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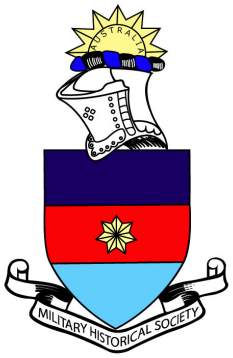

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SABRETACHE

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Contributions in the form of articles, book reviews, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note. The annual subscription to Sabretache *is $26.*

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SABRETACHE

The editor This is my last issue as editor. After over three years in the job I felt it was time for some new blood with, hopefully, some new ideas. It has been rewarding and instructive to be editor, but I shall be glad to devote more time to my own research and writing.

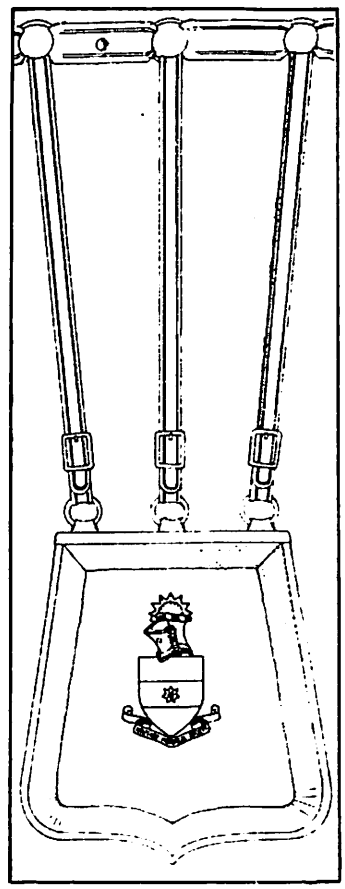
I should like to thank the members of the sub-committee for their help and support. I also thank the writers for their contributions and their forebearance. On a number of occasions we have sought changes to articles, often merely matters of form but frequently of substance, and it is pleasant to record that invariably the suggestions have been received by the authors with patience and understanding, contributing, I think, to maintenance of a good standard for *Sabretache*.

I hope the new editor will receive the excellent support that I have enjoyed.

Alan Fraser

The new editor Federal Council has appointed Stephen Allen as editor of *Sabretache* for the October/December 1987 and succeeding issues. Stephen received his BA, majoring in history and government, through study at the Royal Military College, Duntroon and later worked in the Department of Defence. He now works for the Research Section of the Australian War Memorial where, inter alia, he administers the Research Grants Scheme. Many readers will know him as the Secretary of the recent successful War Memorial History Conference. His address is GPO Box 345, Canberra ACT 2601 and telephone number (062) 43 4211 (bus.)

Defence awards The Minister for Defence announced on 20 August that Mr Stuart Devlin had won the second and final stage of the Defence Awards Design Competition. Mr Devlin is an Australian designer, whose designs include the insignia for the Order of Australia, the Bravery Decorations and Australia's decimal coinage. He will now produce master colour drawings and plaster models for the eleven new Defence awards. However, the designs will not be available for public viewing until they have received approval in their final form by HM the Queen.



The Minister described the designs as very exciting and including familiar Australian symbols as well as ribbon colours that reflect the hues of the Australian landscape, at the same time retaining the dignity and simplicity appropriate for the recognition of gallant and distinguished service.

The judging panel included representatives of the Australia Council, the RSL and the Council of the Australian War Memorial, as well as representatives from the Departments of Defence and the Special Minister of State.

Victoria Cross The Victoria Cross awarded to Sergeant Albert Lowerson was presented to the Australian War Memorial by his daughter, Mrs Frances Durnan, on 1 September, the 69th anniversary of the capture of Mont St Quentin. It was in this action that Sergeant Lowerson, of the 21st Infantry Battalion, was cited for his leadership and tactical skill in an attack on a stoutly defended strong point, during which, although wounded, he inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans and caputured twelve machine guns and thirty prisoners.

Lowerson joined the 21st in January 1916 and took part in a number of operations including the last Australian infantry action of the war, at Montbrehain on 5 October 1918, when he was wounded for the fourth time. He died in 1945, after further service in the 1939–45 war.

The Memorial's VC collection now numbers 43, the world's largest.

Diorama returned Also on 1 September, the 69th anniversary, the Mont St Quentin diorama was unveiled at the War Memorial. Originally built in 1920, it was removed during building renovations and underwent extensive restoration by World War II war artist George Browning.

Australian-Hellenic Memorial A permanent memorial is to be built near the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to commemorate all those who died in the Greek Campaign of World War II, particularly during the Battle of Crete. It will also commemorate those who died at sea while serving with the RAN and the Merchant Marine in the Mediterranean Sea. The RAAF, women of the nursing services, special covert forces, as well as those who died on Greek soil during World War I will also be commemorated. The memorial will particularly recall the many Greek civilians who risked their lives in helping Australian and other allied soldiers to safety.

Land for the memorial has been provided by the Government in a prestigious location. An Australian-Hellenic Memorial Committee, chaired by Sir William Refshauge, AC, CBE, ED is seeking donations for construction of the memorial. Patrons include Major Generals Sir Ivan Dougherty, CBE, DSO, ED and Ian Campbell, CBE, DSO.

The official opening is planned for May 1988.

MHSA conference Attention is invited to the announcement elsewhere in this issue that the MHSA will hold a conference on Australian Military History 1788-1988 on Queen's Birthday weekend, Saturday 11 June to Monday 13 June 1988.

Anthony Staunton

The first posthumous Victoria Crosses

The warrant creating the Victoria Cross in 1856 stated that the new award was only to be awarded to those officers or men who had served 'in the presence of the enemy and shall then have performed some signal act of valour or devotion to their country'.[1] Neither this nor any other clause in the original warrant gave an explicit answer to the question of whether the Victoria Cross might be given to a deceased person. The War Office therefore decided that the new award was only for the living and this policy continued until 1907 when six posthumous awards were gazetted to recognise bravery that in two cases dated from the Indian Mutiny. Six posthumous awards were gazetted in 1902 for the South African War but these awards were unable to be used as precedent until what was known as the six memoranda cases had been resolved. It is sometimes claimed that the first posthumous award was to Lieutenant F.H.S. Roberts, the son of Field Marshal Lord Roberts and although this award was gazetted after Lieutenant Roberts had died of wounds, it was approved under a loophole that allowed such awards provided the recommendation had been made while the man was still living. Field Marshal Lord Roberts as Commander-in-Chief, reversed the posthumous policy in 1902 but it was not until the 1907 decision that all obstacles against awarding the Victoria Cross posthumously were removed.

The question of which awards are posthumous is not an easy one to determine. A simple definition could be any award approved after the death of a recipient which would mean that the first posthumous awards were for the Indian Mutiny. If a posthumous award was one in which the man was killed as a result of the act of valour for which he was cited, would this include Lieutenant Roberts who died of wounds? In 1975, Michael Crook wrote *The Evolution of the Victoria Cross* in which he attempted to answer the question in a chapter on posthumous awards. Using War Office records now held at the Public Record Office, he wrote an administrative history of the Victoria Cross tracing the policy development on posthumous awards from 1856 to 1907. His work has proved invaluable in writing this article.

The question of posthumous awards first arose in April 1856 when the War Office received a request from a father seeking a Victoria Cross for his late son. The War Office replied that the new award would not be conferred upon the families of deceased officers since only survivors would be able to establish a claim. The first list of awards, all for the Crimean War, was published in the *London Gazette* on 24 February 1857. John Taylor was commended for his gallantry with the Naval Brigade at Sebastopol in 1855 but never learnt of the award since he died on the very day that it was announced. His widow, hearing of the plans for the presentation of the new award by Queen Victoria, wrote to the War Office asking whether she should attend the ceremony at Hyde Park on 26 June 1857. The War Office reply, the day before the parade, said the medal would be sent to her and that she need not attend the ceremony the next day. This reply created the precedent that the medal would be forwarded to the family of recipients who died after the award was gazetted but before it had been presented. Medals were sent by registered post and it was not until the 1914-18 war that these awards were personally presented to next of kin.[2]

During the Indian Mutiny, many Victoria Crosses were conferred under the provision that allowed the General Officer Commanding to approve awards subject to confirmation by the Queen. Since the recipient had, in five cases, died before confirmation could be made, it was decided if the Victoria Cross had been provisionally conferred but the officer or soldier had died prior to the confirmation of the grant by the Queen, then the Victoria Cross was to be 'forwarded to the legal representative, or nearest relative, with the expression of satisfaction which it would have afforded Her Majesty to confirm the grant, had such Officer or Soldier survived'.[3] There appeared in the *London Gazette* a memorandum to the effect that the name of the officer or soldier would have been submitted to Her Majesty for confirmation had they survived. Although the memorandum seems to suggest the actual medal had not been presented in these cases, the medal had in fact been forwarded to their next of kin.

There were two additional cases in the Indian Mutiny where memoranda were used when the recipients had died prior to their names being submitted to the Queen. Unlike the five previous cases, these awards were not provisionally conferred by the General Officer Commanding and so medals were not sent to their families. Provisional

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, MAY 2, 1879. 3177

War Office, May 2, 1879.

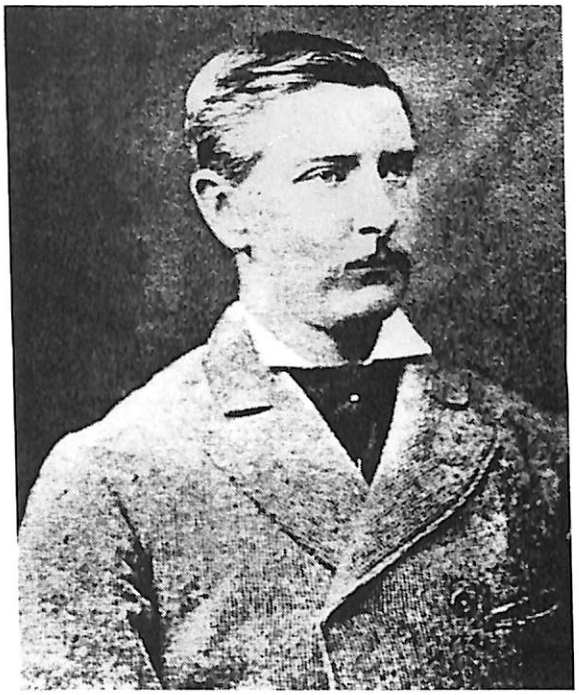
THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Soldiers of Her Majesty's Army, whose claims have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, for their gallant conduct in the defence of Rorke's Drift, on the occasion of the attack by the Zulus, as recorded against their names, viz. :—

Regiment.	Names.	Acts of Courage for which recommended.
Royal Engineers ...	Lieutenant (now Captain and Brevet Major) J. R. M. Chard	For their gallant conduct at the defence of Rorke's Drift, on the occasion of the attack by the Zulus on the 22nd and 23rd January, 1879.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Lieutenant (now Captain and Brevet Major) G. Bromhead	The Lieutenant-General commanding the troops reports that, had it not been for the fine example and excellent behaviour of these two Officers under the most trying circumstances, the defence of Rorke's Drift post would not have been conducted with that intelligence and tenacity which so essentially characterised it. The Lieutenant-General adds, that its success must, in a great degree, be attributable to the two young Officers who exercised the Chief Command on the occasion in question.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private John Williams ...	Private John Williams was posted with Private Joseph Williams, and Private William Horrigan, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, in a distant room of the hospital, which they held for more than an hour, so long as they had a round of ammunition left: as communication was for the time cut off, the Zulus were enabled to advance and burst open the door; they dragged out Private Joseph Williams and two of the patients, and assagaied them. Whilst the Zulus were occupied with the slaughter of these men a lull took place, during which Private John Williams, who, with two patients, were the only men now left alive in this ward, succeeded in knocking a hole in the partition, and in taking the two patients into the next ward, where he found Private Hook.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private Henry Hook ...	These [illegible] men together, one man working whilst the other fought and held the enemy at bay with his bayonet, broke through three more partitions, and were thus enabled to bring eight patients through a small window into the inner line of defence.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private William Jones and Private Robert Jones	In another ward, facing the hill, Private William Jones and Private Robert Jones defended the post to the last, until six out of the seven patients it contained had been removed. The seventh, Sergeant Maxfield, 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, was delirious from fever. Although they had previously dressed him, they were unable to induce him to move. When Private Robert Jones returned to endeavour to carry him away, he found him being stabbed by the Zulus as he lay on his bed.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Corporal William Allen and Private Frederick Hitch	It was chiefly due to the courageous conduct of these men that communication with the hospital was kept up at all. Holding together at all costs a most dangerous post, raked in reverse by the enemy's fire from the hill, they were both severely wounded, but their determined conduct enabled the patients to be withdrawn from the hospital, and when incapacitated by their wounds from fighting, they continued, as soon as their wounds had been dressed, to serve out ammunition to their comrades during the night.

MEMORANDUM.

Lieutenant Melville, of the 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of the gallant efforts made by him to save the Queen's Colour of his Regiment after the disaster at Isandlwana, and also Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of his heroic conduct in endeavouring to save his brother officer's life, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived.

Memorandum regarding Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill published in the Supplement to the **London Gazette** *of 2 May 1879.*



Lieutenant N.J.A. Coghill, VC, Zulu War 1879.

Lieutenant T. Melvill, VC, Zulu War 1879.

awards were not made after the Indian Mutiny but a memorandum was used where the recipient died before a recommendation could be submitted for approval by the monarch. Even so, it was not a popular procedure at the War Office and the first memoranda after the Indian Mutiny waited until 1879. Lieutenants Coghill and Melvill had been killed trying to save their regimental colours at Isandlwanha during the Zulu War. Since both were killed before any recommendation could be made, the memoranda published stated they would have been recommended to the Queen for the award of the Victoria Cross had they survived. Medals were not sent to their next of kin.

Whilst memoranda were being used for two officers killed in the Zulu War in 1879, the rules were being bent for another officer killed in the Afghan War the same year. Lieutenant Walter Hamilton had been recommended for bravery at Futtehabad, Afghanistan on 2 April 1879. The recommendation was not submitted to the Queen until 19 September 1879 because of some doubt as to whether the Lieutenant Hamilton's gallantry came within the provisions of the Victoria Cross warrant. Lieutenant Hamilton was killed on 3 September 1879 when the British residency at Kabul was overrun.[4] The file given to the Secretary of State for War noted that the submission to the Queen had been 'dated 1 September, two days before Lieutenant Hamilton's death, so as to avoid creating an awkward precedent in giving the decoration after death'.[5] The Secretary of State accepted the situation and the award was gazetted on 7 October bearing the date of 1 September. The medal was sent to his father.

There were two more memoranda prior to the South African War. Both occurred in 1897, when Trooper Baxter was killed in Rhodesia and Lieutenant MacLean on the North West Frontier. Their gallantry was linked with others who survived to receive the Victoria Cross. The fact that no medal was sent to their families resulted in separate parliamentary appeals on behalf of their relatives. The reply was the same in each case, that no decoration was 'given to anyone who had not been recommended to the Queen before his death'.[6]

The South African War, 1899–1902, stretched the posthumous policy to the limit and would have reversed it but for King Edward VII. The name of Lieutenant F.H.S. Roberts appeared in the first list of recipients for South Africa with the note that he had since died. No official papers survive regarding this award but since he had died two days after his act of bravery at Colenso, it is possible he met the requirement that a man should be alive at the time he was recommended.[7] If the award to Lieutenant Roberts bent the rules, then the award to Lieutenant F.N. Parsons shattered them. He had been recommended for gallantry at Paardburg on 18 February 1900 and again at Drienfontein on 10 March 1900 where he was mortally wounded. The recommendations were combined to include both dates and since the recommendation for Paard-

Trooper F.W. Baxter, VC, Rhodesia 1897

burg had been written on 3 March, a week before his death, the revised recommendation was treated as a recommendation before death. The Victoria Cross was gazetted and the medal sent to his family. The awards to Roberts and Parsons made policy difficult to follow but even so, three memoranda were published during the South African War. A letter written by the mother of a dead soldier caused the policy to be reappraised.

The War Office received a letter from a Mrs Atkinson on 22 January 1902. She included a letter she received from the adjutant of the 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment which said her son, the late Sergeant Alfred Atkinson would have been recommended for the Victoria Cross for his gallantry at Paardburg had he not died before a recommendation could be prepared.[8] In her letter, Mrs Atkinson wrote 'I send this copy of my son's bravery and I should be very pleased if you would kindly use your influence to help me get his Victoria Cross . . .'[9] The War Office reaction was to then propose the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to the late sergeant. The matter was referred to the Financial Secretary, Lord Stanley since that award had a £20 gratuity. His Accountant-General said it was a harsh ruling not to award a medal if a man had lost his life in the performance of some very gallant act. Lord Stanley followed up that point in his reply to the Hon. W. Brodrick, Secretary of State for War, stating 'I so entirely agree with the Accountant-General that I think I would go further and award the Victoria Cross even after the man is dead'.[10] Brodrick agreed but found opposition from the Military Secretary concerned that relatives of all deceased officers and men would claim the decoration. The Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, despite divided advice adopted the policy of allowing posthumous awards.

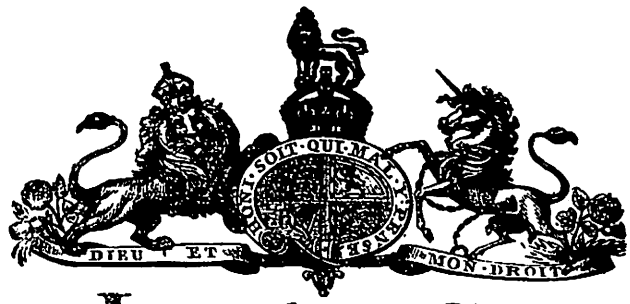
The new policy was not to be retrospective and applied only to the South African War. A list of six names for that war was prepared which included the three names published in memoranda, the

Lieutenant H.L.S. MacLean, VC, North-west Frontier 1897.

name of Sergeant Atkinson whose case initiated the reappraisal, and two further names. The awards were announced in the *London Gazette* on 8 August 1902 with the statement that 'The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the decoration of the Victoria Cross being delivered to the relatives of the undermentioned officers, NCO and men who fell during the recent operations in

Sergeant A. Atkinson, VC, South Africa 1900.

Numb. 27986. 325



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1907.

War Office,
January 15, 1907.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the Decoration of the Victoria Cross being delivered to the representatives of the undermentioned Officers and men who fell in the performance of acts of valour, and with reference to whom it was notified in the London Gazette that they would have been recommended to Her late Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived:—

London Gazette, 27th May, 1859.

"Private Edward Spence, 42nd Regiment, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the decoration of the Victoria Cross had he survived. He and Lance-Corporal Thompson, of that Regiment, volunteered, at the attack of the Fort of Ruhya, on the 15th April, 1858, to assist Captain Cafe, commanding the 4th Punjab Rifles, in bringing in the body of Lieutenant Willoughby from the top of the Glacis. Private Spence dauntlessly placed himself in an exposed position so as to cover the party bearing away the body. He died on the 17th of the same month from the effects of the wound which he received on the occasion."

London Gazette, 21st October, 1859.

"Ensign Everard Aloysius Lisle Phillipps, of the 11th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the decoration of the Victoria Cross, had he survived, for many gallant deeds which he performed during the Siege of Delhi, during which he was wounded three times. At the assault of that city he captured the Water Bastion with a small party of men, and was finally killed in the streets of Delhi on the 18th of September."

London Gazette, 2nd May, 1879.

Lieutenant Teignmouth Melvill, 24th Foot.
Lieutenant Nevill Josiah Aylmer Coghill, 24th Foot.

"Lieutenant Melvill, of the 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of the gallant efforts made by him to save the Queen's Colour of his Regiment after the disaster at Isandlwana, and also Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of his heroic conduct in endeavouring to save his brother officer's life, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived."

London Gazette, 7th May, 1897.

"Trooper Frank William Baxter, of the Buluwayo Field Force, on account of his gallant conduct in having, on the 22nd April, 1896, dismounted and given up his horse to a wounded comrade, Corporal Wiseman, who was being closely pursued by an overwhelming force of the enemy, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had he survived."

London Gazette, 9th November, 1897.

"Lieutenant Hector Lachlan Stewart MacLean, Indian Staff Corps, on account of his gallant conduct, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had he survived. During the fighting at Nawa Kili, in Upper Swat, on the 17th August, 1897, Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Adams proceeded with Lieutenants H. L. S. MacLean and Viscount Fincastle, and five men of the Guides, under a very heavy and close fire, to the rescue of Lieutenant R. T. Greaves, Lancashire Fusiliers, who was lying disabled by a bullet wound and surrounded by the enemy's swordsmen. In bringing him under cover he (Lieutenant Greaves) was struck by a bullet and killed. Lieutenant MacLean was mortally wounded, whilst the horses of Lieutenant-Colonel Adams and Lieutenant Viscount Fincastle were shot, as well as two troop horses."

India Office,
January 8, 1907.

The KING has been pleased to approve the appointment of the following gentlemen to be Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal:—

Mr. Charles Peter Caspersz, Indian Civil Service, in the place of Mr. Justice Pargiter, who has retired.

Mr. Herbert Holmwood, Indian Civil Service, in the place of Mr. Justice James Pratt, who has retired.

Mr. Charles William Chitty, Barrister, in the place of Sir Chander Madhub Ghose, who has retired.

Notification in the **London Gazette** *of 15 January 1907 of the award of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill and others.*

Lieutenant the Hon. F.H.S. Roberts, VC, South Africa 1900.

South Africa in the performance of acts of valour which would, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in the field, have entitled them to be recommended for that distinction had they survived'.[11] The medals with a letter signed by Lord Roberts were sent to their next of kin on 30 August.

The forwarding of medals to the relatives of men killed in South Africa raised the issue of the six remaining memoranda cases. A plea was made on behalf of the father of Lieutenant Coghill who had been killed in 1879. Lord Roberts, in reply to Brodrick, the Secretary of State for War, wrote that while he did not think the new policy should be retrospective he did feel ' . . . it would be difficult to refuse the request for the Victoria Cross for it was notified in the *London Gazette* that the Victoria Cross would have been awarded had the officer survived'.[12] Having received the answer from Lord Roberts, Brodrick proceeded to raise the matter officially. Again there was opposition from the Military Secretary concerned that letters written by a commander to the relatives of deceased officers and men could result in claims for the Victoria Cross. Lord Roberts overruled the objections and the six names were submitted to King Edward VII on 20 October 1902. On 2 November the King saw Brodrick and refused to grant the awards 'as he feared it would open the door to many recommendations'.[13] The War Office concluded that the King's refusal meant that the South African War posthumous awards were not to be taken as precedent. Between the end of the South African War and 1914, eight Victoria Crosses were awarded. At least two posthumous recommendations were refused during this period on the grounds 'that the posthumous grant of the decoration must be confined to a certain limited number of cases which have already been notified in the *London Gazette*'.[14]

The War Office made a further attempt to send the decoration to the families in the six memoranda cases by unofficially approaching the private secretary to the King, Lord Knollys, but the War Office was again rebuffed. By 1906, two War Office approaches to the King had failed but in the same year the widow of Lieutenant Melvill who had been killed trying to save his regiment's colours at Isandlwanha in 1879, succeeded in moving the King. The widow petitioned the King directly and on 8 December the Military Secretary received a letter from Sir Arthur Davidson at Sandringham stating that 'His Majesty directs that the decoration of the Victoria Cross should be handed to the

nearest representative of the six recipients in question . . . on the strict understanding that no other cases are involved in the decision'.[15] The awards were announced in the *London Gazette* on 15 January 1907. The War Office now had no further reservations at accepting recommendations for those killed in action.

Although the precedent had been accepted in 1902 it was not able to be followed until 1907. The only authority for the many posthumous awards in the 1914–18 War was simply that the argument that there was no rule permitting posthumous awards was reversed to say that there was no rule to preclude such awards. It was only in 1920 when a general revision of the conditions of the award of the Victoria Cross occurred that a clause was inserted in the warrant that 'ordained that the Victoria Cross may be awarded posthumously'.[16]

References

1. Quotes are from documents cited in Michael J. Crook's, *The Evolution of the Victoria Cross.* The original source may be found by reference to Crook. This quote is from the Warrant instituting the Victoria Cross at p.279.
2. The only exception would seem to be in the case of Lieutenant Roberts where Queen Victoria personally presented the medal to his father, Field Marshal Lord Roberts. The Field Marshal was thus the first man presented with two Victoria Crosses, his own and his son's.
3. Crook, p.70
4. The story of Lieutenant Walter Hamilton winning the Victoria Cross and his death at Kabul was featured in the book and the mini-series, *The Far Pavilions.*
5. Crook, p.74
6. *ibid.*, p.76
7. In a case similar to that of Lieutenant Roberts, the Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to Private F. Kane of the 15th Australian Infantry B attalion who died of wounds on 10 July 1944. He was cited for bravery on 7 and 9 July 1944; the recommendation was written in the field and the award was backdated to the day before he died.
8. This was the same battle in which Lieutenant Parsons was cited for the Victoria Cross. Sergeant Atkinson served in a different unit.
9. Crook, p.78
10. *ibid.*, p.80
11. *ibid.*, p.82
12. *ibid.*, p.83
13. *ibid.*, p.84
14. *ibid.*, p.85
15. *ibid.*, p.89
16. *ibid.*, p.291

Matthew Higgins

G.C. Mundy: officer and observer

Lieutenant Colonel Godfrey Charles Mundy arrived in Sydney in 1846 as Deputy Adjutant General of British military forces in Australia. He held the post for five years before returning to England in 1851. This was one of many tours of duty seen by Mundy during the course of his military career; his life was a varied one, reflecting to some extent the wide-ranging nature of the British army's service around the world during the nineteenth century.

Mundy's significance to Australia's early military history lies not only in the fact that he held an important military position in the colonies; he was also a keen observer of the society and the landscape around him. He wrote about several of the lands in which he saw service; probably his best known work is the one he wrote about his Australian tour, his three volume *Our Antipodes: or, Residence and Rambles in the Australasian Colonies. With a glimpse of the gold fields.* The purpose of this article is to outline, firstly, Mundy's career and, secondly, to give readers an idea of the importance of *Our Antipodes* as a source of information on Australia's colonial history and its colonial military history.

Born on 10 March 1804, Mundy was the eldest son in a military family. His father was Major General Godfrey Basil Mundy and his mother was Sarah Brydges nee Rodney, daughter of the first Baron Rodney who in 1782 off Dominica defeated the French fleet under Comte de Grasse. Mundy's brother, Sir George Rodney Mundy, became admiral of the fleet in 1877. Mundy's own military career began on 25 November 1821 when he became an ensign in the 54th Foot, a few weeks before being appointed to the 2nd Foot. In August 1823 he was promoted lieutenant.

During the siege and storming of Bhurtpore, 1825–26, Mundy served as aide-de-camp to the British commander, Lord Combermere. This battle arose from a disputed succession and the expulsion of the Rajah who had been under British protection. After an ineffectual two-month British bombardment of the fortress, Combermere's cavalry and infantry forces successfully assaulted the strong defences on 18 January 1826. British casualties were almost 1000; Indian losses were eight times higher. Mundy was awarded the Army of India Medal 1799-1826 with clasp for Bhurtpore and a few months later was promoted captain.

India provided Mundy with the material for his first book, published in 1832. Titled *Pen and Pencil Sketches, being the Journal of a tour in India,* the work went through three editions, signalling the young officer's success as a writer.

In 1831 Mundy transferred to the 43rd Foot and in 1837-38 served with it during the suppression of the Canadian revolt. Political unrest in the mainly French province of Lower Canada flared up into open rebellion in 1837, following which revolt broke out also in Upper Canada assisted by American encouragement. British Commander-in-Chief in Canada, Sir John Colborne, swiftly quelled the uprisings. Mundy afterwards penned an article on some of the 43rd's Canadian activities for Colburn's *United Service Journal;* it is an amusing and enlightening tale, mainly of troop movements in Canada's rugged winter environment.

At the end of 1839, Mundy became a major by purchase, and was unattached on half pay. Then on 28 November 1845 he was appointed brevet lieutenant colonel and in June 1846 he arrived in Sydney on the *Agincourt* as deputy adjutant general. As shall be seen, Mundy travelled widely through the colonies (sometimes in the company of NSW Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy, who was Mundy's cousin, no less) and he even got as far as New Zealand. It was in Australia that Mundy married; on 6 June 1848 at St James Church, Sydney, he wed Louisa Herbert, daughter of the late Reverend W. Herbert, Dean of Manchester.

Leaving Australia on 24 August 1851, Mundy served as Adjutant General at Kilkenny, Ireland, from 1852 to 1854. In June of the latter year he was made brevet colonel and was Under Secretary of State for War during the conflict in the Crimea. Then in February 1857 Mundy became Lieutenant Governor of Jersey in the Channel Islands. He was appointed major general only a few months before his death in London on 10 July 1860.

Our Antipodes was first published by Richard Bentley, 'publisher in ordinary to Her Majesty', in 1852, shortly after Mundy's return to Britain from the Australian colonies. In its pages one will find all classes of colonial society — shepherd and squatter, tailor and tradesman, inn-keeper and gold-digger, official and officer. Mundy described colonial lifestyles and social attitudes (and was never afraid to pass judgement on each as he saw fit). He

G.C. Mundy, sketched by Count D'Orsay in 1844. Mundy's signature appears beneath the portrait. (National Portrait Gallery).

also depicted — and drew — the Australian landscape, a sizeable extent of which he saw during his posting. In November 1846 he went on his first tour with FitzRoy, visiting the central tablelands and central west of NSW (as revealed in volume one; Mundy's own diary of the trip is held at the regimental headquarters of The Royal Green Jackets in Oxford). He travelled to Port Macquarie and the New England district in March 1847, before going to New Zealand for four months from December 1847 to March 1848 (seen in volume two). During the early months of the following year, Mundy journeyed through the Illawarra region, then he went to Van Diemen's Land and Port Phillip during the summer of 1850–51, accompanying Major General Edward Wynyard, Commander of British forces in Australia. The gold-rushes began shortly before Mundy's departure from the colonies and he visited the fledgling NSW fields in July 1851 (as recorded in volume three).

Mundy was a perceptive observer and an engaging writer and his work is flavoured with a lovely sense of humour. As Russell Ward and Ken McNab wrote in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, '*Our Antipodes* still makes entertaining reading and is an invaluable source of information for the Australian social historian'.

The three volumes are also useful for the military historian. Many of Mundy's comments are of value to researchers working on the British army in Australia. For example, the author's descriptions of convict establishments provide insights into the duties and living conditions of soldiers as they performed one of their major military functions during the convict era — sentry duty.

Cockatoo Island is among the penal settlements depicted by Mundy. At Cockatoo guards had to watch the convicts while they worked in the stone quarry, built the island's wharf and excavated the dry dock. At the Blackheath convict stockade in the Blue Mountains, troops kept convicts under surveillance not only while the latter worked on the roads, but also while they ate and then the soldiers had to lock up the prisoners and stand guard during the night. The soldiers lived, wrote Mundy, in white-washed slab huts with stone chimneys.

Eaglehawk Neck, Van Diemen's Land, was another posting where British soldiers saw duty, in this case guarding (with the assistance of dogs) against

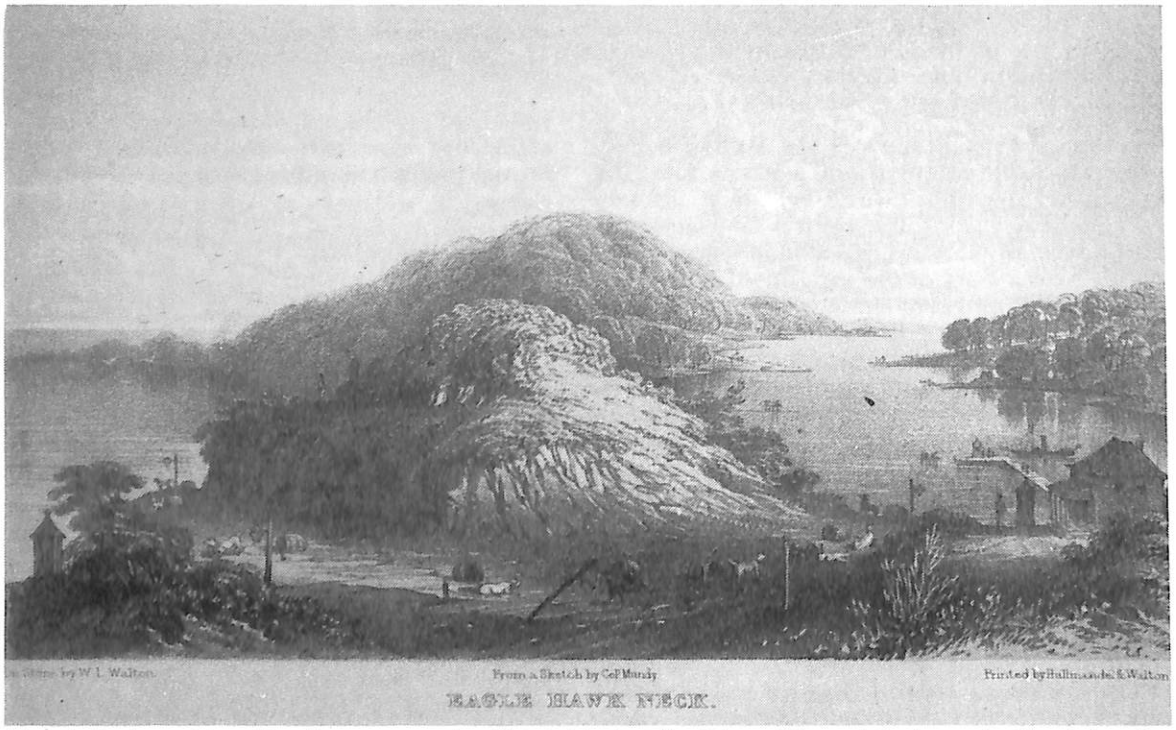
convict escapees from Tasman Peninsula. The following passage ably describes the detachment and its environment:

> No sooner came we in sight of the low, sandy, scrub-grown isthmus which cuts across the head of the inlet, than our ears were saluted by the loud baying of the deep-mouthed dogs, and as we walked up the pier towards the guard-room at the end of it, they all joined in a grand chorus, including three or four videttes [sic] stationed on little platforms laid on piles in the water.
>
> The opposite shores of the two peninsulas are lofty, sloping away into uplands covered with fine timber. The soldiers' barracks and the officers' quarter, a rural cottage with a pretty garden, are placed with their backs against the declivity of Forestier's Peninsula, commanding the neck, which is not more than 200 yards long by 60 yards wide. Two loaded sentries are posted on the narrowest part of the neck, the one on the ocean side of it — in Pirate's Cove —the other on the inlet side of it. The dogs, each chained to a post with a barrel for a kennel and lamp to illuminate his night watch, connect their two biped fellow sentinels, and complete the cordon.

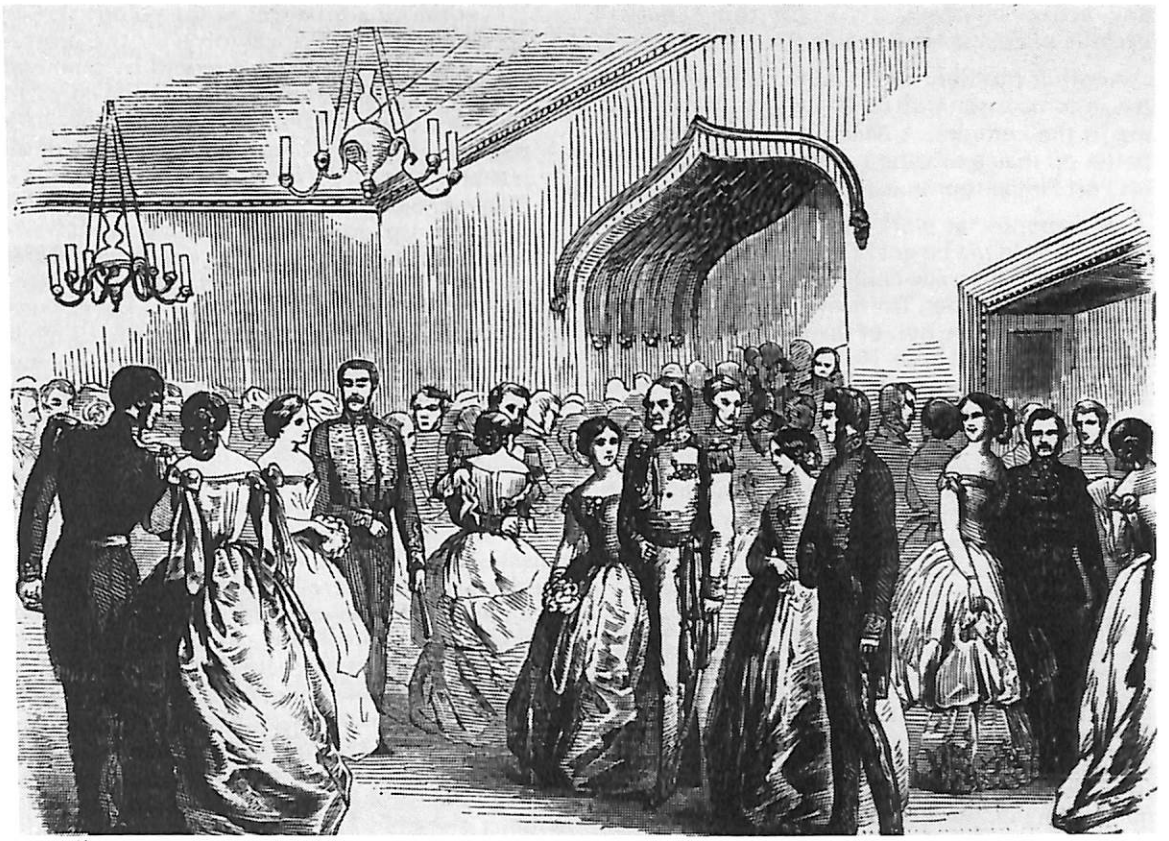
Another type of service seen by some British soldiers was as troopers in the Mounted Police. Initiated by Governor Brisbane in 1825, the force drew its officers and men from British regiments serving in Australia. Mundy provides a useful summary of the force. Troopers wore 'a neat and serviceable light dragoon uniform' and carried 'the sabre, the carbine, and the pistol'. Mundy wrote of the force's numbers, deployment and activities and he greatly admired the troopers' campaign against bushrangers, as the following (somewhat emotional) passage reveals:

> Many a gallant service was performed by this useful corps. Many a desperate bush-ranger was taken or slain by them; many a formidable banditti broken up, or hunted down until they yielded in despair. Many were the flocks, and herds of cattle, and horses re-captured from the outlaws. Many the murders, and robberies, and outrages on men and women prevented by the terror of their name and neighbourhood. The privations endured by officers and men on these expeditions were very great; great the perseverance and intelligence with which they followed up the tracks of the brigands through forest, scrub, and swamp, rocky gully, and sandy plain. Sometimes the numerical odds were fearfully against them; but, although crime often fights with desperation, it is seldom successful against cool valour.

Mundy also briefly described the work of the Mounted Police in quelling aboriginal resistance.



Mundy had considerable talent as an artist. This is his sketch of the military detachment at Eaglehawk Neck, Van Diemen's Land. (**Our Antipodes**)



A ball at Government House, Sydney, held to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday. The figure slightly right of centre is probably Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy. Mundy, both as a senior military officer and the governor's cousin, would have enjoyed an active social life during his stay in the colonies. (**Illustrated Sydney News**, *3 June 1854).*

Representative of his time and his calling, he generally approved of the conduct of the force's campaigns against the blacks, though in the case of the Slaughterhouse Creek massacre in northern NSW he made some carefully worded statements critical of the troopers. Mundy deplored the disbandment of the force, brought about by the 'mistaken parsimony' of the NSW Legislative Council.

Our Antipodes also reveals that the Gold Police (a mainly mounted force established soon after the beginning of the gold-rushes) too consisted of ex-soldiers (most of whom were former Mounted Police men). Their role was to assist the gold commissioners in enforcing the law and the licence regulations, but as the following paragraph (written at Ophir on 19 July 1851) makes clear, they also acted in the role of batman to the commissioner, and to his guests.

> After a long ramble over the ranges, I was not sorry to get back to the Commissioner's tent, where seated at a little table in its entrance, our feet on a carpet spread over sheets of bark, with a huge fire of logs blazing in front, we were ministered to by an old soldier, one of the troopers, in a rough, but wholesome and welcome repast.

Mundy offers comments on the larger military barracks, such as those at Launceston and Sydney. It may come as some surprise to readers that he and many other officers and men were annoyed by the location of Sydney's new Victoria Barracks for, removed from the heart of the city, it made official duties more difficult and impinged upon soldiers' social lives.

Mundy's volumes reveal some of the problems faced by the officers and men of the regiments that served in Australia. One was the lack of potential for distinguished service here, something which could have an impact on morale and discipline. Mundy went so far as to say that 'there is no colony in the world, perhaps, where British troops have been so thoroughly without opportunities of distinction as in New South Wales. Beyond a skirmish or two with banditti, and a scuffle with the blacks under martial law of a few days' duration, I am not aware that they have ever been called out upon

any active service . . . . (In this remark I exclude of course New Zealand)'.

Another problem was the low level of military pay in comparison with civilian wages then prevailing in the colonies. A Melbourne carpenter was better off than a subaltern as Mundy found during his Port Phillip tour in early 1851:

> A carpenter at work on a shop-front in the street, told me he got 7s a-day, and that "rough hands" in his trade could earn 18 or 20s a-week if they were sober. The former sum is exactly the pay, if I mistake not, of the Lieutenant of H.M. Regt. stationed here. He [ie, the lieutenant] is a married man, wears a dress of scarlet and gold, subscribes to mess, band, school funds &c., is obliged to support the character and appearance of a gentleman, and has probably purchased the commissions which yield him this daily stipend, and which he may lose in a moment by a bullet or a court-martial. "Chips" [ie, the carpenter], it must be confessed, has the more lucrative — not to call it, better trade!

Mundy also touched upon the military's standing in the public mind, especially as far as soldiers' discipline was concerned. While he admitted that there were unruly individuals in the army, and in the navy, ('now and then one hears of a couple of grenadiers clearing a tap room, and a knot of AB seamen may be seen battling the watch, or experimentalizing in horsemanship, to the danger of all land-lubbers') he felt that the press blew such incidents up into distorted and unfair proportions. By the 1840s, wrote Mundy, discipline had improved considerably and he felt that 'the army, as it is now-a-days, would be better appreciated by the good citizens of Sydney and some other places, if they could have a taste of one of the "fast" regiments of former days'.

Some of the useful information found in *Our Antipodes* is located in statements that are not much more than casual asides. The student of uniform and equipment would find the following remark about Mounted Police interesting; it was made while Mundy was travelling near Carcoar with FitzRoy, accompanied by some troopers:

> When out of sight of Sydney and Parramatta, and in bush duties and excursions, these rough and ready fellows discard the cumbrous *chacol* and useless forage cap, and adopt the cabbage tree hat — an excellent substitute. The metal sword-scabbard is the worst part of their accoutrements; a bush-ranger may hear its clang half a mile off.

Mundy also made some noteworthy reflective comments. Considering the success of Australian mounted forces in South Africa, Sinai and Palestine, the following statement made over half a century before these campaigns was indeed prophetic (despite its 'local' orientation):

> If ever the circumstances of the colony should compel it to raise a local force for the preservation of internal order, I would recommend the authorities to enrol a light dragoon corps, to be called the Australian Hussars. It would be a popular service with certain individuals of all classes, fit, perhaps, for nothing else. There are plenty of old soldiers to instruct and command them; and plenty of light, long-armed, bow-legged, (and, as James loves to depict his ruffling cavaliers,) "deep-chested and hollow-flanked" fellows, who have been on horseback ever since they were born, and who know how to rough it in the bush, ready for the ranks of a regiment with good pay, a showy uniform, and a discipline not too stringent. There are, moreover, plenty of active, wiry, and hardy horses, ready to "mount" such a body.

Apart from presenting us with insights into Australia's colonial military history, *Our Antipodes* puts the reader inside the mind of an officer. Many are the passages where Mundy's military bearing and values become evident. In discussing the enforcement of the licence regulations on the gold-fields, for example, Mundy advocated that a military detachment should be sent to Bathurst to add to the commissioners' authority. In this discussion of aid to the civil power, he wrote that 'the sentence of the law may be fulminated, indeed, from the bench; but trace to its source the power to inflict it — and will it not be found in the standing army?'.

The military orientation of the author's mind is also seen in less political contexts. A number of his descriptions echo his profession, as does the following one, of gold-miners making their way past MLC W.H. Suttor's 'Brucedale' property north of Bathurst

> for the last fortnight the road in front of [Suttor's] windows has exhibited the appearance of the line of march of a large army's baggage. The cavalcade was still passing during my stay there. A considerable sprinkling of scarlet serge-shirts and blankets, with a strong force of musketeers at the "slope" and "trail", gave a martial feature to the movement. The spectacle was enlivening enough to the somewhat sequestered scenery of Brucedale.

At other times, Mundy sometimes even quoted British regimental mottoes in his descriptions.

G.C. Mundy's *Our Antipodes* went through four editions, together with translations in German and Swedish. Popular in its own time, the book is still not only a good read, but also a fine source for historians.

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Information supplied by: Major T.L. Craze (Retd), Royal Green Jackets Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, Hants; John Willoughby, Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Green Jackets, Slade Park, Headington, Oxford.

A.E. (Bert) Denman

The forward area

For the WW1 infantryman, the Forward Area was where he spent the bulk of his time in France. It ranged from some distance behind the Reserve Line to the Support trenches and on to the Front Line itself, overlooking no-mans-land and the forward enemy trenches. It was in this general area that, for him, all the action happened.

He alternated from one line to the other for varying periods of days and even weeks on end. During these times he lived on or in the ground. He ate on it, sat and slept on it at all times without a blanket and never took off his clothes.

After such an arduous tour of duty, there sometimes followed a few days 'spell' away from it all, when he would be billetted in or near some village a few miles to the rear. This gave a well-earned respite from a period of stress and strain.*

A bathing parade would be arranged and fresh underwear issued. He might even swim and play other sports. He was granted 'day leave' to a local town or village but during this time he continued training for he must be fit at all times. Some days he marched out several kilometres to dig trenches and erect 'double apron' barbed wire as part of defence in depth. He also dug lots of deep and narrow 'cable' trenches from Brigade to Divisional HQ. The odd shell or two passed over, sometimes uncomfortably close to the working parties as a reminder that the war was still on. In fact, during all these 'spells' troops were never out of sound of gunfire. Thankfully they were well out of range of small-arms fire.

Batteries of howitzers and other long-range guns were sited back in the general area where troops were sometimes resting. During daylight operations there was often an audience of 'resting' troops. It was fascinating to stand behind a big gun and watch it in action. As it was fired, it was possible, by letting the eyes travel up the barrel, to see the projectile actually leave the muzzle and rapidly diminish in size as it disappeared on its way to an unseen target some miles ahead. It was also most disconcerting to be awakened in the early hours of the morning by a terrific crash. The question on every man's lips, 'was it one of theirs or one of ours', was usually answered within minutes when the next crash came. There had been no big guns in the vicinity when they went to bed and it was comforting to know a battery of howitzers had 'pulled in' during the night.

There would be at least one church parade during their stay when the battalion Padre would give a service to the men, formed up into a hollow square in the open. On the next-to-last day the unit band played to the assembled troops. Sacred songs, hymns and popular pieces left some of the troops with mixed feelings, knowing it was possible that it would be the last time for somebody.

The following day, packs, blankets and kit-bags were handed in to the battalion 'Details' or 'Nucleus' and the troops would be on their way back 'in' again. It would be to relieve some other infantry unit, or part of it, in the reserve, supports or front lines. It might be to act as a raiding party or as part of a bigger attack. Whatever it was, dress would be Fighting Order. This was always the dress of the infantry in the forward area and consisted of the usual webbing equipment, with the haversack worn on the back, a water bottle, entrenching tool and handle, bayonet and scabbard, a hessian (sandbag) covered steel helmet and a .303 rifle. If the weather was fine, the rubberised groundsheet/cape was carried neatly folded under the straps of the haversack. In the haversack was a hand towel, soap, brush and comb, shaving gear, canteen (dixie), a 'hussif' (housewife, a small holdall containing pins, needles, wool, thread and buttons), a spare pair of sox and part of yesterday's rations. Iron rations (emergency), bully beef and biscuits were usually carried in a white calico 'dorothy' bag tied to some part of the equipment. There had to be room for a jack-knife in one of the jacket

* In a covering letter, Mr Denman said he felt some diffidence in presenting his view of the Forward Area, as he was never there in any but the most favourable weather — March to August. The 1916–17 winter had been the coldest in Europe for fifteen years and the following winter, when he had been training on Salisbury Plain, was also severe. He is unable, therefore, to write first hand of the rigours of those times, of frostbite and 'trench feet', of trenches knee deep in mud and of heavy rain, snow, sleet and slush, all of which compounded the misery, hardship and suffering of the front line troops.

pockets. A 'field dressing' was carried in a special bottom pocket in the 'flap' of the tunic. It contained two bandages with lint pads, two safety pins and a small glass bottle of iodine. The greatcoat could be worn, or carried over the arm, or rolled like a horse-collar, tied at the ends and worn over the shoulder.

At the time of which I write (1918), each infantryman carried into the line one hundred rounds of rifle ammunition in his webbing pouches. He also wore over his shoulders two khaki cotton bandoliers of fifty rounds — a total of two hundred in clips of five. In his bottom tunic pocket he carried two No. 36 'Mills' grenades, primed ready for action.

Troops were issued with a box respirator (gas). In the rear areas it was worn in the 'carry' position like a haversack, but in the forward area, especially in the front line, it was worn at the 'alert' (on the chest) by shortening the strap and leaving the flap undone. The TOET (test of elementary training) was thirteen seconds — to remove the steel helmet, adjust the facepiece, the mouthpiece and elastic tapes of the headpiece, whilst holding the breath, and replace the helmet. A tube of 'anti-dimming' ointment was issued for use on the inside of the eyepieces to prevent fogging. Respirators were not comfortable to wear, especially if some gas had been inhaled before donning the mask. Dribble gathered around the chin; it was removed by lifting the edge of the facepiece and flicking it out with a finger, a distasteful but necessary operation. Most infantrymen in France would have encountered gas on numerous occasions. Many would have worn a respirator several times for periods of up to two hours or even longer.

At that time the War Establishment of an infantry battalion, with a major or lieutenant-colonel as CO, consisted of four companies, commanded by a major or a captain, each of four platoons with a lieutenant in command. Each platoon comprised four sections of sixteen men. There were two Lewis gun sections, a grenade section and one of riflemen. In the grenade section, each man carried his rifle and two primed grenades. Two others carried on their rifles a grenade discharge cup fitted with a 'gas port' for range control. These men also carried a supply of Ballistite cartridges (a special blank), the propellant for rifle grenades. Extra grenades were contained in long narrow boxes of twelve. In each box was a container of a dozen primer sets (detonator, five or seven-second fuse and cap). These grenades were primed in the front line. The base plate was unscrewed and the base plug removed with a special two-pronged key. The primer set was then inserted and the grenade re-assembled. A seven second fuse was used when firing the rifle grenade to compensate for the extra range of up to two hundred yards. In theory, when using a seven second fused grenade for throwing, it was to be held in the hand for two seconds (after removing the pin) and before throwing. The reason (in therory) was that otherwise the enemy would have time to throw it back again before it exploded. During training men were taught to throw over a ten foot-high wire, to gain elevation for extra range. The TOET was to throw or over-arm a grenade into a five foot circle at twenty five yards. An ordinary thrower was in almost as much danger as his would-be victims. It was a most effective weapon and was used in two wars. Some men, tall and powerful with a long reach, and others with a 'natural aptitude' could throw the Mills much farther than the TOET demanded. A part aborigine in the Fifty First was awarded a Military Medal for throwing a number of grenades into an enemy trench from more than seventy yards. Rolled down the steps of a dugout during an attack it was guaranteed to induce the 'Kamerad' of the occupants.

A Lewis gun section was commanded by a corporal or lance-corporal. He carried the gun and a pistol. The number two carried the spare parts bag, which included a spare piston rod and a return spring in its pinion casing. It was an air-cooled, gas-operated weapon and could fire about three hundred rounds a minute with a muzzle velocity of 2440 feet a second. It was best fired from a lying position but could also be fired standing, from the hip, 'hosepipe' fashion and this was very effective in fighting at close quarters. Each other member of the section carried four panniers of ammunition (eight magazines, each of forty seven rounds). Used for anti-aircraft defence, a hollow leg of the bipod could be slipped over a bolt embedded in the top of a post. This gave the gunner a 360 degree or full circle traverse. Tracer bullets were often used as an aid to good shooting.

Two other important infantry support weapons were the Vickers medium machine gun and the Stokes mortar. The Vickers with its heavy base or mounting required a trained crew. It fired .303 ammunition in a belt of one hundred and fifty rounds and had a rapid rate of fire, greater than the Lewis. It was a formidable weapon in attack or defence and could fire on 'fixed' lines. The gun could be set up in daylight and with the aid of maps and forward observers the sights could be adjusted and set and it could then be fired accurately in total darkness and through fog, smoke and heavy rain. Each of these weapons had its own independent unit with its weapons being 'farmed out' to infantry units for special purposes.

Troops in the reserve line, and to a lesser degree those in supports, were called upon to provide working parties and carrying and ration parties to the front line. Materials carried could include ammunition for artillery in a coming attack, barbed wire in half-hundredweight coils, various sizes of iron screw pickets, 'A' frames and, in wet weather,

duckboards. Or it could be to supply a patrol or even an identification or other raiding party.

Front line troops were rarely called upon for any of these duties but were responsible for manning their own listening posts. These were usually established well out into no-mans-land, sometimes in a standing crop or a well-camouflaged spot. There was usually room for two men to sit, squat or crouch. The occupants were changed a few times during the night. They went out when it was dark and came in before 'stand to', in the early hours of the morning.

During daylight hours, no-mans-land would be one of the most deserted areas of real estate to be found anywhere, with not a soul in sight. There was little to do in the front line during daylight. All movement had to be below ground level, difficult if the trench had been recently battered about, but not impossible. The soldier could catch up with a few jobs, like cleaning his rifle, darning a sock, sewing on a button. He could even play cards if there was room, or write a letter or read an old one. He should catch up with a bit of sleep for there would be none at night for anyone. There was always the midday meal to eat. An odd burst of machine gun fire might be sprayed along the parapet and even a sniper's bullet or two, or an odd shell. An enemy plane might sweep low along the line of trenches, so low that the begoggled face of the pilot could be seen as he learned over the side of the cockpit. The presence of an enemy observation balloon high above their lines was to me always an ominous sight. Everything within range of their powerful binoculars would be noted. Some of this would be relayed by phone to their HQ below and if important enough, to their artillery.

Front line troops often had a grandstand view of daylight aerial activity. There were occasional 'dog fights', single combats and even the odd aerial battle. But the big thing was to keep the head down at all times.

As darkness fell on the peaceful daylight scene, the front line developed into a hive of activity, even though in summer it was not quite dark till about nine. Fritz always seemed to be jumpy; flares and star shells would light the landscape like daylight. Strings of aeroplane direction lights were also often seen further back.

A patrol would arrive from the reserve area, passwords exchanged and the patrol leader, after being asked how long he expected to be out, would be asked to return to the same spot when he came back. A wiring party, equipped with leather gloves and pliers, might report in from company HQ, followed minutes later by a group carrying iron screw pickets of all sizes and several half hundredweight coils of barbed wire, and then disappear into no-mans-land. Picket carriers had to be careful not to drop a bundle of pickets on to another bundle; the response from Fritz would have been spectacular. Another party would arrive with the company rations with a smaller party from each platoon collecting its share of dry rations. If there was hot stew, as there often was it would have to be taken to each man while it was still hot.

As the night wore on, the wire and picket carriers would depart for the rear and the wiring party itself would be in when their job was finished, and the patrol would have reported back. The last to come in would probably have been the last relief for the listening post. Then in the early hours, just before first light, the whisper would be passed around to 'stand to'. Every man would mount the firestep, if there was one, or stand upright in the trench and peer intently into the darkness of no-mans-land. For this was the crucial hour of the day. It was, and had been down through the ages the most expected time for attack, particularly if there was a ground mist or fog. Watching eyes might see movement through the gloom, with others looking too and many agreeing with what had been seen. When daylight came the 'moving object' might prove to be nothing more sinister or dangerous than a gnarled old apple tree stump, a post or a pile of bricks or cobble stones. If near a farm it could be a dead pig, a goat or some other animal. In the half light and the tenseness of the situation, nerves and imagination played strange tricks on the eyes.

An orthodox trench in a static situation could be a sapper's dream. More than six feet deep, revetted with proper wooden 'A' frames, floored with duckboards for drainage, wide enough for two to pass and with a proper fire step. There would be a wide parapet, with elbow room to fire over, a higher 'parados' at the back, for protection from the rear for those firing over the parapet, and built with square bays or zig-zagged to minimise casualties and with a short spur trench, at the end of which would be the company lavatory fitted with a comfortable seat. There would be dugouts too, deep enough to withstand all but armour piercing shells and with field telephones back to battalion HQ. Such trenches were built but it was never my pleasure or experience to live in one.

A lot of trenches were dug in a hurry after an attack and whilst still under fire, with the object of providing immediate cover, to be improved later, sometimes a long, tedious and risky job. Sometimes a low sunken road was utilised (provided it could not be enfiladed) or a line of shell holes connected up. Sometimes it was an old enemy trench with cubby holes and dugouts now facing the wrong way. Others might have been blown in by shell fire from both sides and needed much repairing. Shells caused much damage in the making of a crater but they often proved a haven later

and saved many lives. They were a calculated risk, however, in wet weather as many shell holes became contaminated with mustard gas or 'Lewisite', the other 'blister' gas. It was particularly dangerous when used as a lavatory. There was at least one instance on record (at Hamel in July 1918 as part of the plan of General Monash), when large craters were deliberately formed by heavy artillery to provide cover for our troops in a coming attack over exposed ground. The enemy never realised this as one of our 'nine point two' batteries fired in a desultory manner. The craters were mapped and the attacking infantry were told of their positions.

Miles of communication trenches were constructed in France and Belgium, between lines of other trenches. Where possible they were zigzagged and wide enough for two to pass. Sometimes they were roofed with timber and iron salvaged from nearby villages, cover with soil and well camouflaged. They gave cover from view and from small arms fire and a sense of security to those who used them. But they were not immune from heavy shell fire, for a direct hit from a five point nine would blow in a section and bury the occupants.

Infantry weapons used by Fritz varied in their effects. Most commonly in use was the 'stick handle' bomb, with a heavy tin container. They were mainly demoralizing in their effect but did cause casualties. One of our chaps at Villers Bretonneux was struck in the solar plexus by one from about ten feet. He was winded but, even though it fell at his feet, he was not wounded. Almost every section of captured enemy trench had its shelves of stick handle bombs stacked like bottles in a wine cellar. They were easy to use and with the stick handle could be thrown further than our Mills grenades. The Germans' 'egg' bomb was smooth and about the size of a two-ounce 'farm yard' variety. It had a certain demoralizing effect as it could be thrown seventy or eighty yards, but because it was not segmented for fragmentation, it was not highly lethal. Like the stick handle it needed no instructions for use. A button was attached to a cord which ran through the stick handle. To pull the button was to ignite the fuse. A short 'stud' protruded from the end of the egg bomb. By tapping it on the boot heel, the striker pin cut through a strip of tinfoil and onto the cap, igniting a short fuze. Their 'pineapple' bomb was a highly lethal weapon and demoralizing. It was deeply segmented for fragmentation and a weightier missile than the Mills.

One of their most fearsome weapons, however, was the Minenwerfer, 'minniewerfer' to our chaps. It was a heavy mortar or 'mine' and was fired from a squat, short-barrelled heavy mortar. It was quite large and could be seen in the air for some time, because of its high trajectory. But it was difficult to guess just where it would finally fall. This caused many a minor stampede to get out of its way.

Two other weapons, *not* infantry based, rate a special mention. They were among the most destructive and lethal artillery pieces in the extensive German arsenal of WWI. One was the infamous 'Daisy Cutter'. Less than half the calibre of the five point nine, it had a muzzle velocity faster than sound and an almost flat trajectory. Fitted with the new '106' special percussion fuse, it was so sensitive that it burst immediately on contact with any surface. It made no crater, but the fragments scoured the ground for many yards from the point of impact, causing heavy casualties. Fired in 'salvos' it was dreaded by the troops. The demoralizing effect was caused by the piercing shriek of the projectile and the explosion, which came almost together, followed seconds later by the sound of the gun being fired, coupled with the knowledge of its lethal powers.

The 'five point nine' was not so demoralizing as the 'daisy cutter' but caused a great deal of material damage and many casualties. It was well said 'that you never heard the shell which got you' (the one with your number on it) because, travelling faster than sound, it arrived ahead of its noise. Three of us shared one at Blangy Tronville; it 'landed' between us, less than five feet away, and we never heard it coming. During a heavy bombardment, there were explosions all round, the close ones were sudden, those a short distance past were preceded by an urgent rushing sound, and those going further on and a bit higher could be clearly distinguished and fragments seemed to come from everywhere, 'swishing', 'buzzing' or 'whining' according to their speed, size, shape or weight, with the thud of an occasional 'dud' and the 'plop' of the gas shell.

The smoke from most of their high explosives, including anti-aircraft shells, seemed to be black. Much of ours including anti-aircraft was white. When firing at enemy planes, each burst first appeared as a small bundle of wool or a tiny cumulus cloud which on a fine day slowly grew in size as it drifted or was blown away, depending on the strength of the wind. If a battery was firing, the sky in the area was filled in a few minutes with dozens of these miniature white clouds.

The German five point nine was sometimes used to bombard front lines, providing no-mans-land was wide enough. If not, there was a danger to their own troops as many fragments flew a long way and there was always the danger from the odd 'drop short'. We had ours, too. Still in the general forward area there were many other targets for the five point nine and bigger enemy guns; crossroads, bridges, woods, suspected observation posts, some

of our bigger guns, likely forming up places for artillery, tanks or infantry and many others.

In the light of all these things, there seems justification for the infantryman's view that this (the forward area) was where it all happened.

Mr Denman's experiences and observations of life as a member of the 51st Infantry Battalion, AIF, in France in 1918 will be continued in future issues.

Warren Perry

The Major Ind Centenary Commemoration Ceremony

A ceremony took place at Queenscliff in Victoria on Sunday afternoon 21 June 1987to commemorate the life and career of Major Frederick William Ind, RA (1858-87) who died at Queenscliff on Thursday 23 June 1887 while in command of the Port Phillip Fortress with headquarters at Fort Queenscliff, where the Australian Command and Staff College is now located.

Born in Essex, England, in 1858, Major Ind entered the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich in 1876. He later received awards for bravery while serving in the war in Egypt in 1882. He left England in 1883 to take up appointment as Captain, commander of the Victorian Artillery and was later promoted to Major. In 1885, when construction of Queenscliff fort was sufficiently advanced, the headquarters of the Victorian Artillery was moved there under Major Ind's command. He was the first commander with the fort fully operational and manned by a permanent force. Major Ind died of illness in 1887, aged only 29.

Short addresses were delivered at Major Ind's grave in the presence of serving and former officers of the RAA, representatives of the Victorian Branch of the RAA Association, the Military Historical Society of Australia, the Fort Queenscliff Military Historical Society and the Geelong Historical Society. The Commandant of the Australian Command and Staff College was represented by Major General John D. Stevenson, Australian Staff Corps (Rtd).

The ceremony was well organised by Queenscliff historian, Mr E.T. Raison, and directed by Lieutenant Colonel Councillor Frank C. Hewetson. The Ind Oration was delivered by Major Warren Perry, late RAA and former Federal President of the Military Historical Society of Australia.

The oration was followed by the laying of a wreath by the Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliff, Councillor I.R. Curtis. A trumpeter then sounded *The Last Post* and *Reveille*.

A gratifying feature of the commemorative ceremony was the large attendance of people from Queenscliff. After the ceremony those present were entertained at afternoon tea at the Town Hall by the mayor and councillors of the Borough.

In contrast to Major Ind's funeral on 25 June 1887, the ceremony was favoured by pleasant and sunny weather free of rain and strong winds.

Jim Gibbney

Historic Records Search

The Australian Bicentennial Historic Records Search may well be one of the more important results of the Bicentennial because it gives every indication of adding a whole new dimension to Australian historical research. Research workers have reason to be grateful to the many fine libraries and archives in this country but the resources of these institutions are already strained and an increasing number of people are seeing the virtue of maintaining their own family archives.

The Historic Records Search recognises that the practice has positive advantages and seeks to minimise its disadvantages by creating a national register, on computer, of those collections of valuable historic records still owned by private citizens. Not a collecting organisation, it seeks only to register collections in a form that will lead those with a genuine need towards important sources which might otherwise elude them.

It is emphasised that in this context at least, historic records are not only the preserve of the eminent and need not necessarily be very old. Most Australian families preserve letters, photographs, legal papers and other documents, both as evidence of their business activities and as personal mementos. It is documents of this type that can turn a dry and academic piece of research based on official sources alone into a warmly readable account of the life of an earlier generation.

A form of invitation to take part in the Search appears below.

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Your records Below are some of the records we are interested in. Please tick all the types you have. Give the most important types two ticks.

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☐ Service Records ☐ Financial Records ☐ Other

Please indicate **what years your records cover**. Tick one or more boxes.

☐ Before 1850 ☐ 1851 to 1900 ☐ 1901 to 1930 ☐ 1931 to 1949 ☐ 1950 to now

Please send to: Australian Bicentennial Historic Records Search, National Library of Australia, CANBERRA ACT 2600

John Sweetman

The military establishment at King George Sound (Frederickstown) 1826-1831

On 9 November 1826, the brig *Amity* set sail from Sydney to establish a penal settlement at King George Sound in south western Australia, in what was then unclaimed territory. This was to prevent a possible French claim.

The Sound had been named by Captain George Vancouver, Royal Navy, who had visited the area in 1791. He also named Princess Royal Harbour, Oyster Harbour, Bald Head, Breaksea Island, Michaelmas Island, Seal Island and Point Possession (see map).

Chosen to command the settlement was Major Edmund Lockyer (1784-1860), who had arrived in Sydney in April 1825 with a detachment of the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot. His second in command was Captain Joseph Wakefield, who was also the engineer for the settlement.

The *Amity* carried Major Lockyer, Captain Wakefield, a sergeant and 18 rank and file of the 39th (Dorsetshire) Regiment of Foot who were to form the garrison of the settlement. Also on board were Assistant Surgeon Isaac Scott Nind, Ensign Edmund Lockyer, Jnr as assistant storekeeper and the brothers William and Thomas Woods who were to oversee the 23 convicts also on board. The gardener, John Browne, and three women and two children made up the remainder of the settlement's complement.

In addition to her own crew under the Master, Mr T. Hanson, the *Amity* carried a naval party for the voyage. This consisted of Lieutenant Colson Festing, in command for the voyage, a quartermaster, a midshipman, and a marine batman. This party left with the *Amity* in January 1827.

The ship had arrived at King George Sound on the afternoon of 25 December 1826. Lockyer ordered her to be sailed into Princess Royal Harbour, where she was anchored at the place Flinders had chosen to anchor on his coastline chartering expedition in December 1801. This was at the foot of Mount Melville, named in honour of Viscount Melville, the First Lord of the Admiralty.

On Sunday 21 January 1827, Lockyer officially proclaimed the existence of the settlement, calling it Frederick's Town, in honour of His Royal Highness, the Duke of York.

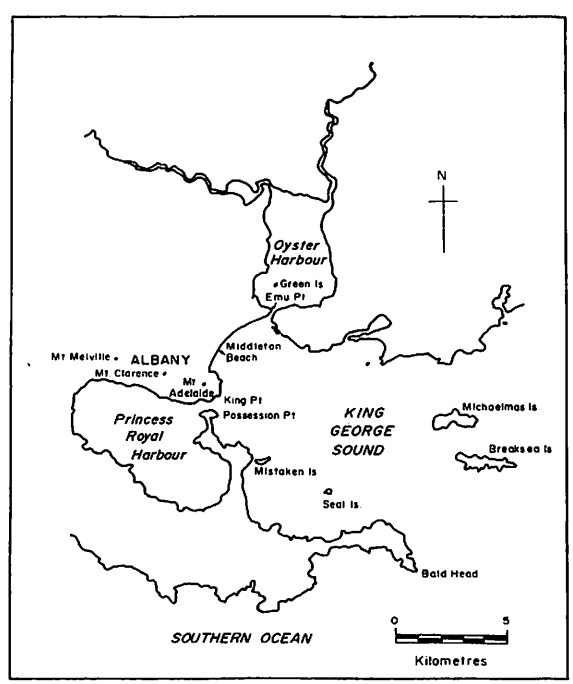
Besides Lockyer, there were three other commandants, all from the 39th Regiment, whose officers commanded the various outposts of the New South Wales Government by rotation.

Major Edmund Lockyer commanded from 25 December 1826 to 2 April 1827. He returned to Sydney on the *Success* on 2 April 1827 and resigned his commission in the following September. Lockyer died on 10 June 1860, aged 76.

Captain Joseph Wakefield — 2 April 1827 to 6 December 1828. Wakefield returned to Sydney on the *Governor Phillips* on 6 December 1828.

Lieutenant George Sleeman — 6 December 1828 to 3 December 1829. Sleeman had been commandant of the inappropriately sited and struggling settlement at Raffles Bay in Arnhem Land. He returned to Sydney on the *Governor Phillips* on 3 December 1829.

Captain Collet Barker — 3 December 1829 to 19 March 1831. When eventually the order came to



Albany and King George Sound.

The Residency and Lockyer's Memorial, now a Branch of the W.A. Museum, Princess Royal Harbour, Albany.

evacuate the settlement, Barker was given the job of searching for the mouth of the Murray River in St Vincent's Gulf, before returning to Sydney. On 30 April 1831, while undertaking this exploration, he was tragically speared to death by natives. He is commemorated by the name Mt Barker in both Western Australia and South Australia.

Rank and file of the original garrison which arrived with Lockyer in 1826 consisted of the following men from the 29th Regiment of Foot, which unit also provided the settlement's commandants:

Sergeant — John Hale. Promoted from Corporal, 13 August 1876.

Corporals — John Shore.
James Smith. Promoted from private, 13 August 1826.

Privates — William Banks. Died and was buried in Albany, 8 March 1827.
Patrick Boyle
Charles Clay
Thomas Cook
John Denn (Dean ?) Thought to have been returned to Sydney due to sickness, 2 April 1827
William Dickens. (Diggins?). Thought to have been returned to Sydney for refusing to flog a prisoner, 2 April 1827.
James Evans
Robert Forred (Forward ?)
Michael Galvin
William Harrigan
Patrick Hartnell
William Hill
Thomas Horstins
Maurice Mullins
Maurice Reidy
John Sweeney

The original party included three other military personnel, who had specific duties in the settlement:

Ensign Edmund Morris Lockyer — 25 December 1826–23 February 1827. Although a member of the 57th Regiment of Foot, he was temporarily attached to the 39th as storekeeper. He returned to Sydney on the *Isabella* and there rejoined the 57th, before going to India in 1831.

William and Thomas Woods — 25 December 1826–6 December 1828. These two brothers were members of the Royal Veterans Corps and their task was to oversee the convicts — William as Governor of Convicts, and Thomas as Overseer of Convicts. They returned to Sydney on the *Governor Phillips*, on 6 December 1828.

Records show that at later dates other soldiers from the 39th made up part of the garrison in the settlement's short history as an outpost of New South Wales.

Little is known of these later arrivals, but the undermentioned are found in various Settlement Orders and Colonial Secretary's correspondences:

Ensign Reid. His date of arrival is not known but he is mentioned as a member of a board established to consider the condition of animals being transported to the Raffles Bay Settlement, early in 1828. Because of illness he returned to Sydney aboard the *Governor Phillips* on 6 December 1828.

Sergeant Hoops. Dates of arrival and departure are not known. He is mentioned in several letters and despatches of 1829. Private Gough. Dates of arrival and departure are not known. He is thought to have been on a exploration trip with Captain Barker in January 1830.
Private Quin. Dates of arrival and departure are not known. Mention is made of his being the champion at racing to the top of Mt Clarence, an activity designed to relieve the boredom of the settlement. This was during Captain Barker's period of command from 3 December 1879 to 19 March 1831.

The *Amity* carried stores for six months and also some sheep and pigs. Although supplies still came from Sydney, crops from the settlement's farms established on the mainland and on Green Island were a welcome addition to the stores. Fish from the harbours and muttonbirds from the islands were also consumed.

In January of 1831, Governor Stirling of the Swan River settlement requested the withdrawal of the troops and convicts from King George Sound. This was to enable the region to be opened up for free settlers.

The 39th continued to garrison King George Sound until Despatch No. 31/1 January 1831 arrived. It advised that the *Isabella*, on its return from the Swan River Settlement, would bring troops from that settlement to be responsible for the protection of King George Sound. The ship would then embark the 'present population' of the sound, with provisions taken from King George Sound, for passage to Sydney.

On 29 January 1831, the new garrison comprising Lieutenant William Carew, one sergeant and twenty privates of the 63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot, four women and five children, 'in addition to the Officer's lady and two children', arrived in Fremantle.

The *Isabella* left for King George Sound on 7 March 1831, but it is not known if the whole party was aboard. The monthly return for May 1831 gives the strength of the Albany post as one officer, one sergeant and fifteen rank and file. Private Thomas Jones had died on 22 April 1831, which would seem to indicate that the original number of other ranks sent to Albany was sixteen and not twenty.

On 19 March 1831, the *Isabella* arrived at King George Sound and the next few days were spent stocktaking and arranging the red tape of handing over the settlement to the control of the Swan River Settlement.

The *Isabella* then sailed with the original settlers, thus bringing the New South Wales penal settlement, and as such, the first chapter in the military establishment in Western Australia, to an end.

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Acknowledgements

Mr Donald Gardener. For permission to reproduce and use the map of King George Sound, found in his book named above, page 4.

Albany Historical Society. For permission to use pages 6 & 7 from their publication, *The First Hundred Years, Albany, Western Australia, 1791-1891.*

Bev Grazier. For reproduction of map and artwork.

Mrs U. Peasley, Murwillumbah, NSW; a descendant of Major Lockyer.

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J.S. Battye Library of West Australia History.

My family for their support and sufferance.

Greg Swinden

The Dry Land Sailors — a short history of the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train 1915–17

This is a short history of a small and relatively unknown unit of the Royal Australian Navy. The Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train was formed in late February of 1915, but the idea for its existence had first been proposed in January of that year.

The Naval Board was anxious to see the officers and men of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve suitably employed in the war effort and thus offered the Imperial War Council a Bridging Train, complete with personnel, equipment, vehicles and horses for use in engineering operations with the Royal Naval Division, then operating in Flanders.

The officer selected to command this unit was Lieutenant (later Lieutenant Commander) Leighton Bracegirdle who had previously served with the NSW Contingent in China during the Boxer Rebellion, and who had only recently returned from New Guinea where he had served in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. His executive officer was Lieutenant Thomas (Granny) Bond, who had also served in New Guinea and who had been awarded the DSO for his bravery in the capture of the German wireless station at Bitapaka in September 1914.

Recruiting began immediately and an encampment was set up in the Domain in Melbourne. Most of the men came from the RANR throughout the states, but a number of northern Queenslanders who were knowledgeable horsemen and some sappers (such as George Parker) from an Australian Engineers militia unit also camped in the Domain were enlisted.

Horses were procured from the Army Remount Depot at Albert Park and the men of the Bridging Train began to get accustomed to being on horseback. As one member of the Train, AB Driver Carl Schuler, later stated, he had never spent more time on a horse than when he was training in Melbourne. The training was carried out in the St Kilda—Fawkner Park area and at the end of the day the horses were returned to the Remount Depot.

The training in horsemanship was easier than that of bridging, as nobody really knew anything about bridging. Vehicles and pontoons had to be constructed (the pontoons were built at Cockatoo Dockyard in Sydney) and were not ready for use until late May.

Despite this lack of training the Train was embarked on the transport *Port Macquarie* on 3 June 1915. With personnel dressed in Light Horse uniforms, the only features indicating the unit's naval background were the wearing of naval rank insignia and a large stockless anchor on their slouch hats.

With the Train went 412 horses but conditions in the tropics caused a number of the horses to die from exhaustion or overheating. All the horses were off-loaded in Colombo and are believed to have been turned over to the Indian Army. On 17 July the Train minus its horses arrived in Port Said.

AB Driver Carl Schuler whilst undergoing mounted training in Melbourne. Note the Light Horse uniform.

Bracegirdle was immediately called to see the admiral commanding the Eastern Mediterranean, who told him the Bridging Train had been diverted to Gallipoli. The Train was first sent to the island of Imbros where it stayed from 27 July until 6 August. It was here that two changes were announced. Firstly, as of 25 July the Train was no longer under the control of the Admiralty but had been handed over to the British Army and attached to the 9th Army Corps under General Stopford. A bigger surprise for the Train was that its job now was to construct pontoon piers at Suvla Bay, a task for which it had not been prepared.

On 7 August the Train went ashore at Suvla (they rowed ashore in their pontoons) and soon had constructed a barrel pier at A beach. The following day they built a landing pier in the same area. On the 9th the Train was asked to build a pier at old A beach to aid in the evacuation of wounded. This pier was constructed under heavy shell fire but was completed in just twenty minutes and was in operation a few minutes later.

From then until the evacuation of Suvla, the unit was involved in the building and maintenance of piers and the supply of water and stores to the British troops. Often when unloading stores the following ditty was sung:

> Bridging Train tourist, seven bob a day
> Unloading lighters at Suvla Bay.
> If they should grumble, the Jaunty* would say
> Away to the guard shed and stop all their pay.
>
> *'Jaunty' was their Sergeant Major.

All this was carried out under constant enemy shellfire and as well as wounded the Train suffered a number of fatal casualties. Petty Officer Le Sueur died of wounds, Chief Petty Officer Perkins was killed by a Turkish shell whilst organising the unloading of stores and AB Charles Schanke was mortally wounded. Schanke and four other men had been taking a water tank to one of the forward distribution centres, Schanke carrying a pot of paint with which to paint the tank once it was in position. On their way forward a shell landed nearby and Schanke was gravely wounded, his uniform being covered in blood and paint.

Apart from the risk of injury from enemy shelling, the Train suffered greatly from sicknesses such as jaundice, paratyphoid and bloodpoisoning from cuts and scratches; also a number of injuries were sustained in the construction of piers. AB Driver Carl Schuler suffered a bad shin injury when a baulk of timber fell on it and he had to be evacuated to Malta for treatment. Hours before he left he had won £15 playing cards with his mates so was slightly compensated for his injury.

Finally on 18 December 1915 the Train was evacuated from Suvla. General Bland, the Chief Engineer of the 9th Army Corps, commented that the unit had done outstanding work at Suvla and could be relied upon to carry out any engineering task.

On its return to Egypt the Train was attached to the 1st Anzac Corps and sent to the Suez Canal area, engaged in bridge building and controlling the existing swing bridges which were formed and then broken to allow ships to pass along the Canal. The Train operated in the area between Ferry Post

Members of the RANBT having a smoke-oh in the desert in 1916. They kept their rifles piled nearby as at this stage Turkish forces were still in contact with the Canal.

and Serapeum. The work was monotonous with bridges having to be formed and broken as many as six times a day.

In April 1916, as a result of wrangling over who should have control of the Train it was returned to the 9th Army Corps and moved south where it controlled bridges across the Canal from the Great Bitter Lake to El Shatt. Throughout this time the Turks often bombed the Canal zone and patrols were needed to keep Turkish forces away from the area. One such patrol composed of RANBT personnel captured a group of Turkish soldiers one night, some miles north-east of the Canal. AB Driver Phillip H. Rutlidge, who was a member of the patrol, stated that they got the biggest shock of their lives when the next morning it was found that the Turks were suffering from yellow fever, and how they spent an uneasy two weeks (the incubation period) waiting to see whether or not they had contracted the disease. Fortunately they had not.

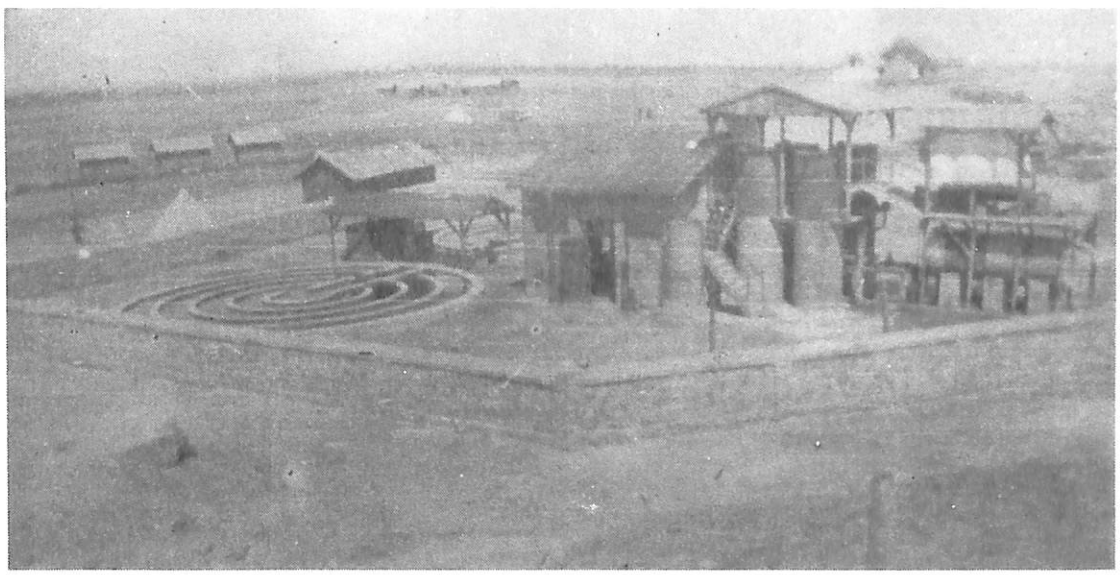
In December 1916, it was decided that the Train would take part in the landings at El Arish. They were to land with the attacking force onto a mined beach which was held by the Turks and then construct a wharf over which troops and supplies could be landed. Luckily the Turks had abandoned El Arish and apart from being shelled and bombed the wharf was built with little difficulty, although it was found to be too short at first and its length had to be increased.

With the rapid advance of allied forces into Palestine the Bridging Train found it had less and less work to do, the Australian Engineers now doing most of the engineering work required. Also within the Train there were grumblings that their job could be done by civilians, such as the Egyptia Labour Corps, and that they should be freed for front line service. It was decided therefore, by the War Office that the RANBT should be disbanded. By this time Bracegirdle had been transferred to staff duties in Melbourne and Lieutenant Mansley Read had taken over the unit for its final days.

It was decided that 84 members of the Train would be retained in a new unit (Army Troop Company, Australian Engineers). A further 153 joined the RAN. Of the remainder some joined the AIF, most going to the artillery, but some went to infantry, engineers, provost corps, and one (AB Watkins) joined the Australian Flying Corps. This transfer to the army meant a reduction in pay for some. AB Driver George Parker found to his dismay that being a 'six bob a day tourist' meant just that as his pay of seven shillings a day was reduced to that of a private, which was only six shillings.

Those who did not join the RAN or AIF were returned to Australia; these numbered just over 180 men. They left Suez in HMAT *Bulla* on 29 May 1917 and arrived in Melbourne on 10 July, after which they were demobilised.

This brings to an end the story of the RANBT, a unit which was scarcely known in 1917 let alone 1987. The Train was attached to the AIF and Lieutenant Commander Bracegirdle later stated that the army 'never failed to render every assistance, both in regard to pay, clothing, equipment, hospital treatment and other matters'. Yet most of the army did not even know of the existence of the Train, possibly assuming the unit was Light Horse as they wore Light Horse uniforms.



The Water Treatment Works at Kubri. As well as controlling the bridges across the Canal the Train was responsible for operating this installation in the latter part of 1916.

Even at Gallipoli the soldiers at Anzac Cove had no idea that there was an Australian unit a short distance away at Suvla Bay. AB Driver Carl Schuler stated that he and the rest of the 2nd Reinforcements for the Train were landed in error at Anzac Cove and found that no one had ever heard of their unit. They were promptly got rid of by sending them to Suvla in a pinnace.

It is also unlikely that many RAN personnel knew of the Train. In histories of the RAN it is lucky to get a passing mention. Well may the officers and men of the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train be called the Dry Land Sailors.

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Letter from Rear Admiral Bracegirdle to Cx AB A.F. Holland, dated 6 August 1945.

Letter from Father G. Rutlidge concerning actions of the late AB Phillip M. Rutlidge in the RANBT, dated 15 December 1986.

The writer is greatly indebted to ex-AB Driver Carl Schuler of Bayview, Sydney for recollections of his experiences in the RANBT. Photographs illustrating this article are from Carl Schuler.

Missing medals

Headquarters, 1st Division, Enoggera, Queensland has approached the Society seeking assistance or information which may lead to the recovery of the medals of Colonel L. Dobbin, VD (1868–1943). The letter goes on:

> Colonel Leonard Dobbin, VD was the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 1st AIF and as such has some affiliation with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. In 1978 the Dobbin family presented his sword and his medal collection to the Battalion for display in their museum. Unfortunately only the sword arrived in Townsville. The medals were misplaced.

The Army is now attempting to recover or replace the medal collection. He was presented with the following medals:

British War Medal (WW1)
Victory Medal (WW1)
1914–1915 Star
Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers Decoration (VD)
Companion of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

At present, the latter medal cannot be identified and Mr C.A. Campbell, Secretary of St Johns Ambulance Brigade has written to the Curator, St Johns Ambulance Museum, London on our behalf.

Christopher M. Fagg

Darwin — 19 February 1942

At 9.58 am on 19 February 1942, when the war in the Pacific was only ten weeks old, realisation of the war was brought home forcibly to Australians by the first ever enemy attack on the Australian mainland — the bombing of Darwin by aircraft of a Japanese naval carrier task force. This first air attack was quickly followed by a second at 11.57 am on the same day. The air attack paths are shown in the illustration.

The two air attacks brought death, destruction and confusion of a degree then unknown in Australia. Two hundred and forty three people were killed, approximately 350 injured, eight vessels were sunk within the harbour, a further two were sunk at sea off Bathurst Island and another two were beached within the harbour to prevent them sinking. Thirteen other vessels were badly damaged or put out of action. Forty-five aircraft were destroyed and there was great property damage in the port, the township and the air bases.

The first Japanese air strike at 9.58 consisted of 188 aircraft[1] from a naval carrier task force, the whole air operation being commanded by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida. This attack was directed primarily against the shipping and port facilities of Darwin Harbour, with the town being a secondary consideration.

The command and composition of the first strike force was as follows:

Commander Fuchida from the carrier *Akagi* led with a total of 81 level bombers from the carriers *Akagi, Soryu, Hiryu* and *Kaga.*

Lieutenant Commander Egusa from *Soryu* led 71 dive bombers from *Akagi, Soryu, Hiryu* and *Kaga.*

Lieutenant Commander Itaya from *Akagi* led 36 fighters from *Akagi* and *Soryu.*

Carrier *Akagi*	18 fighters (Type 2600 — Zeke or Zero) 18 dive bombers (Type 2599 — Val) 27 level bombers (Type 2597 — Kate) 1 level bomber (Kate) for Commander Fuchida
Carrier *Soryu*	18 fighters 18 dive bombers 27 level bombers
Carrier *Hiryu*	13 level bombers 17 dive bombers
Carrier *Kaga*	13 level bombers 18 dive bombers

The second air strike at 11.57 am comprised 54 land based aircraft from Kendari in Celebes and Ambon on Ambon Island and was directed at neutralising the RAAF Base at Darwin. The composition of this force was:

From Kendari, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Irisa, 27 level bombers (Type 2601).

From Ambon, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Ozaki, 27 level bombers (Type 2596 — Betty).

8th Heavy Cruiser Squadron		
Heavy cruiser *Tone*	12,000 tons	10 8" guns
Heavy cruiser *Chikuma*	12,000 tons	
1st Destroyer Flotilla		
Light cruiser *Abukuma*	Flotilla Leader	
Destroyer *Tanikaze*	6 5" guns,	
Destroyer *Isokaze*	6 5" guns,	8 24" torpedo tubes
Destroyer *Hamakaze*	6 5" guns,	8 24" torpedo tubes
Destroyer *Urakaze*	6 5" guns,	8 24" torpedo tubes
Destroyer *Shiranuhi*	6 5" guns,	8 24" torpedo tubes
Destroyer *Kasumi*	6 5" guns,	8 24" torpedo tubes
Destroyer *Ariake*	6 5" guns,	6 21" torpedo tubes
Destroyer *Yugure*	6 5" guns,	6 21" torpedo tubes

Vice Admiral Kondo's force was made up of two battleships, three heavy cruisers and a flotilla of 12 destroyers — a total of 17 vessels:

3rd Battle Squadron, 2nd Division:		
Battleship *Kongo*	31,000 tons	8 14" guns
Battleship *Haruna*	31,000 tons	8 14" guns
4th Cruiser Squadron, 1st Division:		
Heavy cruiser *Takao*	12,000 tons	10 8" guns
Heavy cruiser *Atago*	12,000 tons	10 8" guns
4th Cruiser Squadron, 2nd Division:		
Heavy cruiser *Mayo*	12,000 tons	10 8" guns

It is believed that the destroyers in attendance were from the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla, led by the light cruiser *Jintsu*, but no confirmation is available.

Located within the confines of Darwin's harbour at the time of the attacks were 49 named and three unnamed ships. Of those named, 10 were merchant vessels — four American, one Norwegian, one British and four Australian — one was a hospital ship, two were American naval vessels, there was one destroyer and one seaplane tender; two were civilian launches, and the remaining 32 were Australian naval vessels of various types.

The unnamed vessels were a floating dock, Oil Lighter No. 1 and Store Lighter No. 2.

The named vessels were:

Name	Tonnage	Type	Casualty
Meigs	12,568	US transport	sunk
British Motorist	6,891	UK oil tanker	sunk
Mauna Loa	5,436	US transport	sunk
Neptuna	5,952	Aust passenger ship	sunk
Zealandia	6,683	Aust coastal trader	sunk
Peary	1,190	USN destroyer	sunk
Mavie	14	RAN lugger	sunk
Kelat	1,894	Aust coal hulk	sunk
Manunda	9,115	Aust hospital ship	damaged
Barossa	4,239	Aust freighter	damaged
Portmar	5,551	US transport	damaged/beached
Tulagi	2,300	Aust coastal trader	damaged/beached
Admiral Halstead	3,289	US freighter	damaged
William B Preston	1,190	USN seaplane tender	damaged
Platypus	3,455	RAN depot ship	damaged
Swan	1,060	RAN sloop	damaged
Gunbar	481	RAN auxiliary minesweeper	damaged
Kara Kara	252	RAN boomgate vessel	damaged
Kookaburra	730	RAN boomgate vessel	damaged

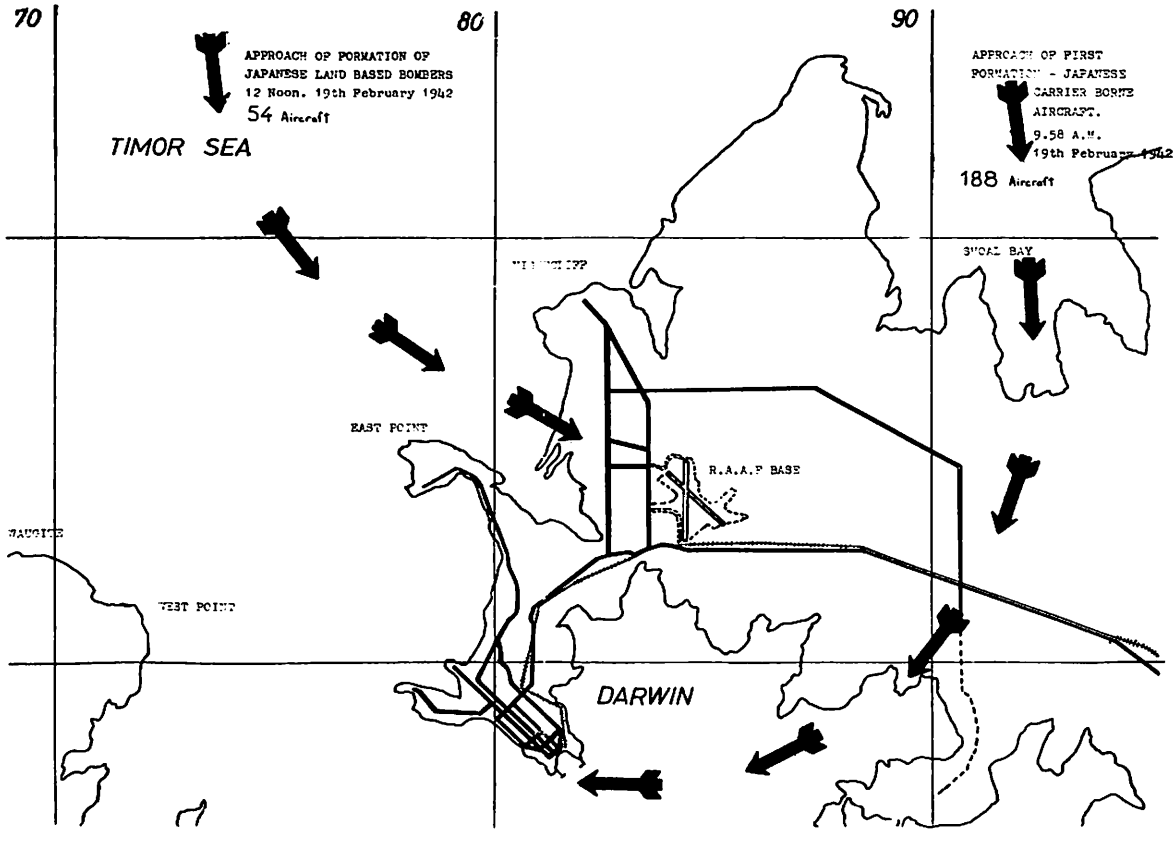
The aircraft of the first air strike were launched from the carrier force located at approximately 9 degrees south, 12 degrees east, some 220 miles north west of Darwin. Reference sources which provide details do not agree on the composition of this force and it has still not been established beyond doubt. However, with the release of further documents and information not available to earlier researchers, my interpretation of the command and composition of the task force is as follows:

Task Force commander	Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo
Second in command	Rear Admiral Tamon Yamaguchi
Support Group commander	Vice Admiral Kondo

The force comprised two separate groups. The major group, under Nagumo, consisted of the aircraft carriers and their escorting vessels and in support, under Kondo, were heavy fighting ships and their escorts.

Vice Admiral Nagumo's force was made up of two aircraft carrier divisions, each of two carriers, two heavy cruisers and a flotilla of eight destroyers from the 1st and 2nd Destroyer Divisions led by a light cruiser — a total of 15 vessels:

1st Carrier Division		
Carrier *Akagi*	36,000 tons	Flagship of Nagumo
Carrier *Kaga*	36,000 tons	Flagship of Yamaguchi
2nd Carrier Division		
Carrier *Soryu*	17,500 tons	
Carrier *Hiryu*	17,500 tons	



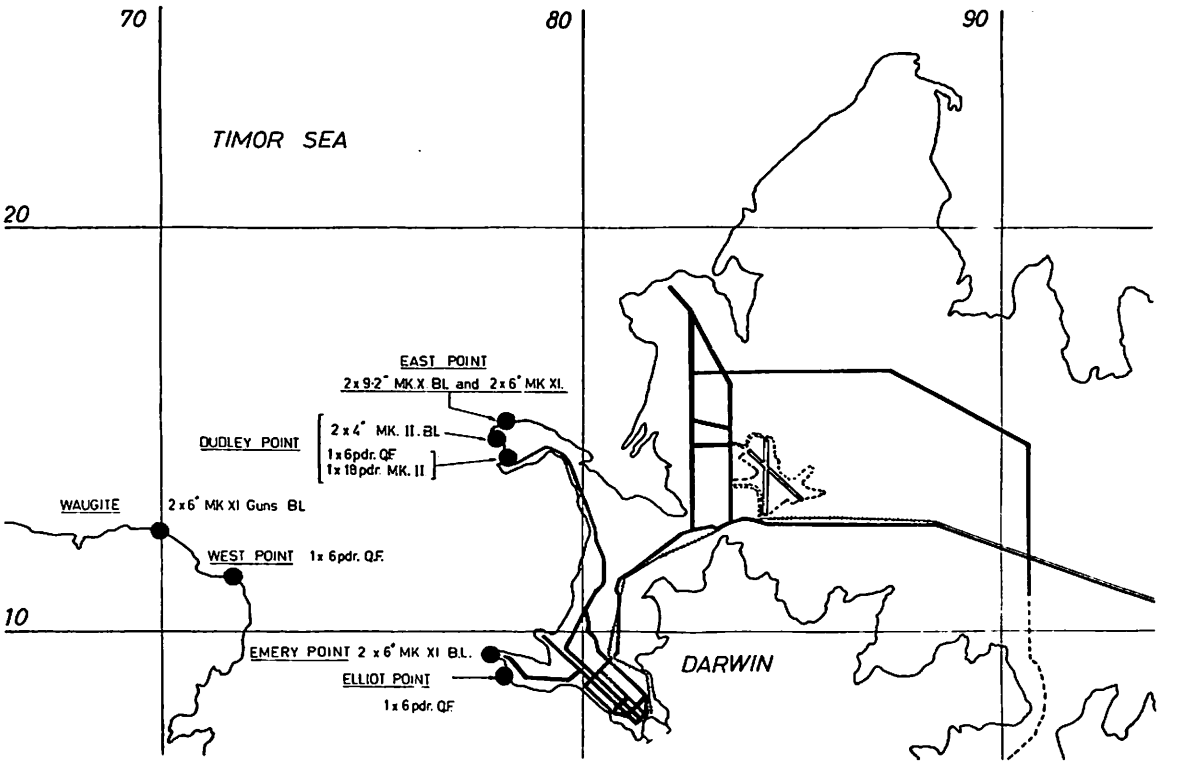
Japanese air attack paths 19 February 1942.

Kangaroo	730	RAN boomgate vessel	damaged
Coongoola	34	RAN motorboat	damaged
Karalee	117	water lugger	damaged
Benjamin Franklin	7,034	Norwegian oil tanker	damaged
Terka	420	RAN auxiliary minesweeper	
Wato	292	Aust tug	
Southern Cross	298	Aust examination steamer	
Warrego	1,070	RAN frigate	
Katoomba	650	RAN minesweeper (in dry dock)	
Koala	730	RAN boomgate working vessel	
Vigilant	105	RAN anti-submarine patrol vessel	
Tolga	418	RAN auxiliary minesweeper	
Deloraine	650	RAN minesweeper	
Griffon	45	RAN lugger	
Karangi	768	RAN boom working vessel	
Apa	266	coal lighter	
Ibis	21	lugger	
Kalaroo	118	water lugger	
Kuru	55	RAN boom patrol vessel	
Larrakia	12	RAN boom patrol vessel	
Lithgow	650	RAN minesweeper	
Moruya	20	RAN boom patrol vessel	
Warrnambool	650	RAN minesweeper	
Winbah	45	RAN channel patrol vessel	
Redbill	12	Lugger	
Townsville	650	RAN minesweeper	
Kiara	15	RAN boom defence vessel	
Yampi Lass		lugger	
Naird		Qantas launch	
Halcyon[3]		Dept Civil Aviation launch	
Florence D		US cargo vessel	sunk, Bathurst Island
Don Isidro		US cargo vessel	sunk, Bathurst Island

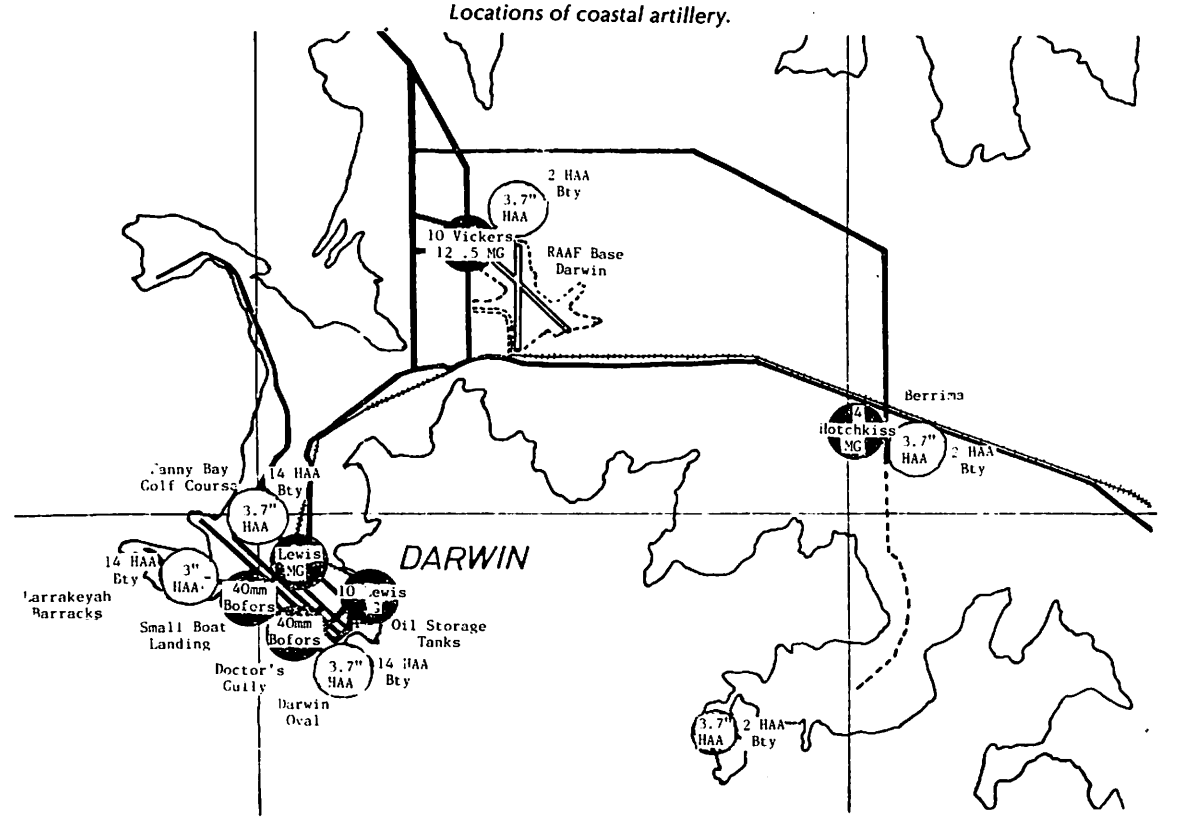
To protect the shipping, port facilities, air bases and the Darwin area, the defences were disposed as shown in the illustrations 'Coastal artillery' and 'Anti-aircraft' layouts.

Darwin's air defences on 19 February 1942 relied upon forces at the undermentioned air installations, the following 55 aircraft being located there on that day:

RAAF Darwin	
3 Hudson bomber/reconnaissance	Nos. 2 and 13 Squadrons, RAAF
6 Hudson	In transit from Koepang
1 Hudson	Under repair
10 P40 Kittyhawk fighters	33rd Pursuit Squadron, USAAF, in transit
1 P40 Kittyhawk	3rd Pursuit Squadron, USAAF, in transit
1 B24 Liberator heavy bomber	USAAF, in transit
2 Beechcraft light transports	USAAF
1 B17 heavy bomber	USAAF, navigational aircraft for 33rd Squadron
Civil air base, Ross Smith Avenue	
5 Wirraway fighter	No. 12 Squadron, RAAF (all unserviceable)
1 Fairey Battle light bomber	RAAF
3 Moth Minor light communication	RAAF
Francis Bay, Darwin	
3 P3B Catalina flying boats	USN Patrol Wing 10
Small Boat Landing, Darwin	
1 Empire flying boat	*Camilla*, Qantas Empire Airways



Locations of coastal artillery.



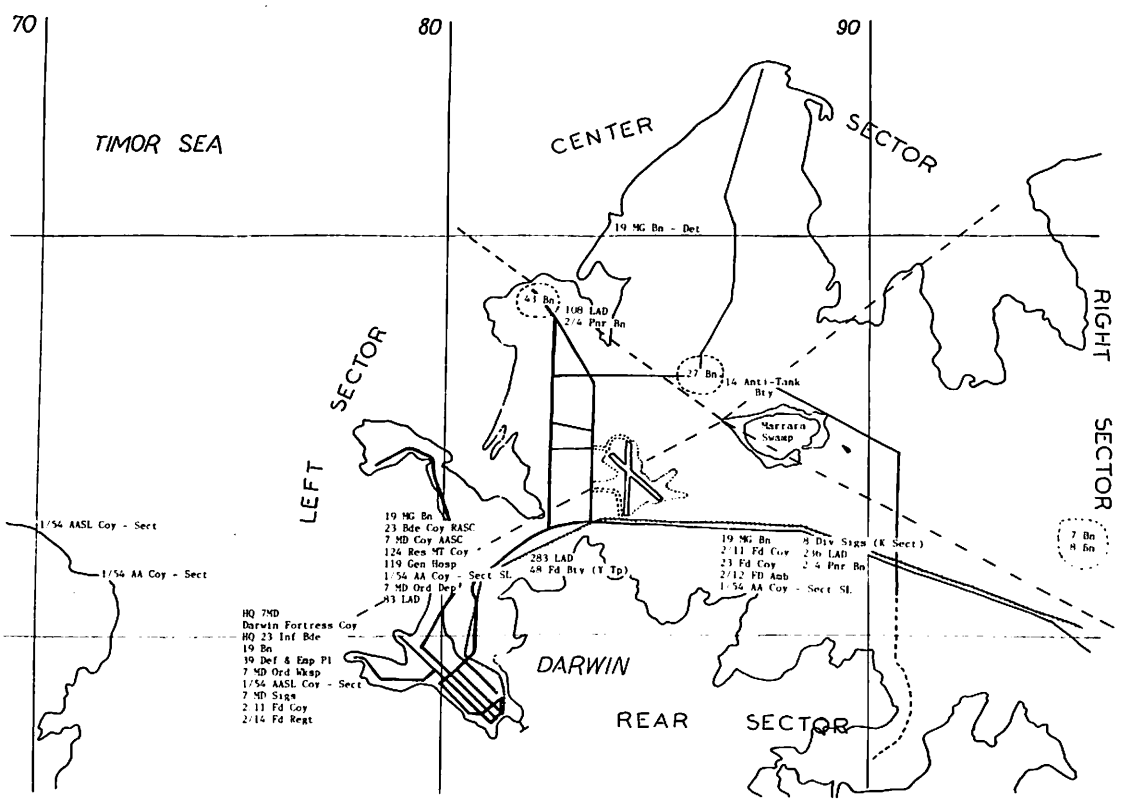
Anti-aircraft defences.

Batchelor	
9 Wirraways	No. 12 Squadron, RAAF
Daly Waters	
7 Hudsons	Nos. 2 and 13 Squadrons, RAAF (no crews)
Bathurst Island	
1 Beechcraft	USAAF

The two air strikes resulted in the destruction of most of the aircraft in the Darwin area — seven Hudsons, six Wirraways, 10 USAAF P40s, one Liberator, three Beechcrafts and three USN P3Bs.

Exact details of Darwin's army defences are not certain but if the units outlined in the Order of Battle of the 7th Military District, dated 21 January 1942, published in *Sabretache*, Volume XXV, No. 3, pages 27-29, are taken, together with those included in the 7MD Location Report of 27 February 1942, the units and their dispositions in the Darwin area at the time of the bombings can be determined with a good degree of accuracy. These are shown in the illustration 'Location of military units'.

The location of American artillery units, the 148th Field Regiment (Y Troop) and the 147th Field Regiment, and the type of guns with which they were equipped, have yet to be established positively. They had only arrived in Darwin on the day before the raids as part of the abandoned Koepang convoy.



Location of military units.

To complete the picture, and to show that not everyone was subject to panic or desertion, which is a widely held assumption about the behaviour of the Darwin military and civilian populace as a whole at the time of the bombings, the following awards were made for gallantry and devotion to duty:

Officer, Order of the British Empire	2
Member, Order of the British Empire	2
Royal Red Cross	1
Distinguished Service Medal	1
Military Medal	1
British Empire Medal	5
Mention in Dispatches	5
Commendation for Brave Conduct	4
Lloyd's Medal for Bravery At Sea	1
Distinguished Service Cross (United States)	10

OBE	Dr J. Hyde, SS *Neptuna*
	Capt J. Garden
MBE	Chief Officer T. Minto, HMAS *Manunda*
	Sister E.M. Neenan, Darwin Hospital
RRC	Matron C. Schumack
DSM	AB C.D. Scott
MM	Gnr Hudson
BEM	D.E. Shelley
	W. Duke
	Const. E. McNab
	T. Mansfield
	Coxn J.F. Waldie
MID	Lt Cmdr C.F. Symonds
	Ldg Cook F.B. Emms, HMAS *Kara Kara*
	Ldg Seaman M. Ericsson, HMAS *Platypus*
	Lt N.M. Muzzell, HMAS *Gunbar*
	Cdr L.E. Tozer, HMAS *Melville*
Commendation	Dr R. Cataland
	Sr E. Cousin
	Sr J. Morris
	Nurse E. Rawlings
Lloyd's Medal	Dr J. Hyde, Ship's Surgeon, SS *Neptuna*
DSM (US)	Maj Floyd Pell
	Lt C.W. Hughes
	Lt R.F. McMahon
	Lt B.H. Rice
	Lt J.G. Glover
	Lt R.G. Oestreicher
	Lt J.R. Peres
	Lt E.S. Perry
	Lt M.R. Weicks
	Lt W.R. Walker

Decorations awarded but not ascertained to date:

Dr B. Kirkland
Sr Elcock
PO P.A. McKenzie

Notes

1. The figure of 188 attacking aircraft was provided by the official Japanese Naval Historian, National Defence College, Japan in correspondence, 1980-84. Corroboration was obtained from Captain Chouwa Takezoe, Defence Councellor, Japanese Embassy, Canberra, also originating from official records.
2. There is no positive confirmation that this vessel was actually in Darwin Harbour on 19 February 1942.
3. *Halcyon* was the vessel used by Coxswain J.F. Waldie (see BEM above) to rescue seaman from the harbour during the bombing.

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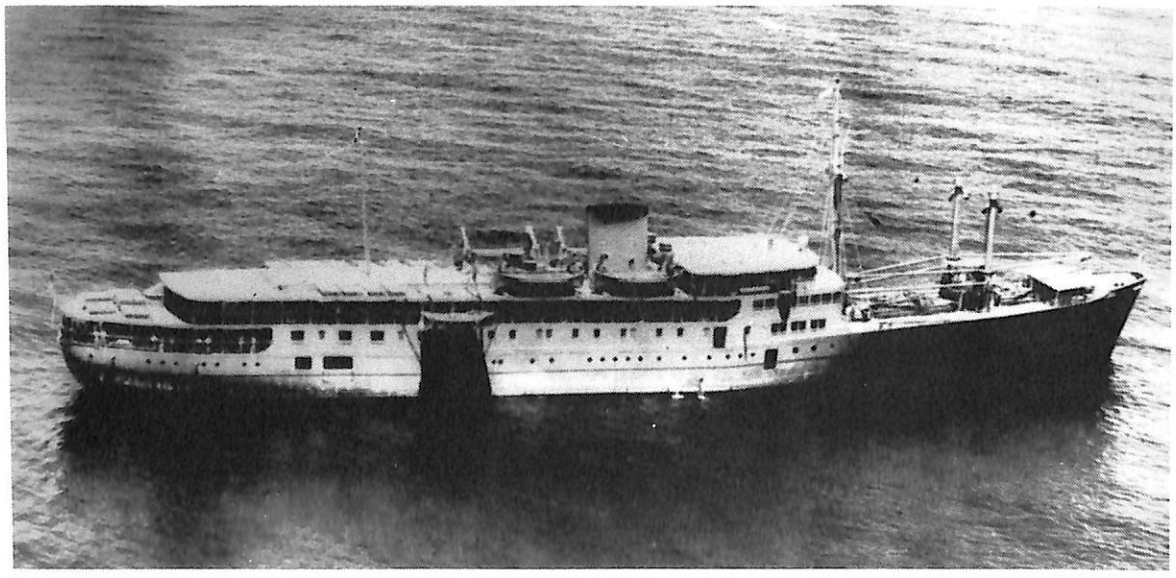

The US cargo vessel **Don Isidro,** *sunk off Bathurst Island.*

Colonel R.G. Nicholson

Tank sculpture

A generous donation by a wartime member of the Regiment has enabled the Royal New South Wales Lancers Memorial Museum to commission a sculpture of a Matilda tank. This is now on display at the Museum in Lancer Barracks, Parramatta and will be available to the Regiment for ceremonial occasions, mess dinners and the like. The Lancers celebrated their 100th year in 1985.

The Matilda, or Infantry Tank Mark II, weighing about 25 tons, was employed by the British in the Western Desert campaign of World War II. The Mark I was in use briefly in Europe before Dunkirk. In 1942 the Matilda was one of the tanks issued to the Australian Armoured Corps. The model depicted mounts the 2-pounder gun and the co-axial 7.92mm BESA machine gun. Alternate armament was the 3-inch Howitzer. Powered by two 95hp Leyland diesel engines, it carried hull armour of 3-4 inches and turret armour of 5-7 inches. In operat-ions the only penetration of the Regiment's tanks was by a Japanese naval 120mm gun at Balikpapan. Communication was provided by the No. 19 Wireless and the SCR 536 'Walkie Talkie' with, of course, an externally mounted tank telephone.

The Regiment drew its first Matildas from Muswellbrook Ordnance Depot on September 1942 and commenced training in the Singleton area under 3 Army Tank Brigade whose then role was

Matilda tanks arrive to support the AIF in the Finschhafen area, New Guinea. (AWM 16101)

close support of infantry. So it was that, mounted in Matildas, the 1st Australian Army Tank Battalion support of infantry. So it was that, mounted in Matildas, the 1st Australian Army Tank Battalion (Royal NSW Lancers), re-named in June 1944 the 1st Australian Armoured Regiment, experienced severe jungle fighting in New Guinea and Borneo between 1943 and 1945. When reformed after the war the Lancers were again issued with Matildas until Centurions became available in 1955.

The sculpture is in bronze, 30 x 35 x 63cm and stands on a polished marble base. The dark green of the marble provides a strong reminder of close jungle, particularly to anyone who has flown over New Guinea. The model is not merely an authentic scaled and detailed model, but an arresting sculpture registering an exciting image of a tank valiantly overcoming deep mud, forging through obstructing jungle, thrusting forward, its gun raised defiantly. As one veteran exclaimed, 'You can almost smell the diesel!' The sculpture's artistry is a tribute to Alex Kolozsy, a Sydney sculptor whose work is represented in many collections. Kolozsy was born in Transylvania and studied at the Academy of Art in Hungary and at the Rembrandt Academy in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. He migrated to Australia in 1959.

Selection of a title for the sculpture presented a problem. It was agreed that a battle honour should be named, but which? Whilst Balikpapan, Borneo saw the Regiment less one squadron employed, and therefore had involved the greatest number of tanks in Australia armoured fighting, the Sattelberg battle had its importance as the Regiment's first action in this war and the first occasion on which Matildas had been employed in the jungle.

Their outstanding success in the extremely difficult steep jungle-clad hills behind Finschhafen in November 1943 proved beyond dispute their value in jungle fighting. The final choice of title, which now appears on the sculpture was, therefore, 'Spirit of Sattelberg'.

Alan Fraser

War Memorial Conference 1987

THE AWM history conference returned to Canberra this year with a change of timing and venue. In order to attract a wider audience, particularly school teachers, the conference was held in July, instead of February as heretofore, and the venue was changed to the Australian Defence Force Academy from the Australian National University.

There were some 200 participants, including a number of MHSA members, and over 40 speakers, although there were noticeably fewer women offering papers than in 1986. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Manning Clark and Jan Bassett opened the program of major talks with 'Australian nurses in the Boer war'. Features of this year's conference were the greater variety of papers and the increased attention given to aspects of Australian participation in the Vietnam conflict. Visitors appreciated the opportunity to tour the new Academy prior to the opening of the conference.

The organisation was up to the usual high standard and altogether the conference was perhaps the most successful yet. Because of other bicentennial activities, there will be no conference in 1988.

Book Reviews

Gary McKay, *In Good Company: One Man's War in Vietnam*, Allen & Unwin Australia, Sydney, 1987. 197 pages, index, glossary, maps and photographs. Our copy from Allen & Unwin Australia. Recommended price $24.95 Hardback and $14.95 Paperback.

The prime reason Gary McKay wrote this book was 'to record the experience of being drafted; the training at Scheyville. . .and the unforgettable experience of leading a rifle platoon on operations in a war zone'. He has done so in a refreshing, open way which makes the book hard to put down.

The early chapters cover the period from the time at which he was conscripted, through his training at the Officer Training Unit at Scheyville, his posting to a training battalion, and finally his preparing to go to war. They do so in a way which will bring back vivid memories for any reader who has been through these or similar experiences.

Very few officers in today's infantry battalions have experienced the joy, pride, comradeship, fatigue, fear, exhilaration and heartbreak of commanding a rifle platoon on operations. In the main part of this book Gary captures all of these emotions and, in so doing, explains why a rifle platoon commander's lot makes it the most satisfying of all Army postings in peace or war. He also records in considerable detail the conditions under which platoons operated in Vietname as well as the methods used there by the Australian Army.

The story is completed with details of Gary's return to Australia after having been wounded whilst leading his platoon in action — an action for which he was later awarded a Military Cross.

In Good Company was based on Gary's recollections and a number of letters he wrote to his wife during the period covered by the book. He admits that it is 'not intended to form a military history' and that 'there may be minor inaccuracies owing to a lack of fact at the time of origin'. There are some minor inaccuracies in the book which could have been removed with a little research or better editing. An obvious one, for example, is that the upper photograph opposite page 102 is incorrectly captioned. It is not a photo of Luscombe Bowl, but a stage erected in the Courtenay Hill area. None of these inaccuracies are significant in themselves; but they are irritating, they could easily have been removed, and together they do tend to detract from what is otherwise an excellent book.

Despite this minor criticism, *In Good Company* is a valuable addition to the growing number of books on Vietnam. For anybody who wants to learn what soldiering in Vietnam was really like from an Australian point of view, this is essential reading. For those who already know and are looking for a reminder — or who want to let others know — it is a must.

Rick Haines

Richard Humble, *United States Fleet Carriers of World War II*, Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset. Soft-cover version 1986, 160pp. quarto, £5.95.

Naval history can be cast and packaged in many forms to appeal to either specialist or general readers. This book has been designed with both in mind. For the general reader it will serve as an introductory text to a specific form of naval warfare. For the specialist it provides lighter reading intended more to entertain than educate. Initially published in hard-back form, the quarto-sized soft-cover version is written in a fast moving journalistic style while forty to fifty percent of the book is made up of black and white photographs which portray the action described in the narrative.

The central thesis of the book is relatively simple and persuasively argued: 'If there was a single American weapon which did more than any other to win the Pacific War of 1941-45, it was the fleet carrier whose story is told in this book' (p. 6). Humble further argues that following the Battle of Midway and the destruction of four Japanese aircraft carriers and the ensuing battle of attrition off Gaudalcanal, 'the fleet carrier became the US Navy's master weapon in the advance across the Pacific to the shores of Japan' (p. 6). The role of the carriers is subsequently described from the time the US Navy was left with only one operational fleet carrier, *Enterprise*, in October 1942, until thirteen months later when the newly formed US 5th Fleet began the advance on Tokyo through the Central Pacific. The assault was accompanied by six large and five light carriers in addition to six lightweight escort carriers. This is a clear testimony of the immense resources available to the American naval war machine and the capacity of its shipbuilding industry.

The performance of the fleet carriers are then assessed during the major naval engagements of the Pacific war: Coral Sea, Midway, Eastern Solomons, Santa Cruz, Guadalcanal, Philippine Sea, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. But while Humble is careful not to be side-tracked, in several places he neglects to provide sufficient information on the general course of the war to permit the reader to form an accurate perspective of the urgency and significance of the events he attempts to describe. Similarly, he fails to present the origins of the growing dominance and ultimate takeover of carrier based operations from conventional surface actions utilising the once eminent battleships. As a result he gives an incomplete account of the conflict between pre-war force structure planning and capital ship construction, and the imperatives of the conduct of the Pacific naval war.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, this book is easy to read and succeeds in portraying the crucial nature of fleet carrier operations. The plethora of photographs add superbly to the drama and assist the reader to gain a clear perception of 'what it was like'. They capture the desperation of the American carrier sailors, the tragedy of stricken warships and the tenacity of air group pilots. Although there is nothing new in this book it is still enjoyable reading and useful for those who want an introduction to the Pacific naval war and the genesis of carrier based warfare to what it is today: the most mobile form of naval combat force that has the potential to deliver enormous firepower with the greatest flexibility.

T.R. Frame

Gordon Williamson, *Knights of the Iron Cross, A history 1939–45*, Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset, England, 1987. 160pp, illustrations, index, sources, glossary, £9.95 HB.

The Iron Cross was first established in 1813 and was re-established in 1939 by Hitler for the German forces then at war. The Iron Cross was to be awarded in four classes, Iron Cross Second Class, Iron Cross First Class, Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross and Grand Cross of the Iron Cross. The cross for a higher class was to be preceded by that of a lower class so the Knight's Cross would be awarded after the Second Class and the First Class.

The book is divided into several parts. The first deals with the actual medal and the documentation that went with the award. These notes are particularly relevant to collectors with some informative comments on reproductions and other variants. In order to recognise further meritorious action after the award of the Knight's Cross, the Oakleaves clasp was introduced in 1940, the Swords and Oakleaves as well as the Swords, Oakleaves and Diamonds in 1941 and the Golden Swords, Oakleaves and Diamonds in 1944. All these awards are well illustrated.

The main content of the book is six chapters; one for each year of war. Each chapter is introduced by a brief history of the German armed forces rather than the history of the Knight's Cross for that year. Each chapter includes biographies and photographs of selected winners of the Knight's Cross. Most biographies include some material on the recipient prior to joining the forces, details of service history and the action or event that led to the award and details of post-war interests. Many entries note the date of death of the holder but many in the book are still living. The major problem with a small book such as this is that it only contains 69 biographies which covers only one per cent of all holders of the Knight's Cross.

The appendixes were for me the most interesting part of the book. They list all 27 Diamonds winners and 159 Swords winners and include some analysis of awards by period, rank and service. There is a comparison between the Knight's Cross and the Victoria Cross and the Medal of Honor. Although I disagree with how Williamson was making his comparisons, I support his conclusion that comparing awards for specific gallant acts with one that could be awarded for a variety of meritorious deeds is of dubious validity.

This is the first book I have read on the subject of German awards and although it did not live up to the title of being a history of the Knight's Cross it was well presented and well balanced and I would recommend it for collectors of German medals and as an introduction to an important German award. The only real objection I have to the book is the title *Knights of the Iron Cross* since there is specific discussion on page 11 as to why that term was not to be used.

Anthony Staunton

William H. Tyler, *Flight of Diamonds — The Story of Broome's war and the Carnot Bay diamonds.* Hesperian Press, Carlisle, Western Australia, 1987, pp.viii and 125, 4 maps, 76 photographs. Price $

Bill Tyler has written an account of one of the great mysteries of northern Australia — the fate of a cargo of Dutch diamonds lost during the Japanese air raid on Broome on 3 March 1942. Stories about the missing diamonds have entered so much into local folklore that they now rival the myths that surround the site of Lasseter's lost gold mine.

The story begins on a Bandoeng airfield in Java, then part of the Netherlands East Indies. With the island about to fall to the Japanese, the allies attempted to evacuate as many civilian and military personnel as possible. One such evacuation flight was carried out by Captain Ivan Smirnoff, a former White Russian air ace of World War I, who was piloting a Dutch DC-3 (Dakota) aircraft carrying three crew-members and eight evacuees. At the last minute Smirnoff was handed a package containing cut diamonds intended for safe keeping at the Commonwealth Bank in Perth.

Unfortunately, soon after crossing the supposed safety of the Australian coast, the defenceless aircraft was attacked by no less than three Zero fighters which were returning from their devastating raid on Broome. By skilful evasive action, Captain Smirnoff managed to force-land his plane on a desolate stretch of coastline named Carnot Bay, his plane becoming just one of the twenty three allied and two Japanese aircraft that were lost in the Broome raid.

Author Tyler then presents a tale of grim survival, as the survivors of Smirnoff's DC-3 find themselves in a waterless area, with their whereabouts completely unknown to the Allied authorities. One by one the Dutch men and women began to die from their wounds, until rescue came, as it so often does in that part of Australia, from the local aborigines.

At this point the diamonds re-enter Tyler's story. They had been left behind in the Dakota wreck after the Dutch abandoned the plane. Nearly a month later, they were found by a local beachcomber, Jack Palmer, and this is where the real mystery began. Palmer passed some of the diamonds onto two friends, Frank Robinson and Frank Mulgrue. More of the diamonds were passed amongst Palmer's aboriginal friends, before he decided to hand some of them over to the army commander in Broome, Major Clifford Gibson.

Later, as more of the diamonds were found and handed over to Major Gibson, he became suspicious that Palmer had hidden most of them so as to ensure his personal fortune after the war. Eventually, Palmer, Robinson and Mulgrue were arrested and put on trial for the theft of the Dutch diamonds. Lack of evidence meant that the three men were set free, and so the whereabouts of the $10 million worth of diamonds that were unaccounted for was taken by Jack Palmer to the grave.

Major Tyler's book is a must for people who are interested in either the history of the Northern Territory or the Japanese attacks on the Australian mainland during World War II. It is well researched, with an extensive bibliography and eight appendices which provide the minutest of details on everything from the names of all those who died in the Broome raid to first-hand accounts by the surviving allied service personnel.

As the story of the missing diamonds is soon to be filmed for a television mini-series, *Flight of Diamonds* is a timely addition to the accounts of the Japanese threat to Australia in 1942.

Jonathan Ford

Air Vice-Marshal Wilfrid E. Oulton, *Christmas Island Cracker: An account of the planning and execution of the British thermo-nuclear bomb tests 1957*, Thomas Harmsworth, London, 412pp, black and white photos, index, appendices. £14.95 HB.

This account of Operation 'Grapple', the British hydrogen bomb tests at Christmas Island is written by the task force commander, Air Vice-Marshal Oulton. As the dust-jacket blurb suggests, he is certainly qualified to write an authoritative inside history of the operation.

The author's primary concern is the organisation and execution of the test series and not more than a sketch outline of the political decisions leading to a British 'Bomb' is presented. Oulton gives the distinct impression, however, that development of the bomb was not intended as a counter to any communist threat, real or perceived. Rather the bomb was another bargaining chip intended to preserve equality in Britain's partnership with the United States. Contemporary events of great significance to British world standing are ignored or, as with the Suez crisis, dismissed in a line. Oulton's story is one of technical triumph in a vacuum.

The most interesting aspect of Oulton's account is the insight given into the sheer scope of organised activity required for the 'Grapple' tests. Thousands of tons of equipment, squadrons of aircraft, flotillas of ships and four thousand personnel were orchestrated by Oulton to create a first-class airfield and testing facility from scratch in only twelve months. The deadline for Oulton's task hinged on a possible ban on atmospheric testing in late 1957. The author recreates well the sense of urgency felt in 'racing the clock' to get the job finished in time. The tale of hurried decisions, last-minute saves and technical improvisations that Oulton describes sits oddly in a story about nuclear weapons. The explosive 'shell' of one thermo-nuclear bomb had to be bashed with a hammer to get it to join-up, another cracked and had to be literally sticky-taped back together!

It is a pity that the author has found it necessary to retell his part of the operation in the third person. This device lessens the immediacy of the story. The obviously reconstructed dialogue that peppers the text detracts from the work's historical veracity and gives it the air of a novel. Lack of a bibliography or documentation of sources are further drawbacks to the book's historical value.

Oulton paints a picture of friendly co-operation between Britain, Australia and New Zealand in the staging of the tests at Christmas — a far cry from the current attitudes about nuclear testing in the Pacific and the legacy of British testing in Australia. Oulton never quite answers why testing was moved from the existing facilities at Maralinga to an undeveloped island at what appears to be very short notice. While the author is at pains to emphasise the safety precautions taken for the 'Grapple' tests, the move to Christmas Island seems to suggest that not all governments shared his sanguine views about the safety of atmospheric hydrogen bomb testing!

Christmas Island Cracker is a useful, almost semi-official account of the test programme at Christmas but the general military reader is likely to be disappointed by its lack of depth or background perspective.

Stephen Allen

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

President's Report of the year ended 30 June 1987

THIS year's Annual General Meeting of the Society was deferred from July until August so that the accounts to 30 June could be completed, audited and presented here. We meet tonight, as usual, by the courtesy of the ACT Branch of the Society, whose members by their attendance represent all our members and corresponding members everywhere. It is interesting to note that today—18 August—marks two events of interest to military historians. We have just heard of the death of Rudolf Hess, the last known survivor of the major Nazi leaders of World War Two; and today is the anniversary of the battle of Long Tan in the Vietnam war.

I am pleased to be able to report on another year of steady progress in which we can look back on evidence of an active, interested membership taking part in Branch meetings and activities and, through their contributions to *Sabretache*, continuing to make it a voice and face of the Society of which we can all be very proud. This is due in great measure to our Editor, Alan Fraser and his Editorial Committee and I thank them on your behalf for their efforts. Alan has indicated that he wished to relinquish the Editor's position after the July/September 1987 issue and Federal Council is now considering the appointment of a new Editor. Thanks again, Alan.

The accounts for the year just ended show that our increase in subscriptions, as planned, enabled us to meet the increased costs of producing *Sabretache* and end the period satisfactorily.

The Society will present the 1988 MHSA Convention in Canberra over the Queen's Birthday weekend 11–13 June 1988. The theme of the convention, sponsored by the ACT Branch, will be 200 years of military history in Australia. I urge all Branches and members to support this Bicentennial year activity.

It is very pleasing to report that the recently-endorsed proposal for the formation of special interest Research Groups within the Society structure has attracted great interest. The *British Army in Australia* group convened by Peter Stanley is well under way and is producing a regular newsletter. Other groups are forming.

Council has received a number of responses to the notice in *Sabretache* January/March 1987 seeking manuscripts for publication as a special Bicentennial project and is proceeding with consideration of these.

Clem Sargent, a member of the Society since 1959 and our tireless Federal Secretary since 1978, is not offering himself for re-election in the coming year, as he plans an extended overseas trip commencing in August. On behalf of all members, I extend sincere thanks to Clem for his very great efforts on the Society's behalf as Federal Secretary and for his constant and willing support of all members of Federal Council. We look forward to his participation in Society activities on his return. Bronwyn Self, who has been assisting Clem on membership matters for some time, has accepted nomination for the position of Federal Secretary for 1987/88. Other Federal Council office bearers are offering themselves for re-election and the results of the annual elections will be advised in *Sabretache*.

We close another year of increased and increasing interest in Australian military history in the community. May I again encourage members to take advantage of this interest to spread knowledge of the Society and its activities — and to seek new members.

Many thanks to our Patron, to Branches and their office bearers, to Federal Council members and to Society members everywhere for their continuing support, interest and encouragement during 1986–87.

Tan Roberts
Federal President

The Military Historical Society

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Operating Account

		1987 $		1986 $
Balance brought forward		4019		2196
Subscriptions received	9402		8063	
less Capitation	155	9247	191	7872
Bank Interest		196		137
Advertising		—		397
Sales		860		2348
Sabretache	98		62	
Sudan Book	365		773	
Sudan Figure	395		630	
Other	2		883	
Postage and Packing		18		30
Special Interest Groups		35		—
Sundry Income		111		123
		14,486		13,103

Investment Account

	1987 $	*1986* $
Balance brought forward	3,451	2,260
Transfer from Operating Account	—	1,000
Interest Received	281	191
	3,732	3,451

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

N.S. Foldi
Hon. Treasurer
24 July 1987

In my opinion the accompanying accounts of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia are properly drawn up to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as at 30 June 1987 and of the surplus of the Society for the year ended on that date.

L. Carder FASA CPA
Auditor
24 July 1987

# of Australia — Federal Council

for the year ended 30 June 1987

		1987 $		*1986* $
Publication of *Sabretache*		6,978		6,688
Postage		770		588
Sudan Book		—		50
Postage and Packing		50		150
MHSA — ACT Branch		—		107
Transfer to Investment Account		—		1,000
Regimental Medals Handbook		216		—
Federal Council Expenses		698		501
Stationery	306		209	
Address List	106		104	
Typing	72		—	
Sundries	214		188	
Balance carried forward		5,714		4,019
		14,486		13,103

	1987 $	*1986* $
Balance carried forward	3,732	3,451
	3,732	3,451

Notes to and forming part of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 1987

	1987 $	*1986* $
1. Funds surplus		
Operating balance as at 1 July	4,019	2,196
Operating balance as at 30 June	5,714	4,019
Operating surplus	1,895	1,823
plus Transfer to Investment Account	—	1,000
	1,895	2,823
plus Interest on Investment Account	281	191
	2,176	3,014
plus Subscriptions in Advance — previous year	887	320
	3,063	3,334
less Subscriptions in Advance — current year	312	887
Annual Surplus	2,751	2,447

2. An account for publication of the Jan/Mar *Sabretache* was not received until after the close of the year. Cost was $1,100.
3. The value of stock on hand (at cost) of the Sudan Figure was $2,828 and of the Sudan Book was $1,032 at 30 June 1987.
4. The value of stock on hand (at cost) of the Regimental Medals Handbook was $216 at 30 June 1987.

The Western Australian Branch

THE WA Branch of the Society has reported an upsurge of activity and expansion of membership. Monthly meetings have been well attended and successful displays have been held recently. A major display was mounted during Heritage Week 1987 at the Army Museum, Dilhorn House, Perth and attracted a good deal of public attention.

We at *Sabretache* offer the Branch congratulations on the success of its operations. Considering the subjects of addresses delivered at the monthly meetings, it is not surprising that attendances have been good. The future programme of events has much of interest and augurs well for the further development of the Branch.

Some WA Branch members who attended the Branch's Heritage Week 1987 display at the Army Museum. L to R: John Sweetman, Wayne Gardiner (President, WA Branch), Pat Hall, Steve Danaher, Rhonda Grande, Peter Shaw, Arthur McGrath.

Display by member Major N.J. Armitage in Heritage Week 1987. Shown are photograph and accoutrements of an officer of the West Yorkshire Yeomanry, including helmet, sabretache, shoulder belt and brass pouch (c.1875). Also displayed is an 1822-pattern infantry officer's sword.

Society notes

Office bearers for 1987-88

The results of elections held at Federal Council and Branch Annual General Meetings were as follows:

Federal Council
President: Brigadier A.R. Roberts, RL
Vice-President: Major H.J. Zwillenberg, ED, RL
Secretary: Bronwyn Self
Treasurer: Neville Foldi

ACT Branch
President: Flight Lieutenant Pat Hall
Secretary/Treasurer: Ivan Lomasney

Victorian Branch
President: Mr R. Dalton
Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith, AM
Treasurer: Mr George Ward
Committee: Messrs G. Hellyer, R. Harrison, John Welham
Despatches: Mr Lindsay Cox

Western Australian Branch
President: Lieutenant Wayne Gardiner
Secretary: Mrs Rhonda Grande
Treasurer: Mr Paul Schipp

Federal Secretary

At the Society's Annual General Meeting held on 18 August 1987, members noted with regret that Lieutenant Colonel T.C. Sargent was retiring as Federal Secretary, a position he has held with distinction since 1978. Clem joined the Victorian Branch of the Society in 1959 and has also served as President of the WA Branch and inaugural President of the ACT Branch.

He has now left for an extended overseas holiday, spending some time in Crete and Greece before travelling across Europe to Britain. He will be returning by bus as far as Nepal and flying home from there. While in England he will attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society for Army Historical Research, of which he is the Australian Corresponding Member on the Society's Council.

All members of the MHSA will wish Clem well on his journeyings, a safe return home and, hopefully, some further involvement in the affairs of the Society.

New Federal Secretary

At the Society's Annual General Meeting, Bronwyn Self was elected to the position of Federal Secretary. She was ACT Branch Secretary in 1984–85.

Bronwyn graduated BA(Hons) in 1985, majoring in Australian history, from the University of New South Wales. She has produced studies on the repatriation of the first AIF and related finding aids including the records of the New South Wales Returned Sailors and Soldiers Employment Board. She worked as an archivist in Australian Archives for four years before taking up her present duties in the Research Centre of the Australian War Memorial in 1984. She also had five years practical experience of service life, leaving the Army as a Signal Platoon Sergeant in an Army Reserve infantry unit.

Bronwyn is co-author of *Roll-Call! A guide to Genealogical Sources in the Australian War Memorial* (incidentally a useful guide for medal collectors in the location of biographical information) and was published in the special 'Colonial Forces' issue of the Journal of the Australian War Memorial. She is now researching Australian prisoners-of-war of the Japanese, especially those in Borneo in 1942–45 and the role of the special forces in their recovery. Bronwyn is currently organising a tour for ex-POWs and relatives to Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in SE Burma and the opening of the second stage of the 'Hellfire Pass' Memorial in Thailand in April 1988.

Readers are reminded that the Society is the Australian distributor of the *Regimental medals handbook, 1745-1895, Part 1, Regular Army* by J.L. Balmer. The book was favourably reviewed in the January-March 1987 issue. The price is $17 including postage. Orders should be placed with the Federal Treasurer, Neville Foldi, at 9 Parnell Place, Fadden, ACT 2904.

Letters

1/41 Miskin Street,
Toowong 4066
31 March 1987

Dear Sir,

I am writing concerning an item which appeared in *Sabretache* Volume XXVII, Number 4, October/December 1986.

In this issue John E. Price presented an article entitled 'The Merchant Navy Memorial, Melbourne'. As I am currently researching the operations of the Dutch merchant marine in the South-West Pacific Area during World War II, I was very interested in Mr Price's list of war casualties in the merchant marine in Australian and overseas waters.

I would like to make the following changes to Mr Price's list, in the light of the information uncovered by my research. The *S. Jacob* and the *Van Outhoorn* were Dutch KPM line vessels, and not USA vessels as listed. The *Van Heutsz* was damaged in a dive bombing attack at Oro Bay, New Guinea, on the 8th January 1943, instead of the 9th January 1945 as indicated in the article. The following Dutch vessels were lost beyond Australian and New Guinea waters:

25/7/42	*Tjiegara* sunk by Japanese submarine off Noumea
23/6/43	*Aludra* sunk by Japanese submarine RU-103 in the Solomons
5/9/43	*Cremer* sunk after striking a reef on St Bee Island
25/12/44	*Sommels Dijk* sunk by aerial torpedo at Gulivan Harbour, Philippines.

Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Ford

(John Price has advised that his listing originated with the Merchant Navy War Service League of Australia and welcomes Jack Ford's changes and additional information. Ed.)

We have received a letter from the Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Military Collectors Society, Matthew Taylor, K.StJ., FSA Scot., of 11 Hamilton Avenue, Pollokshields, Glasgow, G41 4JG, Scotland, enclosing some literature on the Society and a copy of their extensive sales list of books, booklets, colour prints and postcards. The list is available to anyone who sends the Society an addressed sticky label. Matthew goes on:

The SMCS covers *every* aspect of military collecting and dealing. My particular hobby is medals to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Boer War Tribute Medals, 1899-1902. I shall be pleased to hear from any of your members who have Meritorious Service Medals of UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc, who have not already told Ian McInnis about their possession. Ian McInnis is the great researcher of MSMs and is always seeking information on these medals in collections and can produce information for collectors about them. An instance of this is that I picked up an 1848-dated MSM to Sergeant John Murphy, 91st Foot. He was able to tell me that it was awarded in 1848 as a Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London, for his action aboard the *Abercrombie Robinson* when it was wrecked off Cape Town, South Africa in 1842 — he was acting Sergeant Major, 91st at the time.

* * * * * *

The Scottish Military Collectors Society exists to encourage the study of Scottish military history in its various forms, covering collection of badges, head-dress, uniforms, medals, books, prints, equipment, weapons, etc. It publishes its illustrated journal *Dispatch* three times a year. The annual subscription is £7 to overseas members if paid by IMO and sample copies of *Dispatch* are £2.50 post paid. The Hon. Secretary is James B. McKay, 17/14 St Andrews Crescent, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5SH, Scotland.

59 Charles St,
Ascot Vale 3032
24 July 1987

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the comments of Robert Gray, concerning 'Our Boys Noble Deeds', in the January-March 1987 edition of *Sabretache*.

His statement that compulsory military training was introduced in 1912 for the Senior Cadets and Citizen Forces, and explained why so many WWI recruits had prior military training is unchallenged. However, it does not negate the fact that many primary school boys did have some military training in the pre-war era, due to their participation in the activities of the Junior Cadets.

To quote from one of my sources, *A Hundred Years at Bank Street* by Dr Janet McCalman, in reference to the work of a pre-war headmaster, Mr Alfred Williams:—

> Mr Williams' passion however was the school cadet corps. Primary school boys were decked out in khaki, cocked hats and small rifles and the

head teacher himself took them for drill on Saturday mornings. A report by Inspector Saxton of the Education Department noted in 1914:

> The Junior Cadet training covers much more than the Defence Department's requirements, and the work as seen was excellent.

It would appear that in this school, which was typical of many, the Junior Cadet system was alive and well, and provided in a very real way an introduction to the real thing.

Yours sincerely,
Ron White

ps: In reference to the matter of cadet training, readers' attention is drawn to *The Anzacs*, by Patsy Adam-Smith, Chapter 2, pp 12–16. This leaves no doubt as to the important influence of the Junior Cadet Corps in Victorian state schools during the pre-WW1 era.

We have received an appeal for assistance from Roger Perkins, of Devon, England, who is in the early stages of compiling a bibliography of Indian, dominion and colonial regimental histories, assisted by the Australian War Memorial. He goes on:

> To trace and examine one of the surviving examples of all the many books falling into that category is a task beyond the reach of any one individual. This must be a combined operation by a considerable number of like-minded enthusiasts in various parts of the world. I am acting as coordinator, compiler, financier and publisher, but I need the active support of everyone who possesses one or more regimental histories on their bookshelves (excluding British Army units) and who is prepared to let me have the details on the 'report forms' which I shall supply.
>
> Initial response to the project has been excellent and a network of 'reporters' is already taking shape. We have a 'feedback' procedure to keep everyone informed of progress and to minimise the risk of duplicated (wasted) effort. If you feel that you would like to contribute your own part to this project, please contact me at the following address and I shall be glad to supply detailed 'briefing notes' and a supply of 'report forms':—
>
> Roger Perkins, Arundel House, Laureston Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1HN, England.

Colonel E.H. Tremlett, Regimental Secretary of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, England has drawn our attention to production of a history of the Devonshire Regiment. He states:

> Surprisingly there has not in the past been a comprehensive history of the Devonshire Regiment. This is now being put right and a two-volume work is in hand. The first (to 1815) has been written and is to be published early in the new year. It is expected to be of some 650 pages with 70 maps and 26 illustrations. The cost to the public will be £20 with the inevitable addition of the mailing costs. Mr John Keegan, author and broadcaster and now Defence and Military Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, thinks well of the manuscript. ('This is a history of the highest quality...')

(We understand the 11th (North Devon) Regiment of Foot served in Australia from 1845 to 1857 and have referred this approach to the convenor of *The British Army in Australia* Research Group, Peter Stanley. Ed.)

Stephen Acai, Jr, of 5912 Holly Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604 USA wishes to contact Australians collecting or trading military medals and related items. He is interested in learning of members of the Australian forces who served in Vietnam who received a campaign or service ribbon and is keen to purchase an award if available.

Mr Acai also wishes to contact Australians who may be interested in exchanging video and audio tapes about Vietnam. He himself served in Vietnam for eighteen months (1966–67) and is a member of the Medal of Honour Historical Society.

Notes on contributors

Anthony Staunton has degrees in Administration and Arts and has been interested in Australian history for many years. His main writing has been on the highest British and American gallantry awards and he was co-editor of the second edition of the standard work on Australian Victoria Cross winners *They dared mightily*. He is presently a Senior Research Officer with the Veterans Review Board.

Matthew Higgins has a BA(Hons) and Diploma of Education from Macquarie University and is employed as an historical research officer at the Australian War Memorial. He has published a number of articles on Australian military history, biography, the Snowy Mountains and New South Wales gold-mining history.

Bert Denman served in the army in both the 1914–18 and 1939–45 wars. He is currently contributing a series of articles to *Sabretache* on his experiences as an infantryman in England and France in WWI. An outline of his career appeared in the January/March 1987 issue.

John Sweetman has been a member of the Western Australian Branch of the MHSA for about two years. He is the research officer for the Army Museum of WA and his interests include collecting stamps, postcards and books which depict the theme of military uniforms.

Midshipman Greg Swinden was born at Parkes in 1966 but lived mostly in Gosford where he completed his schooling at Henry Kendall High. Joining the RAN College in January 1985, he commenced studies towards a BA degree, but transferred to the Australian Defence Force Academy in January 1986. He expects to complete his degree at the end of 1987, majoring in politics and history. Presently in Supply, he has aspirations of transferring to the Executive Branch.

Chris Fagg is from Tasmania and has a special interest in medals of the British Commonwealth. He is a frequent contributor to *Sabretache*.

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:
Julie Russell, 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.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

.....
hereby apply for membership of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA and wish to be admitted as a *Corresponding Member/*Subscriber to *Sabretache*/*Branch Member of the

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