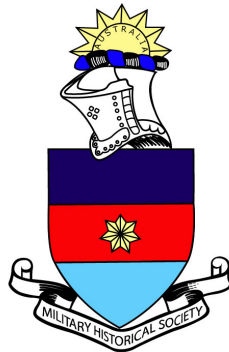


Military Historical Society of Australia  
*Sabretache*



Copyright © 1957-2019 Military Historical Society of Australia on behalf of the Society and its authors who retain copyright of all their published material and articles. All Rights Reserved.

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

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

[www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au)

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

---

# SABRETACHE

Vol XXX      July/September 1989      Number 3

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH 0587



# SABRETACHE



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

## **Patron**

Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, KBE, AO

## **Vice Patron**

Major General R.N.L. Hopkins, CBE

## **Honorary Office Bearers**

### **President**

Brigadier A.R. Roberts

### **Vice President**

Major H. Zwillenberg, ED, (RL)

### **Secretary**

Bronwyn Self  
P.O. Box 30, Garran, A.C.T. 2605  
Telephone (062) 43 4211 (bus.)

### **Treasurer**

Mr N. Foldi

### **Editor**

Stephen Allen  
G.P.O. Box 345, Canberra A.C.T. 2601  
(062) 43 4211

## **Branch Secretaries**

A.C.T.—Peter Sinfield, 14 Angophera Street, Rivett A.C.T. 2611

Victoria—Steve Gray, 12 Player Close, Hoppers Crossing, Vic. 3030

Geelong—Robin Mawson, 25 Allambie Avenue, Grovedale, Vic. 3216

Albury-Wodonga—Tony Peck, Lochiel, 615 Jones Street, Albury, N.S.W. 2640

Queensland—Mr S.W. Wigzell, 17 Royal Street, Alexandra Hills, Qld 4161

South Australia—Mr A.R. Clark, The Hermitage Drive, Angley Estate, Anglevale, S.A. 5117

Western Australia—Christopher Horvath, 32 Ash Way, Morley, W.A. 6062

## **JULY/SEPTEMBER 1989 VOLUME XXX-NUMBER 3**

- 3 The Joseph Plazzi Memorial, Wagga Wagga — To the Memory of a Boer War Soldier  
*Les Hetherington*
- 9 Honouring the War Dead 1939–1945  
*Paul Rosenzweig*
- 16 Australian Army Band Headdress Badges  
*D. Legg*
- 18 Veterans Flat  
*Ron Montague*
- 19 Brothers in Arms  
*Steven J. Danaher*
- 21 The Defence of Wollongong 1939–1945  
*Stephen Willard*
- 26 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment, The Colonial Lillywhites 1830 to 1836, New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land  
*David Murphy*
- 35 Book Reviews
- 36 Letters to the Editor
- 37 Federal Council Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended June 30, 1989

The Military Historical Society of Australia does not necessarily endorse the products and services offered by advertisers.

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.

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

## SABRETACHE

**New Editor** From January 1990 Barry Clissold will be the new editor of *Sabretache*. Many members will remember the fine job Barry performed as editor in the early 1980s. I am sure all members will joint with me in wishing Barry well and offer him every support in his task.

**Review Sub-Editor** Response to our recent request for assistance in the production of *Sabretache* has been pleasing. In addition to John Burridge's contribution as medal man a sub-editor for reviews has also been appointed. All future enquiries about reviews should be directed to Barry Teal, MHSA Victoria. Barry's address is:

Barry Teal  
13 Mitchell Avenue  
WARRANTYTE, VIC 3113

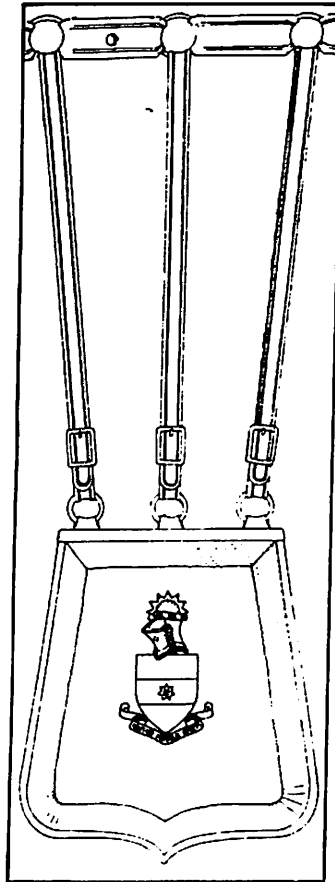
Members willing to sub-editor or compile contributions to *Sabretache* in other special interest areas, military clothing, accoutrements and weapons, etc., should contact the new editor.

**President's Report** The Federal President's report has been held over to the October-December issue of *Sabretache*. The Treasurer's report for the Financial Year 1988/89 is incorporated in this issue.

**Amendments to the Constitution** The Amendments to the MHSA Federal Constitution, published in *Sabretache* Vol. 29, No. 4, have attracted no objections from members. Accordingly, as provided for under the Constitution, these amendments have been incorporated as indicated below:

In accordance with Sub-section 17.1 of the Constitution of the Military Historical Society of Australia notice is given of the following proposals to amend that Constitution:

1. Paragraphs 6(a)(i) and 6(a)(ii) — Membership: Delete the words 'who are aged 18 years and over, and'.
2. Paragraph 6(a)(iii) — Membership: Delete the words '16 years' and insert the words '18 years' in their place.
3. Sub-section 14(e) — Meetings: Insert after the words 'Persons nominated by Branch Committees' the following words 'other than Federal



Two 40mm Bofor, anti-aircraft guns, alter increased to three. Of 154 LAA Regiment RAA (believed to be 110 LAA Battery RAA).

Four 3.7 inch anti-aircraft guns (believed to be part of 1 Heavy AA Battery RAA).

John is currently researching an article on False Cape Battery, near Cairns, during the second world war. If any readers can help John with information about this subject please contact him care of the Federal Secretary.

Councillors appointed by Branches in accordance with Sub-section 4(b),'.

4. Sub-sections 17(a) and 17(b) — Amendments: Delete the words 'and Rules' which immediately follow the word 'Constitution'.

*Copies of the amended Constitution will be available and distributed to State branches shortly.*

### Erratum

John Fenby has advised that details published concerning the LAA Battery at at North Head Barracks, on p.21 of *Sabretache*, April-June 1989, are inaccurate. Correct details should read:

*Les Hetherington***The Joseph Palazzi Memorial, Wagga Wagga—To the Memory of a Boer War Soldier**

**M**ost Australian war memorials commemorate the first and the second world wars. They honour men who volunteered to fight, and, for those who died, represented for the families who remained the graves they would never see. They were the empty tombs at which relatives could give the dead each year the family funeral they had never had. The real graves, on the other side of the world, were too far away for even one visit by the mourners.<sup>1</sup>

Some memorials, though, were erected in memory of Australian soldiers who died fifteen years earlier than the first listed on the major memorials—in South Africa, fighting in the Boer War. The Boer War memorials served also as a focus for the expression of grief, more particularly because they sometimes honour only one individual, something that was not possible after the enormous death toll of 1914-1918. One such memorial dedicated to a single soldier stands in Collins Park, Wagga Wagga.

Collins Park is a peaceful, quiet place, in an old, established neighbourhood, close in terms of distance to the busy city shopping centre, but far away in spirit and ambience. In the middle of the park, surrounded by a well-tended garden, is a weathered stone memorial. Nearby is an old muzzle-loading cannon, giving the uninformed passer-by the first hit as to the monument's purpose. The memorial itself provides the conclusive evidence. It is a square obelisk, tapering to the top and about 3 metres tall. On the face turned towards Fox Street, on the eastern side of the park, are carved a helmet, a rifle and sabre, and this inscription:

ERECTED BY  
COMRADES, ADMIRERS  
AND FAMILY  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
JOSEPH F. PALAZZI  
OF NSW 1ST CONTINGENT  
M.R. WHO FELL AT  
PALMIETFOONTEIN, S. AFRICA  
19th JULY 1990  
AGED 22 YEARS  
FOR HIS QUEEN AND COUNTRY

The monument was commissioned by a local committee established for that purpose, and was carved by B. Larcombe, monumental mason, of Sydney. Joseph Palazzi is the only Wagga soldier from the Boer War to be remembered in this way, and his memorial is the only one erected in Wagga as a result of the participation of its citizens in that war. It indicates that he was the only battle fatality from the town.<sup>2</sup>

**JOSEPH PALAZZI**

Joseph Faustino Palazzi, the fifth of eleven children, was born on 23 September 1877, at Araluen, New South Wales, the son of Giovanni (of John) Baptiste and Assunta (nee Delponte) Palazzi. Giovanni had left his native Ticino Canton, Switzerland in the middle of the nineteenth century (family legend has it that he was fleeing from an Austro-Hungarian army press gang), and had come to New South Wales to try his luck on the gold fields. He did not make his fortune, however, as shortly after Joseph's birth he arrived at Bomen, just north of Wagga, to work as a ganger on the construction of the railway viaduct across the Murrumbidgee river flood plain. He remained at Bomen as a railway employee until after the turn of the century.

Joseph, with his older brother, Silvio Alfeira ('Sid') — and, presumably, his other siblings — attended North Wagga Public School. The two brothers then served apprenticeships with J.J. McGrath and Co. as saddlers. By the end of the 1890s Joseph was a harness maker, and had also worked as a coach trimmer with Charles Douglas.<sup>3</sup>

Sid and Joseph were also members of 'G' (Wagga) Company of the New South Wales 1st Infantry Regiment—the local part-time militia. Joseph had joined the Company on 17 May 1895, when aged 18 years, after having served in the Wagga Cadet Corps, and was 'one of the most prominent members', 'a splendid rifle shot and wore the marksman's badge'. He was 'widely known about Wagga, was very popular and highly esteemed'.<sup>4</sup> By October 1899, Sid was a sergeant in the Company, and Joseph a corporal.



## THE BOER WAR

At the beginning of October 1899 volunteers were sought from among the members of 'G' Company for possible military service in South Africa. War with the Boer republics inland from Cape Colony and Natal seemed imminent and the New South Wales government had offered to send a contingent to join the Imperial forces in any military action against them. Hostilities commenced on 12 October, but 13 members of 'G' Company had already placed their names on a list of those ready to serve on Saturday, 7 October. On the Saturday following the decision of the New South Wales parliament to actually send the troops offered (the decision was taken on 17 October), Lieutenant G.B. Fitzhardinge, the officer commanding 'G' Company received a telegram from 1st Regiment adjutant, Major Knight:

instructing him to warn six of the members of the Wagga Coy who had volunteered to serve with the New South Wales Contingent in the Transvaal, to hold themselves in readiness for service . . . Major Knight desired to be informed if those chosen were 5ft 7in in height, with chest measurement of 35 inches, and Lieut. Fitzhardinge replied in the affirmative . . .<sup>5</sup>

New South Wales agreed initially to send 125 mounted infantry, 125 infantry, 86 medical corps and a squadron of lancers. The Wagga men were to be in the infantry.

The six volunteers chosen were Sergeants John Robertson Edney and Silvio 'Alfred' Palazzi, Corporal Joseph Palazzi and Privates Alfred Twyford, William Thomas Annison and E. Sawtell. They still had to pass a medical examination on arrival in Sydney before being drafted into the contingent, and had to meet other criteria:

The recruits were carefully selected . . . in regard to good character; and no man was enrolled who had not during the previous year classified in the musketry course, as either a marksman or a first-class shot, and been efficient. They were further required to be between 20 and 40 years of age, preferably single . . .<sup>6</sup>

The men going to Sydney had to report with full kit at the regimental office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 October, and 'steps were immediately taken to accord the volunteers a public farewell'. A 'valedictory social' was held in the evening on Monday, 23 October, Private Annison having to bicycle from 'Ellerslie', a property near Adelong, where he was shearing, in order to attend. It was a distance of 80 kilometres, which he covered between 9 a.m. when a telegram was sent to him, and 7.30 p.m., when he arrived in Wagga. The Town Hall was 'packed, and the martial spirit was very much in 'evidence'. Local dignitaries made loyal speeches, and the men said they would 'do their duty', taking with them to South Africa, according to Joseph Palazzi, 'the memory of that night's entertainment', which would 'recur many

times during their service abroad'. On the following day there was another function, this time at the Oddfellows Hall, at which, once again, the 'martial spirit was thoroughly aroused, and had possession of all'. It was announced on this day that 'G' Company's colour-sergeant, John W. Nicholson, was to accompany the original six volunteers, and that a further group—Privates Henry Laurie Reid, Thomas Joseph Williams, Fisher, Knight, Redden and Lee—would leave for Sydney on a later train. The first seven were to depart by the 5 p.m. mail train on Tuesday, 24 October, and they went to the station in a procession:

Headed by the Town Band and St Michael's Band, playing martial airs in turn, the 'G' Company marched along Fitzmaurice and Baylis Streets to the railway station, followed by a large concourse of people. A band of enthusiastic loyalists took up a position at the rear of the soldiers, and throughout the march sang the martial songs played by the bands . . . The gathering at the station numbered very little short of a couple of thousand persons . . . As the train drew out the National Anthem was sung, ringing cheers went up, adieux were waved, and the first instalment was off.

(Even in this outpouring of loyal British sentiment there was a hint of dissension, however, as of two vehicles bringing up the rear of the procession 'one . . . was got up in a manner which suggested satire')<sup>7</sup>

The medical examinations were quickly done, and Lieutenant Fitzhardinge was advised on 25 October that Nicholson, Edney, Joseph Palazzi, Annison, Williams and Reid (the second group having arrived in time) had been selected to join the contingent. Sid Palazzi subsequently passed a second medical, after having been initially rejected because of a varicose vein in his groin. He had boarded a waiting train to return to Wagga when Joseph arrived with a permit for a second examination, at which he was cleared without hesitation.<sup>8</sup> Fisher and Redden did not leave Wagga, the former not being a 'first class shot' and the latter 'being debarred by private matters'. Twyford, Sawtell, Knight and Lee were rejected on medical grounds, although Twyford was married with children, which may have contributed to his being left out of the contingent.<sup>9</sup>

## THE VOYAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA

The first New South Wales contingent, with its Wagga component, Edney by now an acting corporal and the others privates (although Edney was promoted to Sergeant after examination in Melbourne and Sid Palazzi to Lance-Corporal before the ship reached Albany in Western Australia), sailed from Sydney on the *Aberdeen* on 3 November 1899. On 5 November the ship berthed at Melbourne, and the next day, Tuesday, 6 November—Melbourne Cup day—the New South Welshmen were 'entertained at Flemington, . . . notwithstanding the wretchedness of the weather in the early part of the day'. Although they



got soaked in the rain which restricted the crowd at Flemington to only 60,000, the soldiers 'enjoyed themselves thoroughly', after being escorted through the streets of Melbourne by the band of the Victorian Regiment of Royal Australian Artillery, to warm cheers from the crowds. The 'Aberdeen' sailed from Melbourne on 8 November, many of the men suffering from colds. After calling at Albany, the voyage across the Indian Ocean was begun, the 'Aberdeen' travelling at a rate of 'about 280 to 300 miles in the 24 hours'.

The voyage was passed in a manner which was to become familiar to many more Australians a decade and a half later—reveille at 5.30 a.m., parade at 6.30 ('muscle drill'), followed by breakfast, dinner and supper, with the men either drilling, on duty or idle—'we lay about the deck like a lot of pigs when we are not drilling', wrote William Annison. For some sea sickness made life miserable for a time; for others it was their vaccinations. Entertainment was found mainly in sports—foot races, cock fighting, pillow fights, potato races and, near the end of the voyage, a tug of war between the mounted troops and the infantry. At night there was singing and boxing. Guard duty, kitchen duty, the numbering and marking of kit and clothes and the blacking of bayonet scabbards and staining with coffee of belts and straps provided additional distractions.

As the 'Aberdeen' approached South Africa, on December 1:

the officers decided to have some fun. The men have, to a certain extent, been working a dead horse, so they were to sell the horse and then bury him. So one of the Sergeants rigged himself as an auctioneer, and announced that the horse — a wooden one built of the purpose—should be bought for whisky, bids to be bottles. After a terrible lot of fun the horse—Merriwee we called him—was knocked down to the parson for 25 bottles, and the jockey was sold to the Captain of the Mounted Rifles for 15 bottles. Then the jockey, a sailor dressed for the occasion, got in a loop in a rope, holding the horse between his legs, was pulled up about 50 feet then let the horse drop into the sea. The 40 bottles of whisky are to be distributed amongst the crew and soldiers . . .<sup>10</sup>

'Merriwee' was the name of the horse that the men had watched win the Melbourne Cup three weeks before.

On 3 December the 'Aberdeen' reached Port Elizabeth, and on 6 December berthed at Capetown, where the troops disembarked. Joseph Palazzi's voyage had been, he said, an 'uneventful . . . five weeks'.<sup>11</sup>

### ACTIVE SERVICE

The New South Wales infantry, with British troops under the overall command of Lord Methuen, was

sent immediately to Enslin, on the railway line to Kimberley, where they commenced an uneventful two months of garrison duty. The journey from Capetown took 84 hours, Joseph Palazzi wrote, and covered 600 miles through a 'useless, barren, rocky waste', which improved as they approached Enslin, although there was still no open water or trees. 'Plenty of people' had been suggesting to Joseph and his fellow Australians that they stay on after the war, but, he said, 'it would want to be a great deal better than it appears at present to coax me to remain'. Although a major engagement was being fought at Modder River at the time of the New South Wales infantry's arrival at Enslin, and despite their patrolling and fortifying the surrounding 'kopjes' (rugged and stony hills standing out from the 'veldt', or plain; kopjes were small hills, the larger ones being called 'Kops'<sup>12</sup>), the infantry did not see action. They did see many Boers, however. These were prisoners being escorted from the field. They were 'by no means the uneducated rabble the British thought they were', considered Joseph, and he realized that the war would not be as one-sided as the Australians might have expected. Joseph, Reid, Edney and Annison all complained about the lack of water, which was the major problem at Enslin.

At the end of January the infantry were converted to a mounted unit, the thirty bad riders being drilled daily bareback on mules until their riding was up to standard. The newly created E Squadron, NSW Mounted Infantry moved to Naauwpoort, and from there their real involvement in the South African war commenced. By now Joseph and Sid Palazzi had been made saddlers, Harry Reid shoeing-smith and William Annison had been attached to Colonel Hoad's staff. Sid Palazzi also was promoted to Saddler-Sergeant, and, later, Reid to Farrier-Sergeant.

From the beginning of February until mid-July 1900 the Squadron served with Major-General Clements' and Major-General French's columns in the relief of Colesburg and the advance on Bloemfontein (February to 4 April); and with General Hamilton's column from Bloemfontein to Diamond Hill and in actions against Boer general Christian De Wet (22 April to July). Their first engagement was at the Windmill, near Waterkloof, and they were regularly under fire thereafter. Among the Wagga men casualties were rare. Thomas Williams was wounded at Ventersburg in May, Joseph Palazzi dressing the wound with a towel while under fire before a bandage was substituted once they were out of range of the Boer guns.

The unit's commanding officer for a time, Captain William Holmes, who was wounded on 12 June and invalided to Australia, commented at Wagga in September, 1900 about the Wagga group in South Africa. Of Joseph Palazzi Holmes said that he had 'particularly distinguished himself on two occasions', once in assisting to blow up a bridge and then at the battle of Diamond Hill:

After Thaba N'Chu they were sent to the railway between Smaldee and Winburg . . . Colonel de Lisle asked him to detail an officer to take a small party to accompany an engineer to blow up the railway bridge over the river. He told off Lieut. Dove and said to him, 'Take who you like, but they must be volunteers, as the duty is important and dangerous'. The first man Lieut. Dove asked for was Joe Palazzi . . . Lieut. Dove started at 9.30 p.m., got through, blew up the bridge, and was back in camp before morning . . . The next incident in which Private Joe Palazzi figured was at Diamond Hill. Of course he took part in all the other fights—Ventersburg, around Johannesburg and the entry into Pretoria. At Diamond Hill on 12th June, four squadrons were engaged, and they had to go two miles in advance. The only way they could get across the veldt was by extending the men 50 yards apart, with 150 yards between the troops. They lost neither man nor horse in getting across . . . Immediately they reached the top of the hill their casualties began . . . Joe Palazzi was alongside him, and they were making an effort to get into a position to enfilade the Boers. Palazzi saw a bit of covering ahead and was anxious to get over to it but he [Holmes] . . . refused to allow him to do so, and pointed out the danger. Eventually, however, he yielded to Palazzi's request, and the gallant fellow went, and was thus in a position 100 yards further advanced than any other member of the New South Wales Mounted Rifles . . . He returned scatheless . . . It was not recklessness that impelled Palazzi to seek that position, but it was proof that he saw a better opportunity of using his rifle.<sup>13</sup>

### THE DEATH OF JOSEPH PALAZZI

By July 1900, E Squadron was involved in the pursuit of Boer general Christian De Wet, as part of General Broadwood's force. On 19 July, they were acting as right flank guard when they encountered the Boers at Rhenoster Spruit, near Palmiefontein, Lindly and Reitz. E Squadron took cover behind a low ridge, while waiting for the artillery and more mounted troops to come up. They were then ordered to charge the Boer positions on a kopje. Williams and Joseph Palazzi started out together, but were separated by a rise in the ground. Williams did not see Joseph alive again. He later reported that 'the bullets were around us all the time', and it was one of these bullets which killed Joseph, hitting him in the chest, just above the heart. Another member of the squadron, a man named Foster, thought Joseph had been wounded in the knee (possibly because he had dismounted before falling to the ground), and took the doctor back to where he lay, 'but Joe was dead'. Sid Palazzi, who had not taken part in the charge because his horse was 'knocked up', went out and with help located the body that night. Joseph was buried the next morning, the service being read by Father

Patrick. A wooden cross, inscribed 'Pte Joseph Palazzi, N.S.W.M.R. Died 19th July 1900' was erected over the grave.<sup>14</sup>

Joseph's death affected Sid badly, but all the squadron who knew him were saddened by it. Henry Reid wrote that 'it seemed to throw a gloom over the whole squadron, for he was liked by one and all who knew him'. He had been 'a brave and honest soldier'. Edney called Joseph 'a good soldier and as true a comrade as ever breathed', who 'died game, doing his duty'. Reid was more emotional:

You can never imagine a man's feeling when he sees his comrades falling by his side, specially one like poor old Joe. Sometimes when I see the blank file in the rank I think of Joe, and often feel like having a cry.<sup>15</sup>

When the Wagga residents heard 'with feelings of deep regret' of Joseph's death the Union Jack was flown at half mast at the Town Hall, and storekeepers put up shutters over their windows as marks of sympathy. A letter of condolence was sent by G Company to Joseph's family, and a memorial service was held at St Michael's Catholic Church on Sunday, 5 August 1900.

### THE MEMORIAL

Joseph Palazzi was not forgotten when Wagga welcomed his brother, Edney, Williams, Reid and Annison on their return six months later, in January 1901. The festivities exceeded those with which the men had been farewelled, but Joseph's death remained the 'one very sad matter' to be remembered. Alderman George Coleman said:

Wagga sent her soldiers for service and they had acquitted themselves with the highest credit, a pall had fallen, however and one unhappy incident called for reference and that was to the Australian soldier who left Wagga 12 months ago and did not return.<sup>16</sup>

The remained was not unheeded, and 'it was . . . decided that something should be done to revere the memory of the lad who had fallen fighting for his country'. A committee was formed to pursue the matter, with Stephen Sullivan as secretary and W.J. Daley as treasurer. A monument was commissioned and the local council decided to place it in the centre of Newtown (Collins) Park. It was unveiled at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 7 December 1901, in front of a small crowd in a ceremony 'of a particularly quiet nature'. Among those present were the Mayor of Wagga, George Rudd, Aldermen Richard S. Heydon and C.F. Bolton, local member of parliament James Gormly, M.L.C.—all of whom made speeches praising the deceased soldier—Sullivan, members of the Palazzi family and Larcombe, the mason.

George Rudd 'performed the unveiling ceremony', removing the Australian flag 'which enshrouded the monument'. In his speech Rudd said that:

'Joe' . . . with his fellow countrymen distin-

gushed themselves in such way as to earn the highest encomiums from both Colonial and Imperial officers. The young man in whose name the monument was erected . . . always conducted himself in such manner creditable to himself and his parents.<sup>17</sup>

Gormly 'referred in eulogistic terms to the deceased young soldier and was followed in a similar strain' by the other speakers.

The monument has continued to be cared for ever since by the local council. Few of Wagga's present day residents realise, however, what it stand for or know anything about the unfortunate young man who it commemorates.

#### SID

Joseph's older brother and fellow soldier remained in Wagga for the rest of his life, buying out his former

employer, J.J. McGrath, and, with partner C.H. Rake, operating a saddlery business. He was not turned away from military life by his experience in South Africa, and eventually served as a lieutenant when a training officer in the Australian Field Artillery during the First World War. Of his South African service his discharge certificate described his conduct and character as very good. Holmes, his former commanding officer, stated in a letter of commendation dated 25 January 1901 that Sid was 'a steady reliable man' and a 'first rate soldier in every respect', who had 'frequently distinguished himself as a Scout in many dangerous enterprises'. Holmes also considered him a 'capable and experienced bushman' who was 'a good rider and thoroughly understands the control and management of horses'. Sid died on 25 May 1950, aged 76 years, and is buried in the Wagga cemetery.<sup>18</sup>

#### END NOTES:

1. See K.S. Inglis, 'War Memorials', *The Australian Encyclopaedia*, volume 8, Terrey Hills, 1988, pp.2984-2987.
2. Another soldier, Charlie Wilson, was shot dead in late August 1901 — but he 'was at one time employed about Wagga, and more recently by Mr Shepherd, Brucevale', and so was possibly considered not a true Wagga man — see *Wagga Wagga Express*, 17 October 1901.
3. The background of Giovanni and Assunta Palazzi was obtained from Reg Palazzi, Sid Palazzi's son and Giovanni's and Assunta's grandson, who also provided some of the information to the *Wagga Wagga Leader*, which published a brief article on 19 April 1989; Peter Burness of the Australian War Memorial provided Joseph's date and place of birth; Burness, and Sherry Morris in 'Wagga Wagga and the Boer War' (typescript provided by author), give Joseph's occupation as harness maker, while the *Express* of 28 July 1990 stated that 'he was by trade a saddler'; Reg Palazzi, Morris and the *Express* all agree that he was for some time at last employed by J.J. McGrath and Co.
4. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 28 July 1900; except where significant quotations appear references taken from the *Express* will not be further specifically cited, as most of this article is based on that newspaper; where other sources have been used they will be so indicated.
5. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 24 October 1899; for the lead up to the despatch of troops see W.M. Chamberlain, *To Shoot and Ride. The Australians in the South African War, 1899-1902*, Ormond East, 1967, pp.20-22, L.M. Field, *The Forgotten War. Australian Involvement in the South African Conflict of 1899-1902*, Melbourne, 1979, chapters 1-2, and C.N. Connolly, 'Manufacturing Spontaneity: the Australian Offers of Troops for the Boer War', *Historical Studies*, volume 18, number 70, April 1978.
6. Murray, P.L., *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*, Melbourne, 1911, p.35.
7. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 26 October 1899.
8. Information provided by Reg Palazzi from the diary of Sid Palazzi in his possession.
9. Corporal Alfred Thomas Twyford, of 'G' Company, died suddenly in late January 1901 of pleurisy and heart failure at the age of 37 years, his illness being brought on by a cold contracted while in camp at the Commonwealth celebrations in Sydney earlier in the month; he left a widow and four children under 16 years of age (*Express*, 29 January 1901); Nicholson actually sailed with the second contingent in January 1900 (Murray, op.cit., p.64).
10. See Murray, op. cit., p.35; Melbourne *Argus*, 7 November 1899; *Wagga Wagga Express*, 23, 28 and 30 December 1899.
11. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 30 January 1900.
12. A.B. Paterson, *Boer War Despatches*, in *Singer of the Bush, Complete Works 1885-1900*, collected and introduced by Rosamund Campbell and Philippa Herrie, Sydney, 1983, p.474.
13. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 18 September 1900.
14. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 11 September and 16 October 1900; letter from Reg Palazzi dated 29 April 1899.
15. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 11 September 1900.
16. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 17 January 1901.
17. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 10 December 1901.
18. The discharge certificate and letter of commendation are in the possession of Reg Palazzi.

*Paul Rosenzweig*

## Honouring the War Dead 1939–1945

The practice of honouring a town's fallen with an elaborate cenotaph or memorial arch which originated in the years after world war one seems not to have carried through to world war two in most Australian towns. In the Top End however an official War Cemetery was established at Adelaide River some 113km south of Darwin. Here the graves are well tended and regularly visited, the Cemetery with its impressive cenotaph and memorial being the focus for such occasions as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day each year.

Of the 446 service personnel buried in the Northern Territory, 434 are recorded as being buried at Adelaide River.<sup>1</sup> This figure includes 14 airmen of the RAF, 12 unidentified British Merchant mariners, and one Canadian soldier. From the Australian forces there are 18 sailors, 181 soldiers, 201 airmen and 7 Merchant Navy personnel. As well as these there is a separate section containing the graves of civilians killed during the first Japanese air raid on Darwin, whose deaths on that fateful day February 19 have been thoroughly documented.<sup>2</sup> Each of these people has been commemorated on a large plaque outside the Darwin City Council offices, and also with the naming of streets and parks in their honour in the Darwin suburb of Alawa.

One distinguished Australian buried at Adelaide River is Reginald Lloyd Gordon, a Squadron Leader in the Royal Australian Air Force whose accuracy and ability in the air accounted for numerous enemy aircraft and vessels north of Australia, and saw him twice decorated for gallantry.

In mid-1943 he was with 31 Squadron, RAAF based at Coomalie Creek from which the Squadron launched bombing and reconnaissance raids against the Japanese held islands to our north. In early August Gordon led nine Beaufighters in a strike at a Japanese Flotilla Headquarters at Taberfane, personally accounting for one aircraft.

In October he led an armed reconnaissance to Selaru, downing two fighters and strafing a 6-metre barge, but he suffered engine damage and was forced to crash land his bomber at Livingstone airfield alongside the Stuart Highway. On December 15 he

led at notable attack on Japanese shipping off Timor, sinking two barges and damaging six schooners before going on to damage Atambua airfield on Ambon and a military camp on Timor. He also strafed a convoy of six vessels and their escorting destroyer, and sank a 500-ton vessel. In a follow-up raid the next morning he downed one aircraft and damaged another.

Gordon's string of successes came to an unfortunate end on 27 February 1927, but not before his gallantry had been twice recognised with the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross and later, a Bar to the DFC to denote a second award. His headstone at Adelaide River bears the inscription 'Nobly he lived, courageous in the face of death'. There is a park in Darwin named in his memory.

### Medical services

The origins of the War Cemetery lie in the hectic and chaotic days of WW2 when the various military hospitals in northern Australia — name the 101st, 107th, 119th, 121st and 129th Australian General Hospitals — chose a suitable location amidst the savannah country of Adelaide River to bury their dead. After the war the Army Graves Service took charge, collecting bodies from isolated sites and various civil or temporary military cemeteries and interring them in what has become one of Australia's finest War Cemeteries. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission assumed control of the Cemetery in 1947, since which time it has held responsibility for the upkeep of the well-designed and most attractive historical monument.

It would be remiss however to only mention these military hospitals in relation to death when so much good work was done by their staff under very trying conditions. One of the more notable personalities of this time was Father Frank Flynn, a chaplain and ophthalmic surgeon, who served in this dual capacity as a Major in the Army, visiting each of the hospitals in turn to offer his expertise and experience.

In 1943 he joined an Army expedition to the Lutheran Mission at Hermannsburg in central Australia,<sup>3</sup> and while there observed that the previously



*Above: The cenotaph at the Adelaide River War Cemetery honouring those service personnel who gave their lives during WW2.*

unreported disease trachoma was endemic amongst the Aborigines. In his report to the Director General of Army Medical Services he stressed that the incidence of trachoma in the Aranda people was as high as 90%, and that in many the disease was in severe form, 7% being blinded in one or both eyes.<sup>4</sup> Mass treatment was carried out but the problem still exists, and Father Flynn is still involved in its research and treatment today as an advisor to the National Trachoma Programme which was mounted in 1976.

At the same time he investigated a serious eye disorder amongst the Army drivers travelling on the Stuart Highway between Darwin and Alice Springs. In an address to the 1944 Australian Ophthalmological Congress in Melbourne he outlined his campaign

which had been eminently successful.<sup>5</sup> He went on to research similar eye disorders to keep the surface of the eye moist in cases such as kerato-conjunctivitis sicca.<sup>6</sup> In 1979 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his threefold contributions to religion, medicine and Aboriginal welfare in the Northern Territory.<sup>7</sup>

#### **No grave recorded**

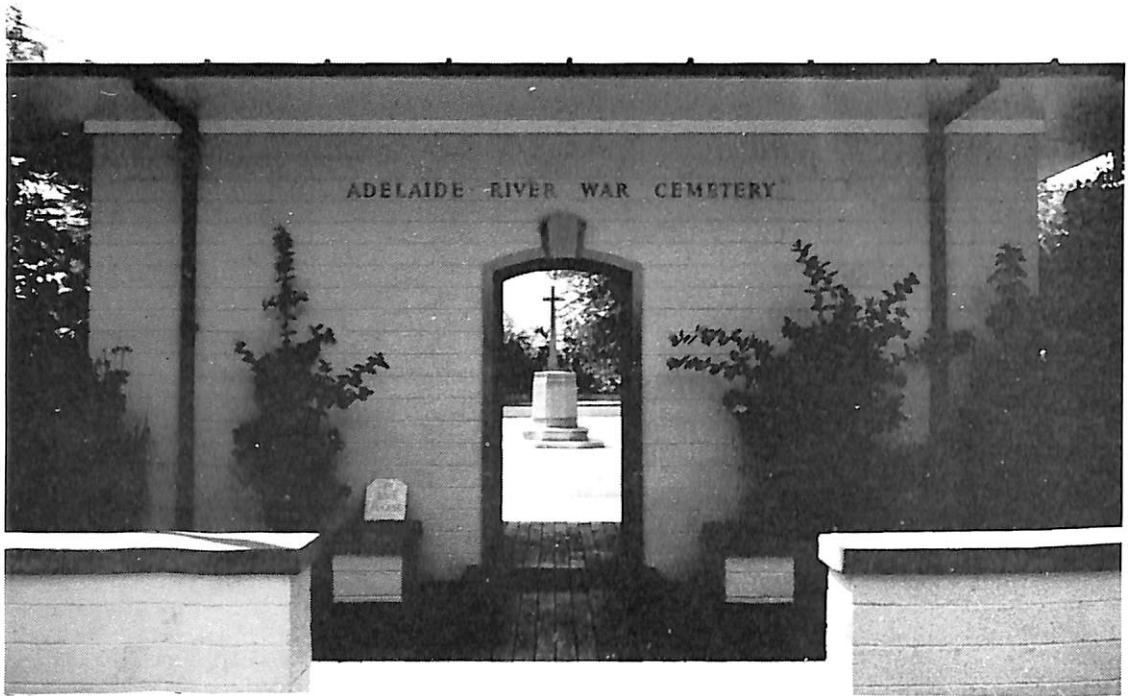
An additional monument in the gardens of the Adelaide River War Cemetery honours 287 members of the Australian Army, Air Force, Merchant Navy and Services Reconnaissance Department who were killed in northern Australia, Timor, or in the waters north of 20°S latitude and do not have a recorded grave. Quite a number of Australians lost their lives in the war to



*Above: Father Frank Flynn, MSC: a living legend in the Northern Territory — acclaimed as a priest, anthropologist, author and ophthalmic surgeon. His many talents earned him appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1979, 'for community service particularly in the fields of religion, medicine and Aboriginal welfare'.*

*Below: Memorial honouring those killed in Northern Australia and Timor with no known grave.*





Above: *The Adelaide River War Cemetery, main entrance.*

the immediate north of the continent, many in such a hostile environment that their bodies could not be recovered and accorded a dignified and recorded burial.

Among the Army personnel so recognised are a number who belonged to what was known as 'Gull Force', a rather heroic but sadly forgotten band of men who single-handedly tried to hold off the Japanese advance.

The 2/21st Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel L.N. Roach set off for Ambon in the Dutch East Indies on December 14 1941, just one week after Pearl Harbor signed Japan's entry into the war. The Australians knew well the impossible task which had been asked of them — to hold the island of Ambon at all costs, for if it fell it would surely become a stepping-stone to the mainland.

From January 6 1942 they suffered over 120 air raids from carrier-based aircraft in just three weeks, a sure omen of what was in store for them, and for Darwin a month later. In the middle of this devastation Lieutenant-Colonel William Scott assumed command, and the small Force could have had no better commander. He was a veteran of Gallipoli, the Sinai and France, and as a Captain in the 19th Battalion, AIF had been decorated for conspicuous gallantry in action at Flers on November 14 1916.

He earned the Distinguished Service Order for rallying the battalion together at a crucial stage of the battle and forming a strong point on their vital ground repelling all attempts by the enemy to seize it. He then, 'by the judicious use of his machine guns, kept off several threatened enemy attacks, thereby saving a critical situation'.<sup>8</sup> Now on Ambon 25 years later, he would need all the judicious tactics he could muster to rally his battalion and once again save a most desperate situation.

The Japanese invasion fleet appeared on the horizon on January 30 and before long some 27 000 troops were swarming ashore to engulf Gull Force, a mere 1400 defiant and tenacious Australians. The defenders resisted heroically but 600 of them fell in battle before the Force was forced to surrender on February 3. A further 3 500 were slaughtered by their captors as a reprisal for their resistance, the remainder being taken into captivity for the duration of the war. In 1945 only 305 members of Gull Force survived, returning to Australia as merely as repatriated prisoners — forgotten heroes.

Similarly, there were another two such Forces sent north to hold up the Japanese. Each of these comprised an infantry battalion supported by a company of the 2/12th Field Ambulance and auxiliary troops, all of which belonged to the 23rd Brigade, AIF which was

staging in Darwin. Sparrow Force, which comprised the 2/40th Battalion and the 2/2nd Independent Company, occupied Dutch West Timor in December 1941, with a small component based in Dili, the capital of Portuguese East Timor.

The Japanese began bombing them on January 26, while on February 19 a force landed and attacked the commandos at the airfield in East Timor. Another landing was made the next day at Koepang in Dutch Timor, and two days later the Australian defenders were called upon to surrender. Some did, and as a gruesome reprisal all the medics from the 2/12th Field Ambulance were bayoneted to death.<sup>9</sup> Many of the Australians refused to capitulate and stayed in the hills fighting a protracted guerilla war. Those who died there usually lay where they fell; many remained listed as 'Missing, believed killed' until after the war had finished.

The third of this gallant trio, Lark Force, comprised the 2/22nd Battalion which was dispatched to Rabaul

where they suffered the same fate, culminating in a massacre of some 180 members (of both Lark Force and the Papua-New Guinea Volunteer Rifles) at Tol Plantation. A monument was erected at this site in 1946, but in 1987 it was replaced with a cairn bearing a plaque when the plantation was revisited by soldiers from Townsville's Lavarack Barracks.

The memorial at Adelaide River honours these gallant soldiers, as well as numerous seamen and airmen who fell but were not suitably interred. Inscribed around the top of the memorial is the wording '1939-1945 HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF THE MEN WHO DIED IN THE TIMOR AND NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN REGIONS, ON LAND, AT SEA AND IN THE AIR, BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNES OF WAR DENIED THE KNOWN AND HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH'. It is an appropriate memorial for a significant number of Australians who gave their lives in the defence of their homeland and have otherwise been forgotten.

*Below: Memorial honouring those personnel killed in Northern Australia and Timor with no known grave. The Adelaide River War Cemetery cenotaph stands in the background.*







Above: Headstones of Squadron-Leader Reginald Lloyd Gordon, DFC\*, son of Oswald Dressett and Muriel Gordon of Rose Bay, NSW, at Adelaide River War Cemetery. The marble headstone was in 1986 replaced by a cast metal plaque.

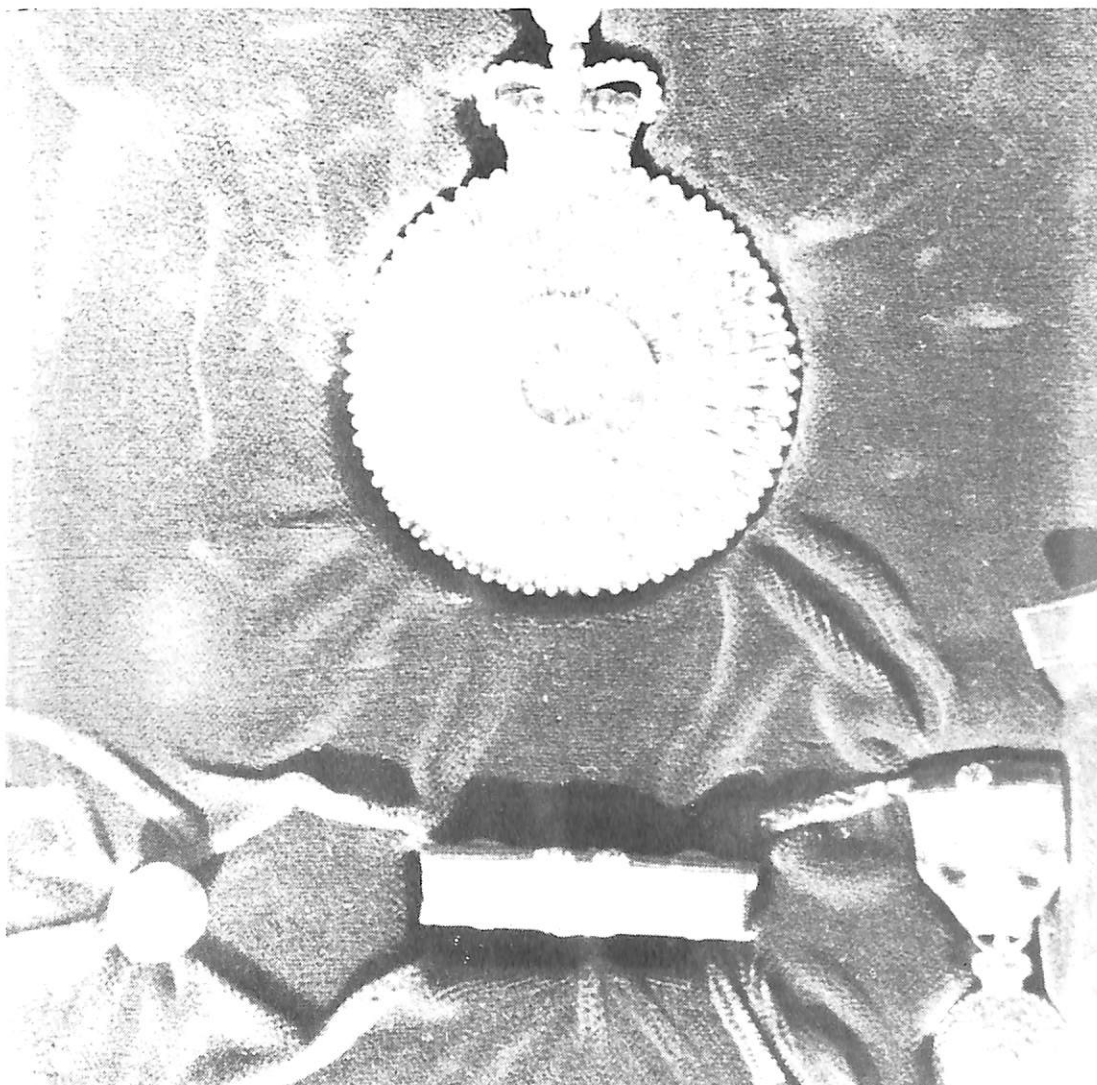


Above: Wreath-laying at the cenotaph following the annual pilgrimage to the Adelaide River War Cemetery.

**END NOTES**

1. AUS 595 The war dead of the Commonwealth 1939-1945, pp34-58.
2. Lockwood (1966), Hall (1980).
3. His curiosity had been aroused by the numerous cases which presented at the 109th Australian General Hospital at Alice Springs during 1942-1943.
4. Flynn (1957).
5. *Transactions of the Australian Ophthalmological Society Congress 1944.*
6. Flynn (1975).
7. *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* S111, 16 Jan. 1979.
8. Captain William John Randall Scott, 19th Battalion, AIF *The London Gazette*, 10 Jan. 1917.
9. The 2/23th Field Ambulance lost all three companies, with only the headquarters element which remained in Darwin surviving. The unit was reformed and subsequently was sent to New Guinea in 1943.

*Below: The cased insignia of Father Flynn's Order of Australia.*



D. Legg

## Australian Army Band Headdress Badges

The accompanying photograph illustrates a selection of military band badges of post-World War 2 origin. The badges shown differ in a number of ways such as finish, construction, size and design from the usual regulation hat badges worn by these regiments. No attempt has been made to show badges that were used by bands when these badges were the normal regulation issue for the whole unit. As the badges are strictly speaking unofficial, they were manufactured in only limited quantities, by a variety of small private firms. Many are of cast construction and the quality can vary considerably.

### Top Row (from left):

Sydney University Regiment pipe band, post-1964 other ranks, silver finish, die struck.

Royal NSW Regiment, gold finish with black painted scroll, cast.

Royal Australian Regiment, 8/9 Bn pipe band, regulation size, silver finish, cast.

### Middle Row:

Royal Australian Regiment, large glengarry badge, gold finish for pipe major of 5/7 Bn, cast (later types die-struck).

RAR as above but silver finish for 3 Bn and 5/7 Bn pipe bands, cast (later types die-struck).

### Bottom Row:

NSW Scottish Regiment (30 Bn), star and thistles silver, centre oval and crown gold finish, two-piece cast construction.

Sydney University Regiment pipe band, all ranks glengarry badge 1948-64 (King's crown), silver finish, cast in one piece. The surrounding wreath of thistles has been adapted from the British Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders hat badge, and the central SUR badge is the pre-war type.

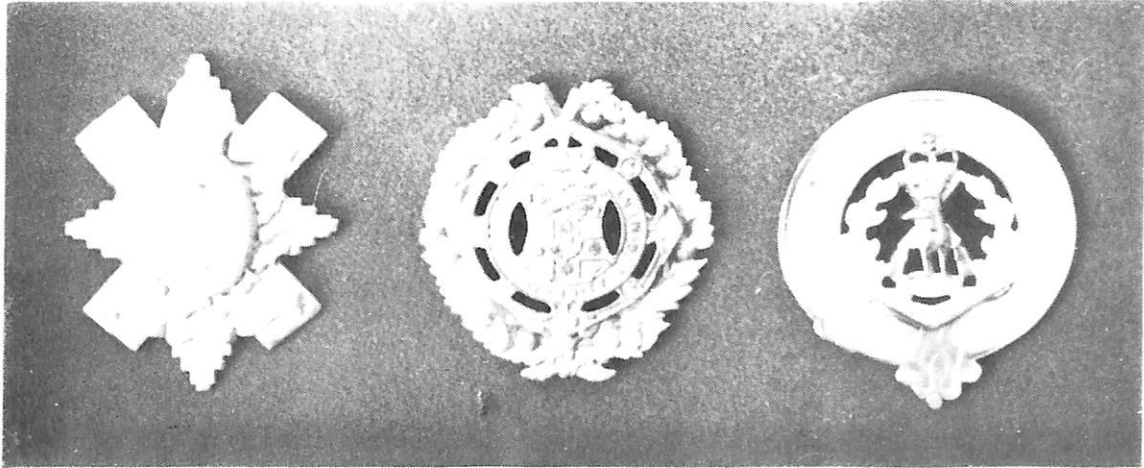
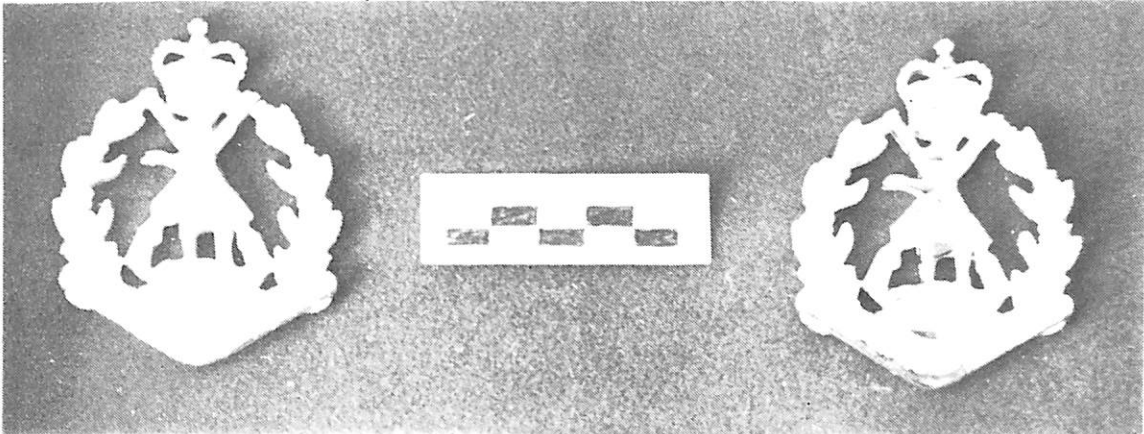
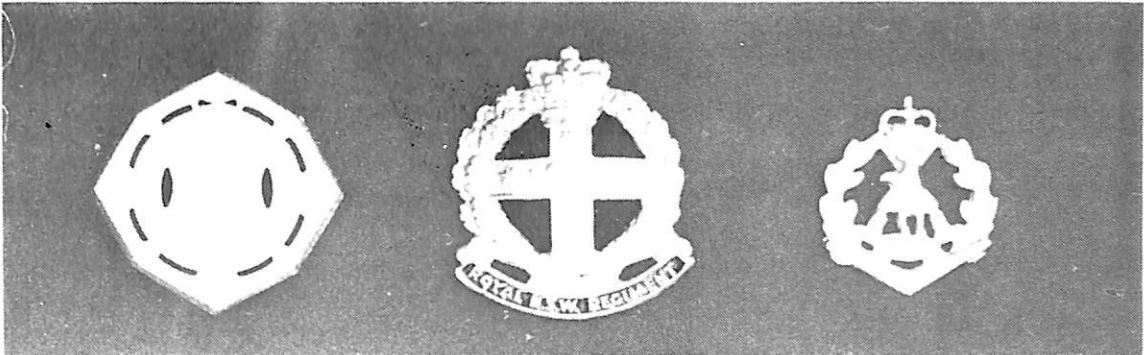
Royal Australian Regiment, 6 Bn, silver finish, two-piece construction with the centre badge die struck.

There are also several other SUR pipe band headdress badges that are not shown here. They are, however, illustrated in "Sydney University Regiment" by A.B. Lilley (1974). One is the Queen's crown version of the all ranks 1948-64 glengarry badge above and the other is Lord Wakefield's crest which was worn on the glengarry pre-World War 2 to just after. I would be interested to hear of any other band hat badges not covered here.

## WANTED

WWII or earlier Australian Military Collectibles, particularly patches and hats. But, I am also looking for information about NSW or old Australian Flying Corps material particularly leather flight coats or paintings on sides of airplanes. Any information will help.

**Brett Schanck**  
**337 Greenwish Lane, Apt. C-2**  
**St Louis, Missouri, USA 63108**



Ron Montague

## Veterans Flat

*MHSA Member Ron Montague describes the naming of an historic area of Maitland.*

About three years ago I suggested to the Maitland City Council that the flat stretch of land on each side of the 'Long Bridge' should be called 'Veteran Flat'. After much exchange of correspondence and a couple of local press stories it was finally agreed to by the State Geographic Names Board. Over the past few years I have done some work on the lives and times of the twelve Napoleonic War veterans who were settled on this land in 1829. The land that can be seen on the left side of the bridge was granted to John Hannan a former soldier of the 14th Light Dragoons who fought at the Battle of Waterloo and was

wounded there. He joined the Royal NSW Veteran Companies in Londo and came to this country in 1826 and served in this area as a mounted policeman. Many of his descendants still live in the Hunter region and other parts of the country. The land here was divided into 40 acre (16 hectare) allotments and others receiving grants at the same time were: William Pragnall, John Grills, Thomas Godfrey, William Turley, William Hall, James Balcot, John Thompson, Richard Brownrigg and William Critchley. Several did not work the land and their allotment was later given to others who were entitled to grants. These replacements were: Henry James, George Turner and John Wilkinson. Many of the sons and grandsons of these men became prominent citizens.



Steven J. Danaher

## Brothers in Arms

A recent medal group purchase which I managed to pick up from a UK dealer fired my imagination for a little research.

Firstly the medal group in question: CSM clasp Borneo named to the Royal Marines, Vietnam Medal, South Vietnam Campaign Medal (with the usual Regimental number, initials and surname only), and a Rhodesian General Service Medal. The man in question enlisted into the Australia Army in London and after completing two tours with the SAS in Vietnam travelled to Rhodesia, serving in both the Rhodesian SAS and the Selous Scouts. Unfortunately during 'Operation Kodak' inside Mozambique in January/March of 1977 Sgt Clive Mason stood up during an ambush and after accounting for six Frelimo soldiers was then killed himself.

I started to wonder how many other UK-enlisted soldiers gave their all in the fight for freedom and against oppression. Though Clive Mason's story is a

little off the beaten track (as we say in Australia) with his final service on African soil. I started to ponder the idea of compiling a roll of those soldiers who enlisted in the Australian Army losing their lives in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and South Vietnam.

One must point out that whilst other British subjects saw active service and died in these campaigns while serving as Australians, this roll deals with those who *enlisted* in the United Kingdom, were then flown to Australia to take up their new positions in an army not so unfamiliar as the one that the marjiority of these fellows had so recently left.

Their reasons were probably many and varied! An inexpensive way to migrate offering the one and only skill they possessed or maybe the hope of a new adventure with the advent of our Vietnam involvement.

We can but wonder, for these soldiers have taken their thoughts and hopes with them.

### KOREA

No.	Name	Rank	Unit	DOD	Place of Enlistment	Remarks
310074	Arnold RH	Pte	3 RAR	5/10/51	England	
310014	Barlow A	Pte	3 RAR	16/ 3/52	England	
310418	Budd DFW	LCpl	1 RAR	3/ 7/52	England	
210693	Gatefield DJ	Pte	3 RAR	22/ 9/52	Glanyrant Pangam UK	
210077	Ghee J	Cpl	3 RAR	26/ 6/53	England	Born 29/3/29 at Ebbw Vale, Wales. British Army 1947-49. Enlist Aust. army 1950
310647	Griffiths KS	Pte	1 RAR	11/12/53	England	
210082	Johnson F	Pte	3 RAR	5/10/51	England	
210782	Kane JR	Pte	3 RAR	20/ 8/54	England	
21200	Lalouette HR	Pte	3 RAR	15/ 8/51	England	
7400012	McMillan WR	Pte	3 RAR	22/ 6/53	England	NOK Scotland
211074	Shaw AM	Pte	2 RAR	27/ 7/53	Scotland	
310526	Smith AG	Cpl	2 RAR	30/ 4/53	England	
310976	Whitehouse DE	Ptd	3 RAR	14/ 8/52	England	
210226	Yeo WJ	LCpl	3 RAR	6/10/51	England	

### MALAYA

Nil

**BORNEO**

311512 Richards VH Ptd 4 RAR 20/ 6/66 England Died of wounds

**SOUTH VIETNAM**

211090 Andrews JH WO2 AATTV 21/ 2/66 Scotland From Dumberline served WW2 and Malaya

311534 Checkley TW Gnr RAA 5/ 8/68 England From Buxton. RAF Cyprus, enlist Aust. army June 1965

311546 Davidson WJ Pte RAAMC 27/ 1/68 England 8 FD  
AMB att  
2 RAR From Tontine, Scot served Scot Guards as a piper. Enlist Aust. army October 1965

31089 Garrigan J WO2 AATV 27/12/68 England Enlist Brit. army 1945. Enlist Aust. army 1950

31260 Halkyard E LCpl 7 RAR 16/ 1/71 England Born Manchester, Gren Guards 1960-66. Enlist Aust. army Sept. 1969

311532 Whitton JH Cpl 1 RAR 13/ 5/68 Scotland From Lanarkshire, RHFus Feb 1959-jan 65 served Arabaian Peninsular. Enlist Aust. army Jun 1965 KIA during the Battle of Fire Support Base 'Coral'

**AUSTRALIAN ARMY UNITS**

AATTV Australian Army Training Team Vietnam  
 RAA Royal Australian Artillery: 131 Divisional Locating Battery  
 RAAMC Royal Australian Army Medical Corps: 8 Field Ambulance  
 RAR Royal Australian Regiment

Note: Details mentioned in the remarks column have been obtained from "The Australian" Supplement 500, THE AUSTRALIANS WHO DIED IN VIETNAM, 18 August 1988. Cpl GJ Ghee remarks obtained from "AUSTRALIA IN THE KOREAN WAR 1950-53, Vol. 11 Combat Operations by Robert O'Neil.

*Stephen Willard*

## The Defence of Wollongong 1939-1945

### **PART 1: The Covering Force and Local Defence**

The greatest problem faced by the historian researching the Australian home forces during the second world war is that, unlike the units that served overseas or in Northern Australia, these units are poorly represented in the resource material held by the major archival repositories. The surviving documents are available only by chance rather than a policy to conserve material that would be useful to future needs. Where a unit war diary has survived the researcher is at the diarist's mercy for the quality of detail recorded; one diarist may be meticulous in recording information, another satisfying officialdom with brevity. The Official History of the 1939-1945 war has almost totally ignored the home front, concentrating on the overseas campaigns in which Australians were involved. A seemingly straight forward task of researching the Kembla coastal defences during the second world war became a frustrating jigsaw which refused, initially, to piece together.

This paucity of material was exacerbated by a lack of cross referencing to other resource locations. For example, the Kembla Coastal Artillery diaries from April 1942 to January 1947 were held under two separate catalogue references.<sup>1</sup> This caused some concern as the possible loss of part of the diary had to be considered. All that was reflected was a change to the coastal defence organisation. All that was reflected was a change to the coastal defence organisation. Similarly, records for December 1941 to April 1942 were found in the diary for Sydney Fixed Defences Command which was responsible for the Kembla defences before an earlier reorganisation.<sup>2</sup> Unit diaries for the Kembla defences prior to December 1941 have not been located.

Much of the information for the early years of the war was located in the Australian Archives, Sydney; particularly a detailed 'War Establishment Strength' and the 'Standing Orders for Fighting for Breakwater Battery'.<sup>3</sup> However, much of the research has remained peripheral; examining war diaries of units attached to Kembla Fortress, and written records relating to local defence policy.

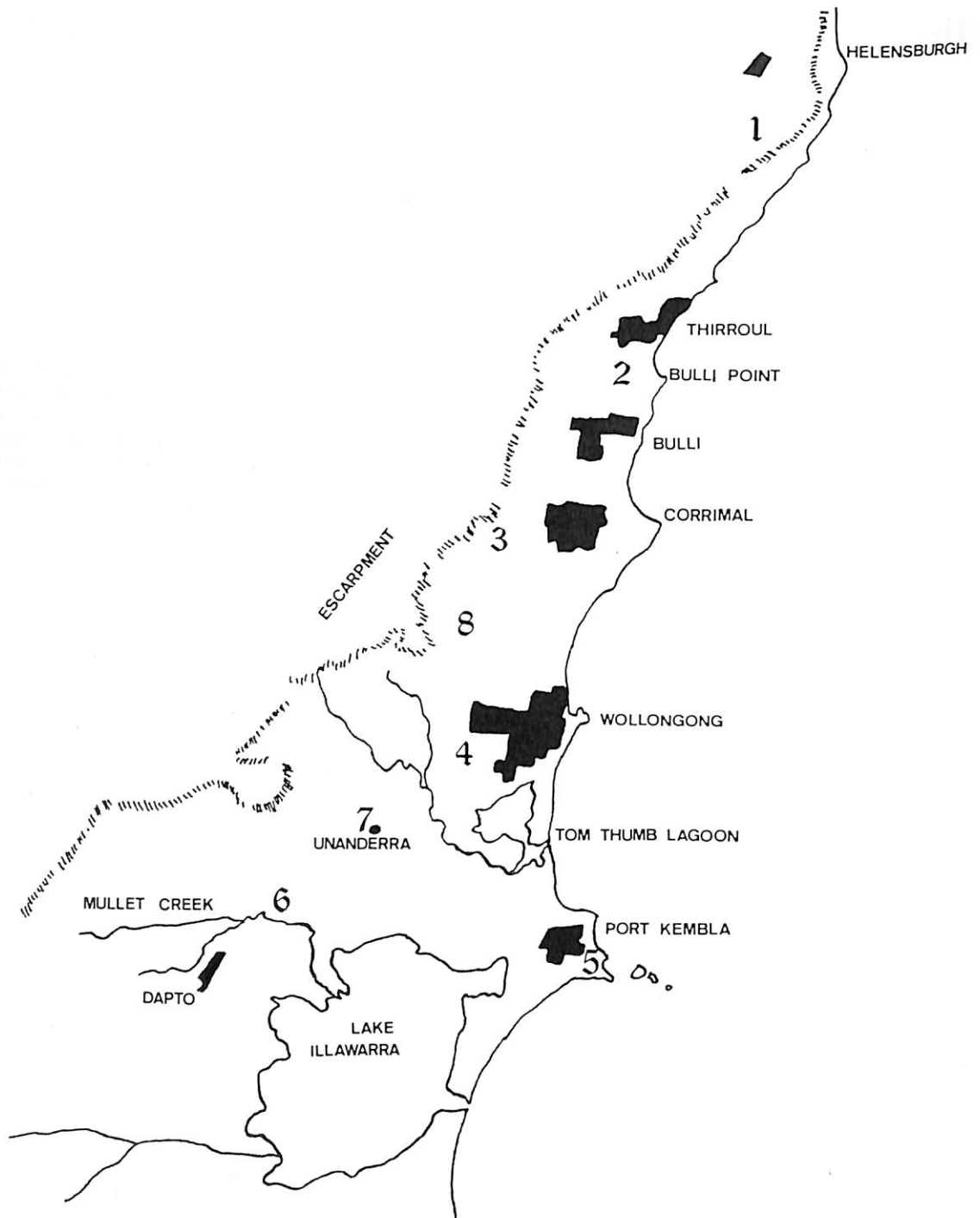
The articles that follow have, by necessity, been restricted by the resources available. The development of the Kembla defences can be traced with some certainty, allowing the importance and function of the coastal defences to be placed into context by examining the defences of an important industrial town and port during the second world war.

#### **Wollongong 1939**

The city of Wollongong is situated approximately 100 kilometres south of Sydney, dominating a narrow coastal plain. The region which is the subject of these articles extends along the 56 kilometre coastline from Port Hacking south to Port Kembla. The coast from Port Hacking to Stanwell Park is dominated by precipitous cliffs punctuated by a number of small beaches. At Stanwell Park the cliffs begin to recede from the coast forming an escarpment which dominates the coastal plain. Between Stanwell Park and Thirroul the coastal plain is extremely narrow, little more than 1 kilometre at its widest point. South of Thirroul the escarpment recedes away from the coast, giving way to an undulating, semi-open coastal plain with a coastline of continuous sandy beaches. The largest body of water on the plain is Lake Illawarra, a shallow, tidal salt water lake fed by a number of creeks running from the escarpment. The lake narrows to a channel which provides an outlet to the Pacific Ocean and the only place where a bridge can provide a direct route along the coast without detouring inland.

The discovery of coal in the region in 1797 was not exploited until the later half of the 19th century, although diary and cattle grazing was established by the middle of the century. The region's economy until after the Great War was founded on coal mining and agriculture. In 1927 the Hoskins Lithgow Steelworks began relocation to Port Kembla, south of Wollongong, close to coal deposits necessary for steelmaking and to an established harbour. The move from Lithgow to Port Kembla was upset by the depression, which found the region controlled by a





rural council that did not understand the needs of the infant industrial community. Unemployment in the coal industry and a pool of unemployed from outside the region combined with the slow establishment of the steelworks, created a climate in which recovery from the worst of the depression was retarded.<sup>4</sup> By June 1939 the economic base of the region had changed with the metal industries the major employer.<sup>5</sup>

After the declaration of war the region's heavy industry converted to the production of material for military requirements. Domestic air raid shelters were exported to England, and military poisonous gases were produced by one plant, although production never reached the full potential capacity. The area's engineering resources from a military point of view were practically unlimited with many modern workshops. However, the industrial plant was vulnerable to attack, easy targets for naval guns in open exposed sites. Wollongong's resources were appraised by the Second Australian Army:

From a military point of view, the area is an important one. Considerable quantities of raw materials and manufactured goods, such as coal, steel, chemicals etc., which are vital for defence needs are produced in this narrow strip of country.<sup>6</sup>

#### Local Defence 1939-1940

The importance of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong as industrial centres was recognised in pre-war defence policy. After 1935 first priority was given to the rearmament of the coastal defences at Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane and Fremantle. Plans for the full mobilisation of the Australian defences were based on the assumption that an invader would seek a quick victory; establishing a secure land use before moving against the strong Newcastle-Sydney-Kembla defences. Pre-war mobilisation plans emphasised the need for the 'concentration of the greater part of the army in the vital Newcastle-Port Kembla area'.<sup>7</sup>

A popular misconception is that the coastal artillery batteries at Port Kembla were solely for the defence of the harbour and its immediate surrounds. The importance of the coastal batteries are far wider than perceived, providing the pivot for the local defences.

In the days before the outbreak of war emergency coastal defences were installed south of Port Kembla harbour overlooking its entrance. Although there was no immediate threat to the Australian eastern seaboard until Japan entered the war, defending the region from possible attackers posed a number of problems. A Second Australian Army report concluded that:

plans to defend the low coastal basin and routes leading out of it would appear to depend largely on [the] forces available. Beach defences supported by strong positions [in the] rear to guard the passes and protect rear areas with ample reserves in or near the escarpment plus adequate artillery and air support would be most effective.<sup>8</sup>

The forces allocated to defend the coastline from Port Hacking to Lake Illawarra were, in reality, barely adequate. In October 1940 the closest air support was 22 Fighter Squadron at Richmond equipped with obsolete Wirraways, at two-thirds strength with eight front line aircraft and a further four in reserve.<sup>9</sup> The anti-aircraft defences of fourteen 3-inch guns and nineteen searchlights were concentrated in Sydney and Newcastle.

An infantry brigade group was responsible for defending Sydney's southern flank from Port Hacking to Port Kembla. 14 Infantry Brigade Group's commanding officer, in an appreciation dated 23 August 1940,<sup>10</sup> outlined the considerable tactical problems posed for the defending forces.

Port Hacking was an important feature that should be defended. As the coastline from Port Hacking to Stanwell Park was mostly cliffs its small beaches were only suitable for landing nuisance raiding parties. At Stanwell Park three major roads met and were dominated by a rise, Bald Hill. This area could be adequately covered by a patrol system, although Bald Hill, as a prominent tactical feature, was to be held. In the Stanwell Park-Thirroul sector any troops landed, would be bottled up in an extremely narrow coastal plain overlooked by the surrounding escarpment. Any movement from this area had to be through the northern exit controlled by Bald Hill, or through the southern exit at Thirroul which would be protected by a screening force.

South of Thirroul the continuous sandy beaches were ideal for an amphibious landing force. Bulli Pass, the main Wollongong to Sydney road, was particularly vulnerable as its foot was only 300 metres from the coast. The capture of this area would have cut the line of communication with Sydney. Three other exits from the coastal plain gave access to the country west of the escarpment or provided lateral communication with units along it. Lake Illawarra was an effective barrier to an approach from further south; any advance being funnelled into the country west of the lake or into the narrow strip of land between the lake and the ocean.

Port Hacking was discounted as the least likely point of attack. The beaches between Thirroul and Wollongong offered access to the Bulli and Mount Keira Road Passes which controlled the lines of communication with Sydney and the escarpment. Port Kembla with its fixed defences was important both as a base and a port; its northern flank protected by the open swampy ground of Tom Thumb Lagoon, the southern flank a restricted area between the ocean and the lake foreshore. A direct attack against the fixed defences would be uneconomical.

The perceived threats were either small raiding parties or a determined landing by a force of one or more divisions supported by armoured vehicles. The defending forces were to oppose the initial landing and any advance towards Sydney. As all the coastline

could not be defended the local forces' dispositions had to screen the most likely landing sites as well as denying vital ground.

In achieving this the coastal artillery complemented the function of the covering force. Breakwater Battery's guns covered an arc sweeping from Bulli Point to south of Lake Illawarra, supporting the defences within this area. The commander of the covering force was able to organise the defence so that the most economical lodgement point for an attacking force was south of Lake Illawarra, with any movement towards Sydney requiring an assault of well prepared, mutually supporting defences.

14 Infantry Brigade Group consisted of three infantry battalions (3, 34 and 55/53 Battalions) supported by 14 Field Brigade Royal Australian Artillery equipped with twelve 18-pounders and four 4.5 inch howitzers of Great War vintage, 14 Field Company Royal Australian Engineers and 14 Field Ambulance. A battery of 60-pounders, further remnants of the Great War, D Company 2 Garrison Battalion and the Breakwater Battery garrison were placed under command of 14 Infantry Brigade Group.

A company and machine gun section from 55/53 Battalion maintained patrols in the Port Hacking-Stanwell Park sector and secured Bald Hill. The remainder of the battalion screened the vulnerable Bulli Pass area, covering the beaches between Thirroul and Bulli. Artillery support was given by a section of 18-pounders (2 guns) sited as beach guns on Bulli Point, a second section of 18-pounders as anti-tank guns and the battery of 60-pounders located at Brokers Nose behind Corrimal. 34 Battalion was positioned around Wollongong with its southern flank secured against the marshy ground of Tom Thumb Lagoon, supported by a section of 18-pounders as beach guns and a second section as anti-tank guns. The 60-pounders at Brokers Nose could give support to this area, as could the Breakwater Battery guns. 3 Battalion less one company, which formed brigade reserve, was situated on a forward defensive locality at Mullet Creek west of Lake Illawarra, blocking the approach route between the lake and the escarpment, with a section of 18-pounders as anti-tank guns in support.

The remaining section of 18-pounders covered the beaches between 34 and 55/53 Battalions. The battery of 4.5 inch howitzers was placed at Unanderra to cover as wide a front as possible without changing position.

D Company 2 Garrison Battalion as close support for Breakwater Battery could block any move along the narrow strip of land on the eastern shore of the lake. 34 Battalion could reinforce this area or support the 3 Battalion positions.

The engineers had prepared a number of sector dumps, constructed headquarters and machine gun posts and also positioned obstacles to hinder a successful landing. Explosive charges were placed to

demolish important bridges, jetties and harbour facilities and crater roads to delay movement from an established bridgehead.

With Breakwater Battery providing the pivot the militia of 14 Infantry Brigade Group was preparing to fulfil its role as a home defence force. The Kembla fixed defences allowed a mobile mutually supportive defence to be organised which could react to the perceived threats.

#### Local Defence 1941-1945

With the entry of Japan into the war the threat to Australian coastal cities became more immediate. To bolster the local defences an additional 6-inch battery at Hill 60 (Illowra) was constructed in early 1942. Two 3-pounder guns were also installed as anti-motor torpedo boat defences. Anti-aircraft guns and searchlights arrived in December 1941. A third coastal artillery battery was begun in 1942, but the 9.2 inch guns were removed and sent to Darwin soon after the battery's completion. Until replacement guns were received dummy barrels were installed, with the battery ineffective until late 1944. Breakwater Battery was relegated to a training facility and Illowra Battery became the pivot of the local defence.

The Kembla covering force's weapons were partially modernised when sufficient were available after equipping the front line units. By 1943 military requirements had changed; the militia transferred to other theatres of war were progressively replaced by units of the Volunteer Defence Corps, part time soldiers drawn from the local community (similar to the English 'Dad's Army'). The purpose of the defending forces remained as perceived in August 1940. An operational instruction issued in September 1943 considered that:

At the present time, in view of the very small liability, there are adequate mobile forces in the areas of the main fortresses, and the coastal VDC Battalions are also adequate for protecting vulnerable points on principal coastal communications.<sup>11</sup>

The emphasis remained with mobility. Inland battalions could be moved to strengthen the coastal forces.

By April 1944 the Volunteer Defence Corps units were established within the Kembla fortress area. Three battalions provided infantry, whilst another battalion recruited from shift workers had the dual role of anti-aircraft defence and the close protection of the heavy industrial plant. The majority of personnel of the coastal artillery batteries were members of the VDC and the battalion providing tactical defence of the coastal artillery released the company from the garrison battalion for anti-sabotage duty.<sup>12</sup>

In November 1944 Port Kembla ceased to be a defended port and the defences began to wind down. Headquarters Kembla Fortress was disbanded in January 1945 and the remaining active defences

placed under the command of Fixed Defences New South Wales. The dismantling of the coastal batteries began in July 1945 and by January 1947 was completed at both Breakwater and Illowra Batteries. The 9.2 inch battery was kept operational until about 1957.

Whilst the coastal artillery batteries were an important element in the region's defences, the effectiveness of the local defences depended upon the quality, mobility and preparedness of the militia in

being able to defend the maximum area with minimal, and initially antiquated, resources. The fixed defences and covering force were complementary as the careful dispositions of 14 Infantry Brigade Group in August 1940 demonstrate. It is ironic that the Kembla fixed defences were at their strongest when the threat from Japan was receding and the covering force was being diluted by units of the Volunteer Defence Corps.

#### Endnotes

1. Australian War Memorial Series 52 4/19/5 *Kembla Fixed Defences* and 1/6/5 *HQ Kembla Fortress*.
2. Australian War Memorial Series 52 4/19/4 *Sydney Fixed Defences Command*.
3. Australian Archives (NSW) SP1141 *Miscellaneous Records — Headquarters Eastern Command 1870-1967*. Item 11 "Instructions & Orders Fixed Armament AA DEfences, Engineers Newcastle, Kembla"—Kembla Fort Artillery Garrison War Establishment issued 1 August 1938.  
SP553/1 *Records of Fortress Installations (NSW Coast) 1934-50*. Item 42 "Fort Kembla—Fort Records"—Standing Orders for Fighting—Breakwater Battery: 1 July 1941.
4. Richardson, L. *The Bitter Years: Wollongong during the Great Depression*, Sydney, 1984 fully documents this period of Wollongong's history.
5. Australian War Memorial Series 54 243/18/1 *Defence of the Australian Coast Line—Covering Wollongong—Port Kembla—Lake Illawarra Districts*.
6. *ibid*.
7. Long, G. *Australia in the War of 1939-1945: To Benghazi*, Sydney 1986, p25.
8. Australian War Memorial Series 54 243/18/1 *loc.cit*.
9. Australian Archives (NSW) SP1141 *Miscellaneous Records—Headquarters Eastern Command 1870-1967*. Item 44 "General Combined Defence Scheme Eastern Command, October 1940".
10. Australian War Memorial Series 54 243/6/56 *An Appreciation by Commander 14th Inf Bed Cp Sector—Port Hacking including Port Kembla & Wollongong*.
11. Australian War Memorial Series 52 4/19/5 *loc.cit*. "Kembla Fortress Operational Instruction No.3, 23 September 1943".
12. Australian War Memorial Series 54 1008/2/28 *Brief Outline of VDC Roles in NSW, 1944*.

David Murphy

**17TH (Leicestershire) Regiment  
The Colonial Lillywhites 1830 to 1836  
New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land**

**New South Wales Mounted Police Samuel Caldwell, Regimental Number 686  
The Story of a Trooper of the Old Corps**

**PART 1: THE STORY**

This article is reprinted as printed in the newspaper, ECHO of Saturday, July 14, 1883. This article appears to have been written by Samuel Caldwell about the time of the bushrangers in the 1860's. The article has the following footnote:

(The above story was written down by the gallant old trooper several years ago, and is now published with his permission. It will be noticed that we have literally followed the veteran's manuscript, and we think our readers will agree with us that it could only have been shaped into good literary form at the expense of much of its vigour and raciness. The story is a fine lesson to the bush police of these days.—Ed. Echo.)

The ECHO was a Sydney Evening Newspaper.

As such I have retyped it in the same fashion. There would appear to have been some editing, although it seems this has been an unconscious effort on the behalf of the type setters of the newspaper rather than the editor. The endnotes (1): etc., have been added by me. David Murphy, November 1988.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the month of May, 1830, (1): in compliance with a regimental order, Proceeded under the command of Lieutenant Graham (2): with 32 soldiers of the 17th Regiment to embark on Bord the good Ship Lord Melvell (3): then Laying at Anchor on the River Thames and the day after Embarkation, triped the anchor and saild down to Sheerness and took on board, 232 prisoners; and in a few days soon bid Adue to Old England, Bound for Sydney, New South Wales, and on the 24th of October of the year above stated, arrived with all the prisoners safe, and oh what a welcom sight. The beautifull green trees, of Australia, was before, my eyes which seemed, to me beautyfull indeed. The day after our arival, a Captain Forbus, (4): in cavely uniform came on Bord, and he came to seek Soldier Volantees, and as we stood before him all drown up in line, he opened to us his Mission he told us he wanted valunteers to join the mounted police to go into the bush to capture Armed Bush raingers that

was roming at large in grate numbers. He told us that we should have to sleep in the bush and have hard fair to put up with and stand chance of being shot, and that he had at one time to kill his faithfull dog and drink his blood, no water being at that time to be found, I told him that he might put my name down and I would go and try my luck, four (5): more of my companions in arms allso volenteered. The Captain seemed pleased, and the next day we did Adue to our commorades and landed and under the guidance of a trooper who had a cart on the warf to take our luggage up to the Garison. No time was lost in being fitted with cavely clothing, served out at the Ordinance Store, with sword, pistols carobsaddle, bridle, Hobels, icketing rope, and a Compleat horseman's Acutrements. And in four days saw me and two others (6): enrout to join the 3d or hunters river division stationed in Maitland. The first days stage being parramatta. The next day was to wisemans ferry some 36 miles-and oh what a hot scorching day, Butened up in Cavely Uniform, and a large Shakoo Glased covered cap with black horse hare plume, (7): my poor Nose was near burne from my face. Staying that knight at Mr Wisemans the only Inn at the Ferry—I was so tired that half the night had passed before I fell asleep. Awkening in the morning quite refreshed after Breakfast crossed the river Hawkesborough In a small punt, and when ariving some distance up the hill I turned Round to gaze on that Magnificent seen, the most romantickest that I ever I saw, the Beautifull river winding its course threw blue mounteens and the Green flats was most charming. The day's Journey Ended in about 20 miles where I Camped for the night on a Nice Green flat, and for the first time of My life, heard the Jackasses Note in a tree above me, when I really thought that the bird was choking. But oh how I did enjoy that Nights Sleep, with my Marshall Cloak Around me, The Moon shining So brightly and the Oposam and Squerill Sporting in the trees above me. My next day's stage was To the Wolloombi, and a farmer by the way kindly inveted us to stay that Night with him—we Spent a hapy Evening, and he told me a grate deal of Australia. Mounted My bay troop horse

after breakfast Next Morning and proceeded to Maitland a distance of about 33 miles I found Maitland only a very few Scattered Houses on a low flat but very fertile land on the banks of the hunter. Our quarters was on a Nice Green hill Just below Government house (8): where we found the headquarters Under Lieutenant Blackburn, who give us a very hearty welcome. we were Their Very Comfortably quartered and our troops had a fine garden on the Bank of wallaces Creek, with all kinds of fine vegetables, with a Creek full of fish and thousands of wild fowls, there I Learned my duties as a trooper, there I was Also Instructed how to Act when attacking Blacks, or Bushrangers, taking Occasionally short towers in the bush and returning Again to quarters. The time passed. allong so tranquil that I wish those happy days was to Come over again. Our Commanding Officer was a brave Soldier and Gentleman who was So Brotherly and kind to us all, Strick in discipline, but Evert Courtous and Kind. (9):-in 1832 (10): The assigned Servants of Mr Moodie J.P. (11): of Castle Forbes (12): about four Miles from Singleton took to the bush (13): robbing Mr Moodie of all the Arms and Ammunition They could lay their hands on, and started to the river near Glendon. and their found Mr Larnick (14): Mr Moodies Superintendent engaged with Men washing sheep, and on The Bushrangers ariving on the bank one of them covered Mr Larnick with his Gun fired but luckily missed-the Ball wising past Mr Larnicks head. Larnick then ran To his horse which was tied up to an Oak Sapling hard by and Galloped off to Save his Life. the Bush Rangers then filed of into the Bush. I then belonged to the Jerreys Plains (15): Ditachment undir Lieutenant steel. (16): I was ordered with two troopers to go to the assistance of Mr Moody, and family whose life was thretend, and the first night. we was all on the qui vi and about three o'clock in the morning I hard the patter of feet in the yard. I then in a wisper reported what I hard to my party, and told them to stand to their Arms. The man outside huradly nocked at the door and was at once chalanged with who comes there, he replied I am Mr Sparks, are you the police. Yes, what is up. Oh look here showing us is Back and Shirt with his Blood hoosing Out, he Mr Sparks was Superintending a sheep farm Belonging to a Mr Cobb of Annanba near Maitland, and the Bush raingers had attacked his house which was only two miles from where we then stood, and had tied him up to a ladder and inflicted on His Naked Shoulders a Sovear flogging. They then told him he might go to Moodies and tell the police that we will pay Mr Moody and them a Visit Soon, and I shall Never forget the Comotion that this News Made in the household of Mr Moody and Larnick: -After Consutling with Mr Moody I dispatched A trooper After Leiutenant Street (17): to Report that the Bush raingers was Near, And in the Evening of that day, The Lamente Robert Scott J.P. of Glendon Sent for us, and reported that he knew where the Robbers Camp was On Receiving that information, I ordered My fellow trooper to Bridle the horses. Mr Moody

protesting that he would Report me if I left him Uprotected: As he had not a Single Arm on his premises and the poor old Gentleman was gately adgitated, and trembled in Every limb. I said well with all due Respect to You as a Magistrate I feel it my duty to disobey you I must go and take these men and I drew one of my pistels from my holdster and give him a few rounds of pistol cateredge, and off we galloped To Glendon, where we found MR Scott on the qui vi, after consulting together we deferd the attack until next morning. At the dawn of day we were in the Saddle (18): Acompanied with Mr larnick a few others, and two Black trackers-all eger to the Fight. My Sword was ground has Sharp has a Knife, And I then thought that I could Chop half a dozen heads of in a fe Munits Should we Come to the charge, -The bush raingers had however decamped that Afternoon And we proceeded on thee trail, on Ariving At Mr Duttons place a beautiful Viller on The Banks of the hunter: Mr Dutton informed Us that The bushraingers had been there And Robbed them taking Everything they Needed from the Store, and had gon towards lambs Vally. Our Sharp trackers took The lead 20 or 30 Yards a head of us And Soon Skirted the lambs Vally rainges And in about 5 Miles from Mr Duttins The trackers Saw the Smoke and Beekoned us to hatt. But a Dog barking I then sang out forward Charge, and right well that charge was Made and what did we see their camp fire Horses & and Three Men running and Scambling UP a Steep rocky Mountain. (9): Ground Arms rang threw the Glen the Men on the Mountain Side fased about one of them gun in hand was preparing to fire. My fellow trooper rainged up his horse fired and Missed one Second More and I Covered the Man with the Gun fired and My Slug taking affect in his Right Arm. Bang went another shot from the lemented Mr Scott and the man droped. the ball striking and Lodging in the mans Abdoman. Mr Larnicks white hat fallaing from the man's head, we smashed threw the Rocks and Vines untill our horses could not get further. Jumped of and scrambled up to where the men stood-with their arms grounded, less the wounded man, who was calling out for mercy. I darted at their grounded arms, and secured them, then placed Hand cuffs on the two uninjured men, and marched them down to their camp, and what should I find But two of Mrs Scot's Men in charge of two of the Gang, that they found planted in some Vines where they had hid when we first charged them. These men were soon secured, and in all seven Stand of Arms was Mustered, powder, Ball, tea, Sugar, Bacon, flour, Blankets, Saddles, and Bridgles Ball Moulds, and in fact as Much as their three horses could carry. We Sent to the Nearest Sheep Station for an hurdle to Carry the wounded Man down to the Camp, and Sent for a Cartr and a Surgeon, and after an howers or twos rest Started with our prisoners to Maitland. -The wounded man pool, (20): I think his name was, died in the Cart whilst on his way to town. -an Inquest was held at the East Maitland Court house Next day and a Virdict or Justifiable homiscide was returned. This was My first Brush

with Bushraingers in the Australian Bush. I may herein Remark, that these misguided men were all tried at the Supreme Court in Sydney and all sentenced to death. (21):—Two of them were executed in Sydney and the two Ringleaders were sent up to Singleton (22): in charge of the Under Sheriff Guarded by the light Company of the 4th Queen's Own regiment. (23): One of the prisoners before Mounting the Gallows addressing the Military Officer (24): said I have a favour to ask of you Before I die that is that in our dying Moments we had no Clergyman to console or pray for us in this our affliction, and we have been told that a Clergyman of our demoniation the Church of England is now at Glendon only four miles from us. The Officer replied I will not forget. I will represent the case when I When I arrive in Sydney. The Unfortunate men then Mounted the Gallows., the drop fell with a thud, at the usual time their Bodies were lowerd down into their coffins and intered in the cimitary: -This Accurd in 1832d. (25):

On another Ocesion whilst Stationd At Jerrys plains. I was ordered to take two troopers and go into the bush for 14 days. having packed our Saddle Bags with all things needful proceeded due west running up towards Merton and on the Banks of The hunter saw two Bushraingers. Charged and took them they wars at large from The Service of Mr Ogelvie JP lodged them a the lockup and proceeded up towards Gammon plains and Cross over the Country to Bylang from thence ran down the Goulburn To wards, Mount Danger, and Charged the Station on the Goulburn and took three Bush raingers. Brought them Before the Court at Merton. I was then Called upon to go and take charge of the police at windsor, (26): and on my way Camped at a place Called The dog Kenel and as I lay near my horse about 11pm I heard a laugh, lumped up and went to my Horse. Seing Northing, I then laid down in the Grass, and Shortly heard another laugh, -I then took My Carobine whent down hill towards the high read and there I heard voices and Saw the Blue Smoke Curling Up I walked down and Challenged them one of which darted of and Creped under a Log, I found two men and a woman all prisoners at large in the Bush. I started after Breakfast along that lonsom Road and about one Oclock pm reached wisemans Ferry. Crossed the river. refreshed at the Inn and Camped that Night at Morntoo Hill. Marshed My Prisoners Next day, to parramatta and handed them over to the ordinary police Started to windsor and took charge of My Detachment of troopers. next Morning, Remained in Command of the Windsor detachment for Some time. (25): and was removed again to the Hunters river district. Made two Journeys to New England and captured three or four Bushraingers Each time And Marched them down to Red bank Court Near puen buen. (28): Captured a Bushrainger in Mr Dangers paddock at turanvell Near Scone, was one day Beating down the river Hunter above Sagenoh, and Caught two Bush raingers with a dead

Sheep on their Back. Making for a Mountain. took Them in Custoday. on another Ocesion I took Bush rainger Tom par and his two Mates west of Nundlen Miles where they had Been roming and Robbing Stations for Months—Proceeded to Joyn Leiutenant Sayors (29): found him in the Merrewa district Endavouring to Find out the Bushraingers who had Robbed Mr Duttons house and Shot his Servant in a few days found Out that it was Mr Blackslands Sheperds that was doing grate depredations at Night and Shiperding in the day time. Arested four of these Shiperds Brought them before a Bench of Magistrates founed at Mr Blackslands near Merawa and that Court committed them for trial. for Robbery and wounding under Arms. Lodged them in New Castle Gaol-on another Ocesion Being Out on liverpool Plains. I Aristed a Bush rainger at Warra Creek, whin on the March Camped and handcuffed him to My Self and lodged him Next day in Red bank lock-up,—Being on Duty in the Tamworth district, heard of an Armid Party headed By a person Called Blind Tom and a Cellebrated Robber called The Rifle Man, who had been the terror of Tamworth and liverpool Plains district for some 12 months, having called at a station of Mr R. Pringles that They had robbed ascertained there discription the discription of the arms they carried and The derrection they started in, it being now Sundown I camped for that Night in frunt of the hut, Under a Apple tree with my Horses teather Rope laid once Around me at dawn of the next day saw me in the Saddle. Arived in about two howers at a Sheep Station on Moore Creek, and found from Information that The Bushraingers I wanted had Been there, tracked them to near Mr coreys Head Station received No information from the Superentendent. But left with him My Military Cloak and Saddle Bag as My horse was Jaded and proceeded Up to Near the Moonbi Mountains, and on Nearing a Sheep station Hut the dogs Chalinged by barking and I saw has I galloped along Three heads ran from the hut I charged has hard as my horse Could gallup, but the bushraingers had concealed themselves,—in Some Long reeds in frunt of the hut I then made a charge into The Red but my horse bogging I had To plung Out Again and in doing So I Saw the leader Blind Eyed tom laying close on his belly, I covered him with my Carrobine at once and he jumped up leaving his over coat behind him I called to the hut keeper to Search him which he reluctantly did I Called repeatedly to the others to Sorender Not heeding My threats to make them Bite the dust. if they Did Not do So, I asked the hut keeper to lift up the Coat for Me and there I found a Brace of pistols in the Pockets loded and Caped and These wepons I placed in My Soward Belt. and Made the Hut keeper to go into the Reeds, and Show me where They lay, and by grate Bouncing he Said here they are it is No use humbuging I Called to him to Stand aside and was about to fire when up they all Jumped, and healed their hands up, And they Marched out of the swamp to where their leader was Standing about 20 Yards from Me. I then made the Hutkeeper hand cuff





them for me not deeming it prudent to dismount my horse for that purpose. he then Serched there persons and afterwds at my desire went into the Swamp and Brought Out a red flanel Bag with Splinded four pistels all well loded and caped. I could not get him to bring me there fowling peace, he said he could not see it, the bag contained besides the pistels flasks of powder, Caps, Ball, Ball Moulds, and other articles, these men I guarded night and day for three days and Brought them before E.D. Day, Esq., P.M. who tried them in the Inn parler at Scone and remanded them to the lockup at red bank, from which they all escaped after being confined fo six or seven weeks. All the recompence I got for my dangerous and wearied exertions was highly complemented by the Bench of magistrates, Messrs G.D. Day and Butler. Many other Bush Raingers of not much note I arested during my ten years service in the gallant old corps, the military police.

Heering that one old corps (30): or most of them was shortly to leave Australia for India I purchased my discharge, and was appointed by the Government to take charge of the police in the capassity as chief constable in the district, of Muswell Brook. I was sworn in and commenced by duties as Chief Constable in 1830-and there is one thing more connected with my duties, that I will herin Record, and that it is that it was Reported to me that one of the Border police then attached and under the Supervision of the Lemented Jack Allman Esq. Commissioner of Crown Lands at tamworth. -having robed the mail, and was at large in the Bush with his Government Horse and uniform Clothing and Arms, one day information

Came to me that a Horse police man was roming about the Stations on the St Heeliers or Sandy Creek run I at once armid myself taking a constable with me, and started in persute, and we had not got five miles when we observed the person we were in search of. We confronted and acosted him thus, Good day. Are you from Tamworth or Armidale. He said Tamworth, sir. What duey are you on here. I am on dispatch duty proceding to Muswell Brook with dispatches for the Government. I asked him if he knew me and he said no. I told him my name was Caldwell, (31): and instantly sized his bridle rains and covered him with my pistol, and said surrender. Tuch not eather soward or pistol or I will shoot you instently.

My Orderly Constable Ashburn Then pulled him of his horse has he Showed Signs to getaway I told The Constable after tokin his horse To take of his Soward and Belt has he was not worthy to whare them on his person was not found any thing of Importance. -I brought him before the Bench at MuswellBrook remanded to tamworth, and elt with at the Asises in Maitland for the robbery. I need not Mention Any More of these duties as they are legion-Suffice to say that during the five Years of Office as Chief Constable in Muswell Brook out of scores of Robbreys only two parties Escaped me.

N.B. I recelect to have captured in all thiry five bush raingers, and other robbers a Grate Number. -And during these long Years of Service have never had as Much as one Single rebuk from My Superiors or the Government.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PART 2: ENDOTES

1. The soldiers embarked on the 14th May 1830, at Deptford. The detachment comprised 2 Officers, 1 Serjeant, 26 Privates, 4 Women and 3 Children.
2. Lieutenant Robert Graham arrived at Deptford on 15th April, 1983.  
Born Scotland 1808.  
Joined the 17th Foot at the age of 17 years.  
Ensign: 9th April 1825, without purchase.  
Lieutenant: 19th July 1826, with purchase.  
Captain: 21st September 1832, with purchase.  
Transferred to 68th Foot 4th May 1832.  
  
Service in New South Wales included the following locations: Parramatta, Sydney, Moreton Bay, and Bathurst.  
  
He left Sydney to join his regiment on 17th January 1834, per the ship *Royal Admiral*, bound for England.
3. The ship *Lord Melville* was due to make its second voyage to New South Wales as a convict ship. It had been built at Quebec, Canada in 1825, and was of 425 tons. For this trip it had a crew of 34 men, the Master was Robert Brown. The Surgeon Superintendent was George Roberts. Roberts had arrived on board the ship on the 7th May 1830, and a total of 176 male convicts were embarked between the 19th and 21st May 1830, at Sheerness. All the convicts were found to be in good health, and the ship sailed to The Downs (off the coast of Kent, near Deal). The ship sailed from here on the 21st October, 1830. There were no reported fatalities during the voyage and only 2 soldiers received treatment for any medical ailments. Approximately 250 persons set sail for Sydney in the ship. The convicts probably disembarked on the 24th October, 1830.

4. Captain John Douglas Forbes, of the 39th or Dorsetshire regiment, who had been appointed Commandant of the NSW Military Mounted Police, on the 16th October 1830, however this appointment had been pre-dated from 25th September 1830. At this time the establishment of the corps had been increased as follows:

Governor's Body Guard, later changed to Mounted Orderlies: 1 Serjeant; 1 Corporal; 5 Privates.

#### Mounted Police

1 Captain Commandant; John Douglas Forbes. Stationed at Headquarters in Sydney. Appointed 25th September 1830. With pay of 7s 6d per diem and forage for 2 horses at 2s 6d per diem each, plus pay and allowances as an army officer, and allowed quarters in the barracks.

3 Lieutenants of Divisions, as follows: With pay of 4s 0d per diem for forage for 1 horse at 2s 6d per diem, plus pay and allowances as an army officer, and allowed 50 pounds lodging allowance.

1st Division, Bathurst; Lt James Brown, 57th Foot. Appointed 25th December 1827.

2nd Division, Goulburn Plains; Lt Lachlan McAllister, late of the 48th Foot. Appointed 28th September 1829. Note as McAllister was on half pay he received an additional 7s 0d per diem, but was not allowed his half pay during his appointment.

3rd Division, Maitland or Hunter Valley Region; Lt Isaac Blackburn, 17th Foot. Appointed 25th September 1830.

1 Troop Serjeant Major. With pay at 1s 6d per diem plus pay and allowances as a soldier in the army.

6 Serjeants. With pay at 1s 0d per diem plus pay and allowances as soldiers in the army.

16 Corporals. With pay at 9d per diem plus pay and allowances as soldiers in the army.

77 Troopers. With pay at 6d per diem plus pay and allowances as soldiers in the army.

Note: Rations were deducted from the above army pay at 2½d per diem. Necessaries, damage etc., was also deducted.

As a result of this increase in the establishment Forbes had been looking for men from the line garrisons then in Sydney, and as the 17th Foot had recently been arriving in detachments this was one regiment to supply men for the corps. The other regiments then stationed in Sydney were under orders to proceed to India, it was pertinent to choose men from newly arrived regiments.

J.D. Forbes had arrived in New South Wales per the ship Guildford on 25th July 1827.

Born London 30th December 1802.  
 Joined the 39th Foot aged 20 years.  
 Ensign: 17 April 1823, by purchase.  
 Lieutenant: 16 June 1825, by purchase.  
 Captain: 10 June 1825, by purchase.

Service in NSW included Acting Major of Brigade, Sydney and Commandant of Mounted Police.

He left New South Wales for India in July 1832, and died on board the ship Protector on 18th June 1836 of a disease of the Liver and Dysentery. At the time he was homeward bound for England.

Forbes was also an explorer of some note, and was only exceeded in this endeavour by Charles Sturt a fellow officer of the same regiment. Early in 1830 Forbes took leave and went on an expedition into the interior by way of the Hunter Valley into the Liverpool Plains district and returned via the Wellington Valley, calling in to visit the newly discovered caves. This expedition was into previously unexplored territory.

In April and May of 1832, Forbes led a troop of mounted police into unexplored territory searching for a gang of bushrangers, to no avail.

The journals of these expeditions are held at the Dorsetshire Museum, but have been copied under the AJCP in the Miscellaneous Section.

5. In fact there were 8 men of the 17th Foot from the ship Lord Melville to serve in the corps, however, only 4 men volunteered at this time. They were as follows:

Reg No.	Name	From	To
771	Thomas Barnett	Oct 1830	Mar 1839
322 !	George Coldwell	Oct 1830	Mar 1845
686	Samuel Coldwell	Oct 1830	Dec 1840
755 !	John Hurst	Oct 1830	May 1837

#### Others were:

768 *	John Constable	Jun 1833	Apr 1835
521	Henry Ellis	Jun 1832	Mar 1848
394 *	George High	Mar 1831	Feb 1836
788	Henry Rose	Jan 1831	Sep 1849

! Denotes died whilst serving with the corps

\* Denotes left with the 17th Foot for India.

The Lord Melville provided more men of the 17th Foot than any other ship for the Mounted Police, obviously the fact that Forbes visited this ship to recruit men must have had some affect on their minds.

6. 4 men were ordered to march from HQ in Sydney to Maitland on 5th November 1830, they were: Serjeant McKay and Privates George Colwell, Samuel Colwell and Daniel Gratage.
7. There is some dispute in regards to the uniform worn by the Military Mounted Police, during the period alluded to. From my research the following is evident:

The corp's uniform was based on that of a 13th Light Dragoon. The 13th Light Dragoons were then stationed in India, and had been so since 1820, and was to remain there until 1840. It therefore makes sense for this uniform to have been the base of the Mounted Police Corps, as New South Wales came under the Indian Command. Coldwell appears to have been wrong in stating that the plume of the Shakoe was Black Horse Hair, as can be seen in the pencil sketch below it is definitely White. In 1827 the uniform consisted of 'A FORAGE CAP, A PLAIN DARK BLUE CLOTH SHELL JACKET and OVERALLS' and was of a very sombre appearance, despite being described as 'GAUDY' by the editor of the *Monitor* newspaper. In 1833 the uniform was changed to the following: Blue jacket with Red Facings, Yellow Ball Buttons and

Shoulder Brasses, Black Trousers with red stripe, a white and scarlet girdle and a pair of wellington boots. While trousers were to be worn during the summer period, the same as for the rest of the troops then stationed in New South Wales. A green stable dress was later introduced.

Soldiers were instructed that they were to wear their dress uniforms including the regimental SHAKOE whilst patrolling the roads of the COLONY. However, they were permitted to wear suitable clothing and hats whilst in the bush.

8. The mounted police barracks was situated near the present junction of Banks and Flinders (formerly Brown), Streets, East Maitland. A garden is indicated on early maps of the township in the location indicated i.e. on the banks of Wallis Creek.
9. Lieutenant ISAAC BLACKBURN of the 17th Foot, who had recently been appointed to the position. He had arrived at Sydney per the ship MERMAID on 6th May 1830.

Born CARRINGTON CHESSIRE 15th August 1808.  
Entered the 58th Foot aged 18 years.

Ensign: 25th May 1826, with purchase, 58th Foot.  
Lieutenant: 19th July 1827, by purchase, 59th Foot.  
Lieutenant: 2nd January 1828, by removal, 17th Foot.  
Captain: 12th February 1836, by purchase.

He resigned his position as a Lieutenant of the Mounted Police in December 1832 and returned to England on leave per the ship REDMAN on the 27th October 1834. He was transferred to the 41st Foot in 1841 and was placed on the half pay lists of the 27th Foot in 1845.

10. These events occurred in 1833.
11. Mr James Mudie, also known as Major Mudie, he had been a Sub Lieutenant in the Marines. He came by the nickname of Major due to his involvement in a commercial enterprise which was making medallions of the heroes of the Peninsula and Waterloo campaigns, and due to the length of time taken in manufacturing these medallions the venture proved unsuccessful and consequently he became insolvent. In 1822 he migrated to New South Wales and received a grant of land in the Hunter Valley region, which he named CASTLE FORBES after his mentor, Sir Charles Forbes. He was appointed a Magistrate by Governor Darling, but following events listed below and his involvement in a pamphlet which condemned the administration of Governor Bourke and also purported to be a VINDICATION of himself and his overseer JOHN LARNACK, was removed from the Magistracy. Upon his arrival in England in 1837 he published a book called FELONRY IN NEW SOUTH WALES, which continued his attack on the administration of Bourke.
12. Castle Forbes is at Whittingham near Singleton. Part of the original home still exists in the Baroona estate, now a private establishment.
13. Following the sentencing of 4 assigned servants of Mudie by a neighbour and fellow Magistrate of Mudie's for refusing to work 3 of them were sentenced to 50 lashes. The 3 were locked up for the night whilst the other had the flogging administered immediately.

Whilst at the court a plan was devised whereby the man who had been flogged was to abscond that night, with other assigned servants and attack the constable who was in charge of the 3 other men on the way to the ironed gang, the following morning. Upon the return to Castle Forbes of John Poole, he encouraged 3 other assigned convicts to abscond with him taking arms and ammunition with them that they had previously stolen. The following morning the 3 men and another escaped convict who was at large attacked constable Cook who was in charge of the prisoners and released 2 prisoners, leaving Cook and Parrot chained to a tree. Parrot one of the 3 to be sent to the ironed gang had refused to join them. The gang now comprised the following men:

#### Absconded Convicts:

John Poole, aged 22 years  
James Rielly, aged 25 years  
David Jones, aged 24 years  
James Ryan, aged 17 years

#### Escaped Prisoners:

Anthony Hitchcock, alias Hatch, aged 41 years  
John Poole, aged 24 years.

#### Convict at large:

James Henderson, alias Anderson, aged 26 years.

After releasing Hitchcock and Poole the gang proceeded to Castle Forbes where they stole horses, supplies, arms and ammunition and threatened the residents with violence to Larnack and Mudie. Larnack was absent supervising sheep washing and Mudie was away in Sydney on business.

14. John Larnack, James Mudie's Superintendent and son in law. They found him at the river supervising the convicts washing sheep and shot at him, but he escaped by dashing across the river.
15. The Hunter Valley or 3rd Division had been relocated from Maitland to Jerry's Plains in March of 1833. This was to put the mounted police closer to the bush and to be nearer the known haunts of bushrangers.
16. Lieutenant Charles Steele, 17th Foot, who, had replaced Lt. Isaac Blackburn at the 3rd division on 1st January 1833. He had arrived in Hobart Van Diemen's Land on the ship David Lyon on 18th August 1830 and had probably served on the infamous 'Black Line' in October 1830, a plan devised by Arthur in Lt Governor to push the Aborigines into Tasman's Peninsula. This plan was a costly failure. In April 1831 he had arrived at Sydney per the ship Red Rover and sent to Wiseman's in charge of an Ironed Gang.

Born Angus, Dundee, Scotland on 19th December 1809.

Joined 17th Foot at the age of 17 years

Ensign—3rd October 1826, by purchase

Lieutenant—30th December 1831, by purchase.

Retired by sale of his commission on 28th July 1836. Settled at Port Macquarie where he fathered 8 children to Anne Weymouth before he married her in 1860. He died at Port Macquarie in abject poverty on 21st April 1886.

Service in the army in the Australian Colonies included Van Diemen's Land, Sydney, Wiseman's, Sydney as

- Barrack Master, until being attached to the Mounted Police on 1st August 1832 to the 1st or Bathurst division. He was transferred to the 3rd division on 1st January 1833, and he remained there until December 1835 when he sought permission to retire from the army.
17. This surely must be Lt Steele.
  18. This body of men included 2 mounted policemen, Messrs J. Larnack, R. Scott and A. Flood and 2 Black trackers, who set out in pursuit of the convicts on the morning of 13th November 1833. On the 12th November 1833 a reward of 10 pounds per head had been approved by the Colonial Secretary's office, for the capture of the gang.
  19. This story of the capture of the convicts is very similar to that given by a Mounted Policeman at the trial and substantiated by other members of the party. This policeman's name was given as Daniel Cradditch, but I believe this to have been Daniel Gratage another soldier of the 17th foot to have been attached to the mounted police on 16th October 1830.
  20. The wounded man was James Henderson, who later died and was buried at Maitland on 16th November 1833. He was listed as a prisoner of the crown at large in the bush, per the ship *Bussorah Merchant*, however, the date of arrival wasn't stated, but could have been 1828 or 1831.
  21. The trials of the captured men: Anthony Hitchcock, David Jones, John Perry, James Rielly and James Ryan, were heard at the Supreme Court on Monday 9th December 1833 before the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Forbes and a military jury. The defence of the accused was conducted by Roger Therry who appears to have been retained by an anonymous gentleman of Sydney, who seems to have retained such counsel for accused convicts. Therry placed his defence on the fact that the convicts were severely treated by their master and hoped to show their actions were caused by this treatment by their master and his superintendent, and pleaded mitigating circumstances. This, however, was ruled inadmissible. The first case was heard under the Bushrangers act in that they attempted to steal from Mudie, and were found guilty. The second trial began the following day, 10th December, in that they had attempted to murder John Larnack, and again they were found guilty. Subsequently they were sentenced to death. When asked if any of them had anything to say, the prisoner Poole begged the court to consider the case of the boy Ryan, due to his youth, however, this was rejected by the court.
  22. Three men were executed in Sydney on Saturday, 21st December 1833, these were Perry, Rielly and Ryan, whilst Jones was transported for life to Norfolk Island. Hitchcock and Poole were returned to Castle Forbes via Newcastle per the steamer *Sophia Jane*, under the supervision of a detachment of the 4th or King's Own regiment. From Newcastle they were transported by cart, sitting on their coffins, and were hanged on a scaffold erected on a hill over looking Castle Forbes.
  23. This should be the 4th or King's Own or Lancaster Regiment. This regiment wasn't stationed in Newcastle at this time and probably escorted the prisoners from Sydney to Castle Forbes.
  24. The officer may have been an officer of the 4th regiment or the officer in charge at Maitland, Captain Philip Nicol Anley, 17th Foot or Lieutenant Thomas Henry Baylis, 17th Foot, then stationed at Newcastle.
  25. These events occurred in November and December 1833 and not 1832 as is stated in the article.
  26. Samuel Colwell was forwarded to Windsor prior to the above events occurring, on 11th December 1832. He was promoted to corporal in the mounted police, on 2nd November 1832.
  27. Pewen Bewen is near present day Cessnock.
  28. Samuel's time at Windsor was very limited, for on 23rd January 1833, at a court martial held at Sydney, was found unfit to be a non commissioned officer in the mounted police, and reduced to the rank of trooper. This action was taken by the then Commandant of the Mounted Police, Captain Thomas Williams, 4th Foot, who had received a report by Captain Chetwode of the 4th Foot, stating that Corporal Colwell was guilty of highly improper conduct, in that he wrote a farewell letter to a female, probably an assigned convict. This letter had obviously been intercepted and a complaint had been made to Captain Chetwode. Subsequently Corporal Colwell was marched a prisoner to Parramatta on 16th January 1833 and on the following day marched to Sydney. At the hearing Colwell's previous high character was noted, but it was believed that he had trumped up an answer to the complaint and therefore should be deprived of his stripes as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Mounted Police. Captain Williams couldn't consider this thoughtless action on Colwell's part a mere frolic, and was unbecoming an NCO. He was to be sent to Maitland and not to be sent to detached stations for 6 months, but kept under the immediate command of Lt. Steele, so that a strict watch could be kept on his future conduct. A plan of the Windsor Mounted Police Barracks follows. This barracks is still in existence, behind the police station and is presently used as a store. It was built in 1836, but was probably typical of the small barracks during that period, used by the mounted police.
  29. Lieutenant Richard Talbot Sayers, 80th Foot. He had arrived at Sydney per the ship *Frances Charlotte* on 27th June 1837 and shortly afterwards was appointed to the mounted police. He was later to be removed from this position due to a series of 7 charges brought against him by the then Commandant of the Mounted Police, Brevet Major J.W. Nunn, 80th Foot. Sayers had been at a dinner but had made an outrageous remark to his host, Mr Blaxland, who had locked him up for the night. Sayers had then written to the Governor, and the military commanding officer of New South Wales. Following a court martial held at Sydney in September 1840, Sayers was found guilty of part of the 1st charge and part of the 5th charge. Due to him having been locked up on the night of the offence it was decided no further action be taken on the first charge, but he was sentenced to be publicly reprimanded and removed from his position in the mounted police, on the fifth charge. He left NSW bound for England on 17th August 1841 on the ship *Kinnear*, vowing to press the case further.
  30. The 17th Foot had left New South Wales for India in 3 divisions in march and October 1836. The first 2 divisions left per the ships *John Barry* and *Lord William*

*Bentinck* in March and the 3rd Division had left per the ship *Moffatt* in October. Smauel had been transferred to the 28th North Gloucestershire regiment on 31st December 1835, and had probably heard that the 28th was due to be sent to India. So he probably means that it was this regiment, he was referring to. 27 other soldiers of the 17th Foot were transferred to the 28th Foot on or about December 1835. He requested permission to purchase his discharge and was returned to the 28th's Headquarters in Sydney in December 1840 and following the granting of this permission was allowed to so discharge at the cost of 10 pounds. this cost was due to him having less than 14 years service in the army.

31. Samuel Coldwell, Colwell or Caldwell.

Born at Warrington, Lancashire c.1810.  
Enlisted in the 17th Foot on 1st December 1827.  
Trade given as Labourer.  
Arrived Sydney per the ship *Lord Melville* 21st October 1830.  
Appointed to the NSW Military Mounted Police on arrival and remained with this corps until December 1840.  
Served with the 3rd Division at the Hunter River area at Maitland, Jerry's Plains and Windsor.

Married Isabella Spence at Maitland on 13th April 1835.

Children:

Ellen, born 5th July 1834.  
Elizabeth, born 4th September 1838 at Invermain.  
George, born 31st March 1843 at Muswellbrook.  
John, born 21st May 1850 at Singleton.  
Samuel, born 9th February 1853 at Morpeth.

Other known children were:

Bella, born c.1845.  
William, born c.1859.  
Mary, birth date unknown.

Transferred to the 28th or North Gloucestershire Regiment on 31st December 1835.

Returned to the Head Quarters of the 28th Foot at Sydney, December 1840.

Discharged from the 28th Foot paying a fee of 10 pounds, on 1st June 1841.

Appointed Chief Constable, Muswellbrook, NSW, on 16 September 1841. On 1st January 1843 he was appointed Bailiff of the Court of Requests at Muswellbrook, in addition to his appointment as Chief Constable.

Obtained publican's license for the Albert Hotel at Aberdeen, Scone, NSW, on 8th May 1846, with subsequent renewals until 1849.

Publican at a hotel at Walcha, NSW in 1853.

Appointed Chief Gaoler of Armidale Gaol, NSW, 16th July 1863, a position he held until his retirement in 1888.

Died at Armidale, NSW, on 13th March 1894 aged 84 years.

Apart from his reduction from corporal to trooper whilst in the Mounted Police, at Windsor in 1832, he

appears to have been well behaved and no other military charges were made against him up to his discharge from the army in 1841.

Sources of Information

1. Public Records London, copied under the auspices of the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP).

War Office:

W.O.12 Muster Books 17th Foot and 28th Foot;  
W.O. 17 Monthly Returns, New South Wales;  
W.O. 25 Registers various — Officer Service Returns, 1828 and 1829, Disembarkation Returns.

Admiralty Records:

Adm 101 Surgeon Superintendent Journals, Roberts Surgeon of the *Lord Melville* 1830.

Miscellaneous.

Dorsetshire Military Museum 'Much Ado About Nothing', and A Diary of the Proceedings of a Detachment of the Mounted Police, on an expedition in search of Bushrangers, supposed to be settled in the Interior of New South Wales. April and May 1832. Both by Captain John Douglas Forbes, of the 39th Foot.

2. Newspapers of the period in New South Wales.

*Australian*, *Sydney Gazette*, *Sydney Herald*, *Sydney Monitor*, *Government Gazette* 1830 to 1841.

*Echo*, a Sydney evening newspaper of the 1880s, 14th July 1883.

3. Other Documents:

National Library of Australia — Troop and General Order Book of the NSW Mounted Police, 1828 to 1841. NSS 3221.

Archives Office of New South Wales, Defaulters Book AO 671.

4. Books:

*Felony in New South Wales*, James Mudie, 1834.  
*A History of the XIII Hussars*, C.R.B. Barrett, 1911.  
*Convict Ships*, Charles Bateson, 1969.  
*Sam's Story*, Peg Whiteman, 1987.

5. Acknowledgements are due to ms Melva Kruckow, a descendant of Samuel Caldwell's, for her kind assistance, and for the photograph of the pencil sketch.

Compiled by David Murphy at Queanbeyan, New South Wales, 20th March 1989.

## Review

John Lawrence and Robert Lawrence MC, *When the Fighting is Over*, Bloomsbury, London, 1988. 196 pages, illustrated. \$11.95.

English Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher has, for a number of years, basked in the reputation forged during the brief months of the Falklands conflict, whilst the plight of its victims has been ignored. Jean Carr in *Another Soty: Women and the Falklands War* raised a number of issues concerning officialdom's attitude towards the families of servicemen killed or wounded; the delay notifying, and, in many cases, the misinformation provided to the next of kin, and the Army's neglect of the wounded unable to return to their unit. Comment not supporting the accepted popular perception of the conflict is met with attempts to suppress the information that could tarnish the image of the 'Iron Lady' or expose matters that some believe should be best left forgotten.

Robert Lawrence, in early 1982, was a platoon commander in the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, which, as part of 5 Brigade, was sent to the Falklands in April 1982. Conditions in the Falklands were harsher than anticipated; the extreme cold and waterlogged trenches caused trench foot and hypothermia. On the night of 13/14 June the Scots Guards were involved in the battle for Mt Tumbledown, one of the final series of battles fought that night for the high ground surrounding the Falklands capital, Port Stanley. Whilst his was consolidating on their objective Robert was severely wounded in the head by a high velocity bullet that removed a two-inch by six-inch portion of his skull together with about 45% of his brain.

Robert's family, as with the other service families, remained anxious for the safety of their son, particularly when there was no indication which Guards unit had suffered casualties in the reports of the attack on the *Sir Galahad*. The information on Robert's wound was initially unclear, and the regiment had to be approached to obtain clarifying information. Only servicemen with 'acceptable' wounds were allowed to be viewed by the media in public view. After the flight to England Robert was taken directly to a service hospital, although his parents were at the air base to meet him, and were forced to follow him to the hospital to greet him.

Robert's rehabilitation was achieved mainly through his father's service contacts. The Regiment seemed disinterested. 'I wanted them [the Scots Guards] to ask if I was all right, and to make some obvious effort to try and help. Instead I think I just became an embarrassment to them.' He could not plan for the future with certainty; his discharge was delayed to assess the extent of his recovery before determining his entitlement to a disability pension. The South Atlantic Fund sat on its moneys for eighteen months before making a partial distribution, without indicating whether any further payments would be made or if payments would be made to servicemen in financial hardship as a result of their wounds.

Despite the media hype at the time the victims of the conflict have been quickly pushed from view. The public attitude to the Falklands wounded is bitterly expressed by Robert:

... We had been 'their boys' fighting in the Falklands, and when the fighting was over, nobody wanted to know.

The indifference, embarrassment, exploitation and countless bureaucratic cock-ups that followed my return home were not what I expected.

*When the Fighting is Over* does not seek to address the rights or wrongs of the conflict, but expresses the disillusion of those who willingly served and were too easily forgotten by an uncaring bureaucracy and regiments that offered no support or advice. Written by Robert and his father *When the Fighting is Over* gives a dual perspective of the Falklands conflict and its aftermath. This is one book which should be placed on the 'must read' list.

**Stephen Willard**

The Secretary,  
The Military Historical Society of Australia

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to ask if I may make application for membership of your Society, and if so would you kindly advise me as to the steps necessary.

I am a collector of military medals with particular interest in Australian WWI and the prior period. I am also most interested in the research aspects associated with the collecting of these medals as well as a general interest in the history of that era.

While my interest covers that period I have more than a passing interest in Australian military matters . . . generally.

I first became aware of your Society from having obtained a copy of "But Little Glory" — The New South Wales Contingent to the Sudan, 1885.

I note from reading that book that your contributor is interested in the location of medals to that force. I have recently acquired the medals issued to —  
396 Pte R.H. Wilson — NSW Infantry  
The Egypt Medal is AEF, and is engraved as above. The Khedive's Star is EF, and unnamed. The obverse has the dates 1884-6 and has the blackened finish.

The Egypt medal has the clasp: Suakin 1885.

Perhaps you may be kind enough to advise the interested contributor as to the whereabouts of this pair.

Yours sincerely,  
Jim Moore  
Woolooware  
NSW

## MEDAL COLLECTORS

Send for your free list of  
BRITISH and AUSTRALIAN  
singles and groups.

We also carry a range of  
Australian and British Badges

*Let us know your wants*

FENRAE MEDALS  
P.O. Box 117  
Curtin, A.C.T. 2605  
or phone a/h  
(062) 48 0175

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article "Transports to South Africa 1899-1902" in the January-March 1989 issue of *Sabretache*, I wish to advise that there appears to be errors against 'A' Battery RAA in both the Outward and Homeward Bound lists.

Official records for the New South Wales Artillery and the book "A History of 'A' Battery" by Richmond Cubis indicate that the Battery departed Sydney on the *Warrigal* on 30th December 1899 and not on the *Langton Grange* from Newcastle as listed in *Sabretache*.

The Battery returned to Sydney on the *Harlech Castle* departing Capetown on 20th August 1901.

I suggest that apparent errors be brought to the attention of Mr John Price.

Yours faithfully  
Roy H.E. Harvey  
Honorary Secretary  
RAA Historical Society

## WANTED

Crimea Medal:  
"Alma, Inkerman, Sebastapol",  
named to Cpl Robert Argue, 7th  
Foot, wanted for family collec-  
tion. It is likely that this medal is  
in Australia and a premium price  
is offered for its restoration to  
the family collection.

Please contact  
Professor Peter Beighton  
Department of Human Genetics  
University of Capetown  
Medical School  
Observatory 7925  
SOUTH AFRICA

## The Military Historical Society of Australia — Federal Council Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 1989

OPERATING ACCOUNT	1988-89	1987-88		1988-89	1987-88
Balance b/f 1 July	8 088	5 714	Publication of <i>Sabretache</i>	9 512	7 418
Subscriptions Received	9 267	10 330	Postage	674	749
less Capitation	<u>204</u>	<u>187</u>	Sudan Book	—	45
Bank Interest	294	254	Postage and Packing	—	71
Advertising	45	396	Special Interest Groups	418	143
Sales			Federal Council Expenses		
<i>Sabretache</i>	23	139	Stationery	599	357
Sudan Book	17	183	Address List	176	245
Sudan Figure	245	140	Typing	250	—
Regimental Medals	<u>17</u>	<u>85</u>	Sundries	<u>153</u>	<u>184</u>
Special Interest Groups	270	155	Balance c/f 30 June	6 296	8 088
Sundry Income	16	86		<u>18 078</u>	<u>17 300</u>
	<u>18 078</u>	<u>17 300</u>			
 <b>INVESTMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
Balance b/f 1 July	4 021	3 732		4 308	4 021
Interest Received	<u>287</u>	<u>289</u>		<u>4 308</u>	<u>4 021</u>
	<u>4 308</u>	<u>4 021</u>			

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

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 1989 and of the surplus of the Society for the year ended on that date.

(N.S. Foldi)  
Hon. Treasurer  
9 August 1989

(L.G. Carder, FASR, CPA)  
Auditor  
9 August 1989

### The Military Historical Society of Australia Federal Council

#### Notes to and forming part of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 1989

1. Funds Surplus/Deficit
 

	1988-89	1987-88
Operating Balance 1 July	8 088	5 714
Operating Balance 30 June	6 296	8 088
	(1 792)	2374
Plus Interest on Investment A/c	<u>287</u>	<u>289</u>
	(1 505)	2 663
Plus Subscriptions in Advance previous year	<u>338</u>	<u>312</u>
	(1 167)	2 975
Less Subscriptions in Advance current year	<u>54</u>	<u>338</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>(1 221)</u>	<u>2637</u>
  
2. The value of stock on hand (at cost) was:
 

	1988-89	1987-88
Sudan Figure	2 478	2 681
Sudan Book	930	965
Regimental Medals Handbook	140	151
  
3. An account of \$1 110 for publication of *Sabretache* relating to 1987-88 was paid in July 1988.

(N.S. Foldi)  
Hon. Treasurer  
9 August 1989





# **NAPOLEON'S MILITARY BOOKSHOP**

For a complete  
range of

- military books
- board games
- computer games
- fantasy
- miniatures

# **NAPOLEON'S MILITARY BOOKSHOP**

1 NORTH QUAY,  
BRISBANE 4000.  
(07) 229 1903

336 PITT ST.,  
SYDNEY 2000.  
(02) 264 7560

353 FLINDERS LA.,  
MELBOURNE 3000.  
(03) 62 3047

**THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

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

**ORGANISATION**

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

**SABRETACHE**

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

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

**ADVERTISING**

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

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

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

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

**QUERIES**

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

**SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

Society publications advertised in *Sabretache* are available from:  
Anthony Staunton, PO Box 354, Woden, ACT 2606.  
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

..... Branch  
\*(Strike out non-applicable alternative)

My main interests are .....  
I/We enclose my/our remittance for \$26.00 (Aust.) being annual subscription, due 1st July each year.





ISSN 0048-8933

Price \$5.00