSA member Keith Bostock is researching the colonial military history of Western Australia, 1860-1914, for a series of forthcoming books. Due to the scarcity of resources in WA he appeals to members of the Society for information, ie, documents, uniforms and insignia, weapons, photographs, etc. He can be written to or contacted at 2/170 Hampden Road, Nedlands, WA 6009. Ph. (09) 3891359

The history of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps is at present being compiled by Doctor Rupert Goodman, 35 Sixth Avenue, Brisbane 4067. He would appreciate information from any members, with diaries, photos, newspaper cuttings, letters or other items of relevant historical interest. All material will be carefully looked after and returned in due course.

Note for authors

Frontline Press have advised that they have been established as a new business in 1985 to fulfil a growing need in Australia for a nationally based publishing house catering for military enthusiasts and historians, with an emphasis on Australian military history.

They are seeking authors of new works that require publication and are interested in hearing from authors who are working on, or have completed, such projects.

Participants at the AWM History Conference will recall meeting Ingrid McGuffog, Managing Editor of Frontline Press. The firm's address is:—

Suite 41, Benson House
2 Benson Street
Toowong, Brisbane 4006

Notes on Contributors

Peter Burness is Curator of Heraldry at the Australian War Memorial and is well known for his military history writings. He contributed the chapter on the uniforms of the Sudan Contingent in the MHSA's new publication *But little glory.*

Peter Jensen joined the Royal Australian Air Force in February 1941 and trained in Canada. He served with No 461 Squadron, RAAF from 1942 to 1944 and returned to Australia in March 1945, having served overseas for four years and four days. Mr Jensen is now a public accountant and lives in Pymble, NSW.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard S. (Dick) Mort, ED joined the 13th Battery, AGA as a gunner in 1924 and spent almost all his service as a militiaman in coast artillery, including nineteen years at Fort Scratchley. He retired in 1955. He is continuing research commenced in 1969 into the Fort's history and is an active member of the management committee. He is currently vice-president of the Society and previously served as foundation treasurer and as president.

Peter Stanley is senior research officer in the Historical Research Section of the Australian War Memorial. He edited *Sabretache* in 1981 and is a member of the editorial sub-committee. He has published a variety of material; his latest work was editing the Society's new book, *But little glory.*

Clem Sargent has been a member of the Society for many years and since 1978 Federal Secretary. He has published a number of papers on his main subject, the Peninsular War, and is presently on an overseas tour taking in, inter alia, the Iberian peninsula.

Don Wright is an Australian military historian and numismatist of long standing. He has been President of the Queensland Branch of the MHSA for a number of years and is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Numismatic Society. Don's interests include medals awarded to Australians and the associated research and he has contributed articles to numismatic and other journals. His current project is photographing and recording 1914-18 war memorials in the south east Queensland area.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

ORGANISATION

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

SABRETACHE

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

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

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

QUERIES

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

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Please address all Correspondence to:

The Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 30, Garran, A.C.T. 2605, Australia.

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