

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

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

SABRETACHE

Vol XXXI

January-March 1990

Number 1

Edited by

James R. Gifford

ISSN 0007



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

SABRETACHE

JANUARY-MARCH 1990
VOLUME XXXI-NUMBER 1

CONTENTS

- 4** The Last 1939-45 Victoria Cross Gazetted
Anthony Staunton
-
- 8** The RAN's Forgotten War Dead
Greg Swinden
-
- 12** Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War: prime mover or obedient partner?
Barry Clissold
-
- 18** Queensland's Aborigines in the First AIF
Rod Pratt
-
- 23** History Conference 1990
-
- 26** South African War Memorials known to exist in Victoria
John Price
-
- 31** Book Reviews
-
- 33** Letters to the Editor
-

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 contributor and not necessarily those of the Society.

Typeset and printed by
Koomarri Printers, Canberra (06) 251 3033

**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 (06) 243 4211 (bus.)

Treasurer

Mr N. Foldi

Editor

Barry Clissold
7 Medworth Crescent
North Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602
(06) 247 2548 (06) 249 1788

Branch Secretaries

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

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

Geelong—Robin Mawson, 25 Allambee 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, Anglsey Estate, Anglevale, S.A. 5117

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

Contributing Editors

Editor Barry Clissold

Book Editor Barry Teal

Medal Editor John BurrIDGE

Authors in this issue

Anthony Staunton, *The Last 1939-45 Victoria Cross Gazetted*, is a Senior Research Officer with the Veterans' Review Board, Department of Veterans' Affairs. He is an acknowledged authority on medals and awards to Australian service personnel, with emphasis on recipients of the Victoria Cross.

Barry Clissold, *Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War*, is an officer of the Academy of the Social Sciences and a former officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was editor of *Sabretache* in the early Eighties, and has interests in the First World War, particularly the battles of 1918.

Greg Swinden, *The RAN's Forgotten Dead*, is a serving officer in the Royal Australian Navy. He has written several articles on naval history and was co-author of *First In, Last Out, The Navy at Gallipoli*, published in March 1990. Greg Swinden is currently working on his second book, a history of the Boys training ship, *HMAS Tingira 1912-1927*.

Rodd Pratt, *Queensland's Aborigines in the First A.I.F.*, is a graduate from the University of Queensland. This article, and another to follow in the next issue, is an abridgement of his master's thesis in Australian History. He has an interest in local military history and has written several articles.

John Price, *South African War Memorials Known to Exist in Victoria*, is a long-time contributor to *Sabretache*, with a special interest in the Boer War, and colonial military forces. John Price is the convenor of the Society's British Army in Australia Research Group.

SABRETACHE

The essential task of historians is not to collect dead facts but to confront live issues. The issues are alive because they arise out of tensions that men have faced in every generation. And the history of war is, as so many have pointed out, the history of humankind. For Australians, our military traditions and achievements are at the very foundation of nationhood. It is no surprise that Peter Stanley remarked, just eighteen months ago, 'at present there is a greater interest in Australia's military history than ever before'.

Could there be a better example than the pilgrimage of those original ANZAC's to Gallipoli this April on the 75th anniversary of the landing? Their planned return has inspired all Australians, a testimony that military history is indeed very much a live issue. And through our literature, and art, they will continue to live for future generations. We, through our Society, and *Sabretache*, can enrich that future.

It is exciting to be back.

Don't forget the Australian War Memorial's History Conference at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Important dates are 9-13 July 1990.

Full details of this year's event, the largest yet with over sixty speakers, appear on pages 23-25 of this issue.

Memorial Lecture Trust. The trustees are seeking expressions of interest from established authors to write a history of the Officer Cadet School, Portsea for subsequent publication by the Trust. Expressions of interest are to be lodged by 14 June 1990.

It is envisaged that the history will cover:

- An account of the Pt Nepean area detailing the historical, military and government links to OCS.
- The foundation of the School, the course and its development over the years.
- The cadets, the staff and those other activities and events which marked the School's service to the Australian Army, the other Services and other armies for more than 30 years.

The Trustees will provide an author's brief to the chosen author, whom it is expected will have published a substantial commercial work and who will be acceptable to the preferred publisher. While the selected author will not be commissioned by the Trust directly, incidental expenses will be negotiated and assistance with research and some assistance with publication can be provided.

Interested members are requested to contact the Trust Secretary, Major C. J. Hooke, at RMC on (06) 275 9690. Secretaries of other MHSA branches — if they have not received a copy of the Trust's letter — are asked to advise their own members of this vacancy.

This issue brings not only a change in editor but also a change in printers. These moves will not result in any major change to *Sabretache* which we hope will continue to thrive with your contributions. I should mention, however, that our new printer has asked us not to submit copy on floppy disks. Future copy should be submitted on paper, essentially typed for most items although handwritten copy will do for short pieces.

Three new Australian Defence Force awards have been announced by the Australian Government.

The Nursing Service Cross will be awarded to recognise outstanding performance of nursing duties in both operations and non-operational situations. The Conspicuous Service Cross will recognise outstanding achievement or devotion to duty and the Conspicuous Service Medal will recognise meritorious achievement or devotion to duty. The Conspicuous Service Decorations will be awarded for service in non-warlike situations.

Designs for the three awards have received the Queen's approval and the insignia will be manufactured by the Royal Australian Mint. The designs were produced by Mr Stuart Devlin as part of his winning entry in the professional section of the Defence Force Awards Competition conducted in 1986-87.

Mr Devlin drew inspiration for the design of the Conspicuous Service Cross from a drawing by Mr Fred Palmer of South Australia whose designs earned him a prize in the public section of the same competition.

The Conspicuous Service Cross and Medal insignias will be of silver and the ribbons diagonally striped in colours of sand and eucalypt green. Insignia of the Nursing Service Cross will also be of silver with a red enamel centre on the observe. The ribbon comprises a broad central stripe of red flanked by white stripes and edged with narrow stripes of gold.

Should anyone wish to chat about writing for *Sabretache* you can contact me at home — 7 Medworth Crescent, North Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602, telephone (06) 247 2548. Or, at work, telephone (06) 249 1788 or fax (06) 247 4335.

Anthony Staunton

The Last 1939-45 Victoria Cross Gazetted

BRITISH and Commonwealth servicemen were awarded 182 Victoria Crosses including one bar for the 1939-45 War. The first award gazetted for the 1939-45 War was the posthumous award to Captain Bernard Warburton-Lee, RN who led a flotilla of five destroyers in a surprise attack on German destroyers and merchant ships at Narvik, Norway on 10 April 1940. That award was announced less than two months later on 7 June 1940.¹ The last award gazetted for the 1939-45 War, was the posthumous to Lieutenant George Albert Cairns of the Somerset Infantry attached to the South Staffordshire Regiment. This award was not gazetted until 20 May 1949, four years after the war had ended and five years after the action it honoured.²

It has been a feature of Victoria Cross awards that they have been announced within a few months of the actual action being commended. This is well illustrated by the 91 awards to the Australian armed forces: 87 were made within six months of the action with only the posthumous award to Warrant Officer Kevin Wheatley for Vietnam being more than 12 months after the action. Since the inception of the Victoria Cross only five awards, two for the Indian Mutiny and three for the 1939-45 War, have been gazetted more than five years after the VC action.³ In the two longest delayed cases, Lieutenant Commander Roope of *HMAS Glowworm* and Lieutenant the Honourable Christopher Furness of the Welsh Guards who had been killed in April and May 1940 respectively were not recommended for their actions until survivors released from German POW camps after the end of the war told the stories of their valour.⁴ In the case of the third 1939-45 War

award gazetted more than five years after the action, the recommendation for Lieutenant Cairns was originated the day after the action but was destroyed in an aircraft crash less than a week later. Lieutenant Cairns' unit had been part of the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade which had landed behind Japanese lines in Burma in 1944.

The 77th Indian Infantry Brigade under the command of Brigadier Mike Calvert was a brigade of Special Force (officially the 3rd Indian Infantry Division for security reasons) under the command of Major General Orde Wingate. On 5 March 1944, Special Force began landing behind Japanese lines in Northern Burma as part of a long range penetration operation in support of the overland advance of General Stilwell's Chinese troops from Ledo to Myitkyina. The 77th Brigade, although officially an Indian Infantry Brigade was made up of two Gurkha Battalions and three British Battalions including the 1st Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment (1st South Staffs). The Brigade was to be split between two landing fields, Broadway and Piccadilly, located north of Indaw but last minute reconnaissance photos revealed that Piccadilly was obstructed by timber spread across the entire landing field making it unusable as a landing ground. Despite the great risk involved, the 14th Army Commander, General Bill Slim decided to go ahead with the operation without using Piccadilly.⁵

The forward elements of 77th Brigade landed by glider at Broadway before dawn on 5 March and despite the slow build because of the unavailability of Piccadilly the entire brigade was flown in 11 March. By this time a striking force under command of Brigadier Calvert comprising the 3/9th Gurkha

Rifles and the 1st South Staffs had commenced to march forty miles across extremely dense jungle to the Indaw-Myitkyina railway line. This railway was the main line of communications with Myitkyina which was defended by the Japanese 18th Division. On 16 March, the 1st South Staffs established a block on the road and railway just north of Henu and 20 miles north of Indaw. Henu block was christened White City from the supply parachutes that soon draped the trees. On the night of 16 March and on the following day the Japanese attacked the block but the attacks were beaten off without any difficulty. At dawn on 18 March, a strong attack was made by two companies of Japanese troops against the block and fighting continued throughout the morning. Brigade Headquarters and part of the 3/9th Gurkha Rifles situated in the hills east of the block moved to reinforce the 1st South Staffs and to get into position to counter-attack.

There are a number of accounts of the Defence of *White City* and the attack on Pagoda where Lieutenant Cairns' posthumously won the Victoria Cross. Brigadier Calvert⁶ wrote:

"On the top of Pagoda hill, not much bigger than two tennis courts, an amazing scene developed. The small white pagoda was in the centre of the hill. Between that and the slopes which came up was a melee of South Staffs and Japanese bayoneting, fighting with each other, with some Japanese just throwing grenades from the flanks into the melee. Young, Dermody and Thompson were close around me protecting me as far as possible from the Japs. Nearby I saw Lieutenant Cairns have his arm hacked off by a Japanese officer whom at the same time he shot. He picked up the sword although his armpit was spurting with blood and carried on hacking away among the Japanese around him until he subsided on the ground. I knelt and spoke to him before he died just as the Japanese were being driven behind the pagoda."

Another account of the action is by Lieutenant Norman Durant⁷, who commanded the 1st South Staffs machine gun platoon:

"[T]he Brigadier himself came striding up our hill, rifle and bayonet in hand, took a quick look around and then said to Major Jefferies, 'How many men can you spare to attack Pagoda Hill?' 'About 20.' 'Right we'll go straight up.' George Cairns, the mortar officer and I, hearing this, picked up some grenades, got out our revolvers and prepared to go too. We had been shot at all day, and everyone felt like getting into the Japs and exacting a bit of retribution..."

"The first thing I saw on reaching the path was a horrible hand-to-hand struggle going on further up the hill. George Cairns and a Jap were struggling

and choking on the ground, and as I picked up a Jap rifle and climbed up towards them I saw George break free and, picking up a rifle bayonet, stab the Jap again and again like a madman. It was only when I got near that I saw he himself had already been bayoneted twice through the side and that his left arm was hanging on by a few strips of muscle. How he had found the strength to fight was a miracle, but the effort had been too much and he died the next morning."

These first hand accounts have some inconsistencies but the essential facts are the same. Brigadier Calvert is probably not correct when he says Lieutenant Cairns died as the Japanese were



Lieutenant George
Albert Cairns

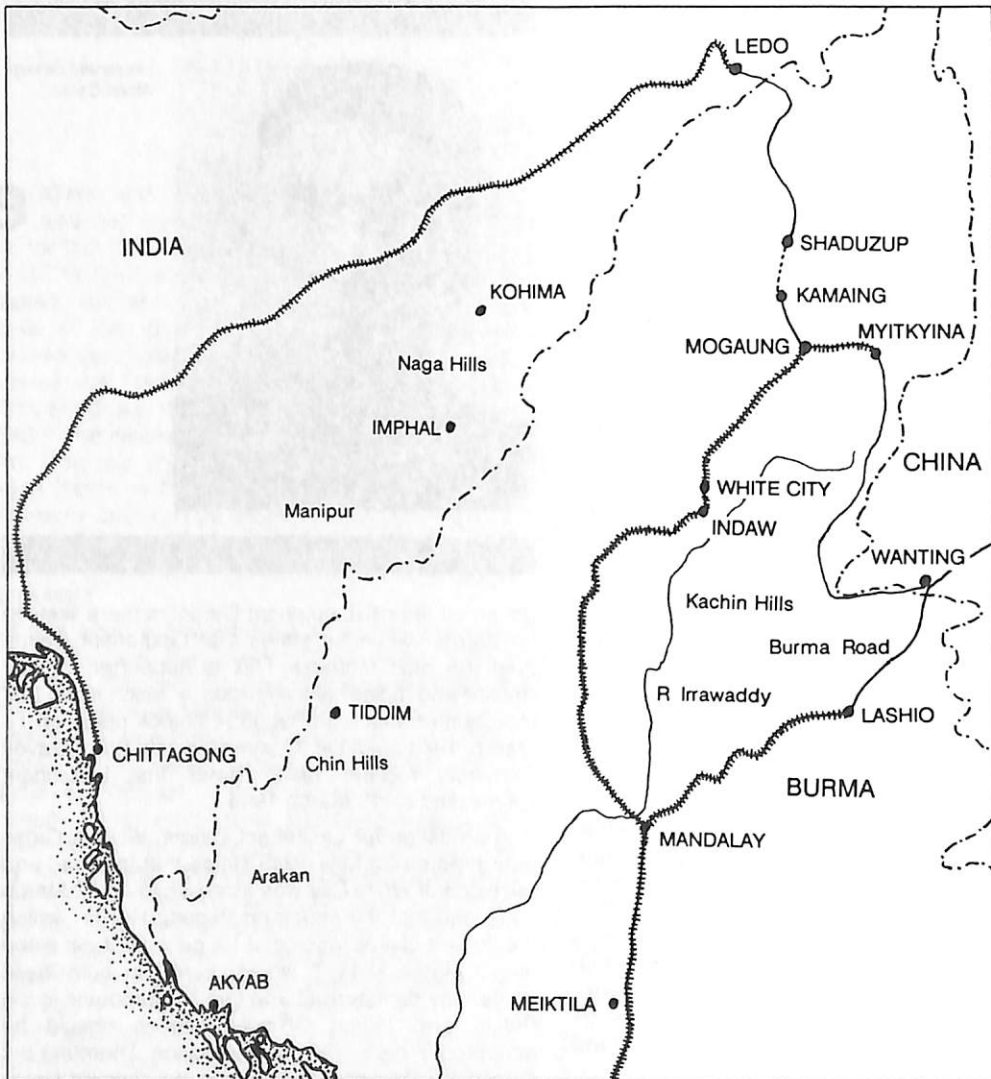
driven off the hill. Lieutenant Durant is more likely to be correct when he states that Lieutenant Cairns died the next morning. This is supported by the British⁸ and Indian⁹ official histories which imply that the counter attack on Pagoda Hill took place on 18 March 1944 and the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery register which states that Lieutenant Cairns died on 19 March 1944.

The citation for Lieutenant Cairns' Victoria Cross published on 20 May 1949 states that the road and rail block at White City was established on 12 March 1944 and that the attack on Pagoda Hill for which Lieutenant Cairns was cited for gallantry took place on 13 March 1944. It would seem that both these dates may be incorrect and that the accounts in the British and Indian Official Histories should be accepted in preference to the citation. Therefore the date that Lieutenant Cairns won the Victoria Cross should be accepted as 18 March 1944 in preference to the date of 13 March 1944 mentioned in the London Gazette. The reason for the five day

discrepancy in the dates is almost certainly explained by the fact that the original recommendation, which was written immediately after the battle, was destroyed and the recommendation that ultimately resulted in the award of the Victoria Cross was not prepared until nearly five years after the battle.

The recommendation for the Victoria Cross for Lieutenant Cairns was prepared immediately after the action by Lieutenant Colonel Richards, Commanding Officer of the 1st South Staffs. The recommendation was forwarded to Brigadier Calvert,

the commander of 77th Brigade who gave it to Major General Orde Wingate, Commander of Special Force when he visited *White City* on an inspection tour on 24 March 1944. That afternoon, Wingate returned to Imphal in India and in the evening, on a flight to Lalaghat, he was tragically killed when his plane crashed killing all aboard. The recommendation for Lieutenant Cairns perished in the crash and when an attempt was made to revive the award it was found that two of the three original witnesses had been killed since giving their accounts.



Northern Burma 1944 (drawn by Sandy Mitchell)

George Cairns was born in London on 12 December 1913. Prior to the war, he worked in the Belgian Bank at Bishopsgate and lived with his parents at Morden, Surrey. In 1940, he joined the army and was commissioned in 1941. He was married in July 1941, his wife Ena also worked at the Belgian Bank, and thereafter he spent his leaves with her in Sidcup, Kent. In 1942, George Cairns was sent to India where he was stationed at Deolali in Bombay Province for several months. After his death, his wife received a number of letters telling of his bravery. His batman, Private N. Coates wrote "He died a hero, for which I am told a medal will be awarded". A superior officer, Lieutenant Colonel R. Degg said "I have never yet witnessed more fearless and brave actions as I saw when George was wounded".

On 10 December 1948, BBC Midland Radio broadcast the history of the South Staffordshire regiment. The BBC had already asked Ena Cairns for permission to use her husband's name and listening to the radio that night she heard the narrator say:¹⁰

"Ah, Lieutenant Cairns! It was at the savage fighting at Henu Block. That was a scrap and no mistake. He got an explosive bullet in the arm and I don't know how many bayonet wounds; I thought he was done for but he fought like a man possessed. Wounded as he was he went on, got a Jap officer, took his ceremonial sword from him and killed him with it. Then he saw a Jap straddling one of our wounded on the ground. He picked up a rifle and killed him with the butt! Then he starts fighting again with rifle and bayonet, giving hell to every Jap he could get at, until he dropped, unconscious and there he died.

"The Old Man recommended him for the VC and the citation was sent home by air with General Wingate. You know what happened, the plane crashed and was lost. So was the citation. And they couldn't find the three witnesses you have to have for a VC; they were all killed or lost. But even though bad luck prevented Lieutenant Cairns from being numbered among the regiment's seven VCs we shan't forget him, ."

Ena Cairns was still working at the Belgian Bank in Bishopsgate in December 1948 and her colleagues who also heard the broadcast advised her to follow the matter up. She wrote to her Member of Parliament, Mr G. D. Wallace, MP for Chislehurst who was the Government Whip. On 11 April 1949, Mr Wallace wrote on Ena Cairns' behalf to the Rt Hon. Emanuel Shinwell MP, Secretary of State for War with copies of correspondence and statements concerning the death of George Cairns. A reply was received from the War Office on 26 April saying that the question of recommending an award for George Cairns was being given very careful consideration. On 20 May, the Secretary of State for War wrote to

Mr Wallace informing him that His Majesty The King had been pleased to approve the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to George Cairns. Mr Wallace sent a copy of the letter to Ena Cairns who had already been informed by telegram of the award. Mr Wallace, now Lord Wallace of Coslany¹¹ recently wrote on what he described as a fantastic case.

"It is obvious to me that my intervention as MP probably counted but what I want clearly understood is that it was the persistence of Mrs Cairns that led to a conclusion."

Ena Cairns received her Husband's Victoria Cross from King George VI at Buckingham Palace on 26 July 1949.¹² She still lives in Sidcup but the Victoria Cross is now displayed at the Staffordshire Regimental Museum. Lieutenant George Cairns was buried in the largest of three war cemeteries in Burma, Taukkyan War Cemetery, Rangoon where his grave is one of many carefully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.¹³

NOTES

- 1 The London Gazette. 7 June 1940. The first Australian award for the 1939-45 War was to Corporal J. H. Edmondson for gallantry at Tobruk on 13 April 1941. His award was gazetted less than three months later on 4 July 1941
- 2 Ibid. 20 May 1949. p 2461. The last Australian award for the 1939-45 War was to Private F. Partridge for gallantry on Bougainville on 24 July 1945. His award was Gazetted six months later on 22 January 1946.
- 3 The six posthumous awards gazetted in 1907 were all granted more than five years after the respective actions commended, indeed in one case, 49 years after the action but these awards were only granted when the policy on posthumous awards changed. In each case, a memorandum had been printed in The London Gazette shortly after the action in which the recipient lost his life.
- 4 The London Gazette. 10 July 1945, and 7 February 1946
- 5 Slim, Field Marshal The Viscount. *Defeat into Victory*. London 1962. p/ 227
- 6 Calvert, Michael. *Chindits: Long Range Penetration*. London 1974. p 49
- 7 Bidford, Shelford. *The Chindit War*. London 1979. pp 119-122
- 8 Kirby, Major General S. W. et al. *The War Against Japan. Volume III. The Decisive Battles*. HMSO London. 1961 pp 205-6
- 9 Bisheshwar Prasad (General Editor) *Reconquest of Burma Volume 1*. Calcutta 1958. pp 342-3
- 10 *Sidcup & Kentish Times*. 27 May 1949. p 1
- 11 Lord Wallace of Coslany. 5 March 1990. Lord Wallace kindly sent me the extract from the *Sidcup & Kentish Times* quoted above. other press clippings and copies of his correspondence
- 12 Ibid. 27 July 1949. p 4
- 13 Lieutenant G. A. Cairns is one of seven VC recipients buried at Taukkyan War Cemetery. The Others are: Captain Michael Allmad. IAC att 3/6th Gurkha Rifles Major Frank Blaker. HLI att 3rd/9th Gurkha Rifles Major Charles Hoey. 1st Bn. Lincolns Lieutenant George Knowland. R Norfolk att No 1 Commando Lieutenant Claud Raymond. RE att V Force Lieutenant William Weston. Green Howards

Greg Swinden

The RAN's Forgotten War Dead

IN 1987 while posted to Canberra I visited the Australian War Memorial on several occasions. On one visit I noticed what appeared to me to be several omissions on the bronze Roll of Honour plaques which surround the Pool of Remembrance. The most notable of these is the omission of three of the four men who lost their lives in the *Sydney-Emden* clash of 9 November 1914.

Puzzled at this I contacted the Australian War Memorial for clarification. I was informed that the only RAN member they had listed killed in the *Sydney-Emden* battle was Ordinary Seaman Robert William Bell (Official Number 1964). Yet at the Royal Australian Naval College a memorial plaque (well known to the Midshipmen who have to polish it) lists four men as being killed. They are:

Ordinary Seaman Robert William BELL (1964)
 Able Seaman Albert HAY (7912)
 Leading Seaman Reginald Albert SHARPE (8003)
 Petty Officer Thomas LYNCH (7902)

To confirm this I contacted the Directorate of Sailors Postings at Navy Office who replied with the information that four men had been killed or died from their wounds during the *Sydney's* fight with the *Emden*. The only difference from the plaque at RANC was that Reginald Sharpe was listed as an Able Seaman and not a Leading Seaman.

This information was passed to the Australian War Memorial where it was promptly filed and forgotten. In 1990 I rediscovered my file copy of the unanswered 1987 letter. A check of several RAN histories revealed that four men had been killed. In Patsy Adam-Smith's *'The Anzac's'*, a Lieutenant Garsia states 'Right near the beginning, though I knew nothing about it, a shot hit the range finder without exploding...the poor range finder, Hay, Able Seaman done for'. Garsia later recorded 'Able Seaman Hay and Ordinary Seaman Bell were gone

poor beggars, and Petty Officer Lynch and Able Seaman Sharp(e) died one that afternoon and the other the next day'.

Another reference is in Alun Evans *'A Navy for Australia'* where Harry Freeman, a young Boy Seaman recalls the action — 'We'd had a seven bell breakfast and a half dozen of us were sitting below the forebridge having a smoke and talking about things. A chap there Able Seaman Hay said "Well I've got two legs and they can have this one.... He hit his right leg. Later a shell came down on a high trajectory and took his leg off and hurled it down on the awning between the forebridge and the forward funnel. He died from shock and loss of blood." The shell damaged range finder at which Hay lost his life is now located at *HMAS Creswell* (RANC) on which the previously referred to plaque commemorating those killed is attached.

Freeman also recalled the deaths of Lynch, Bell and Able Seaman Sharpe — 'Sharpe he was hit with shrapnel, and he was down in sickbay when we were getting German prisoners onboard. He got hold of the bunk above him and hauled himself up into a sitting position and said "You bloody bastards, you got me before I could get a shot at you", then he fell back dead.'

Finally in C. E. Daw's and L. J. Lind's *'HMAS Sydney 1913-1929'* it is recorded that *Sydney* suffered four dead and thirteen wounded compared with *Emden's* 134 dead and 65 wounded, and that 'the dead were buried at night, there was no distinction between friend and foe'.

Armed with this information I again contacted the Australian War Memorial to have the matter settled. An apology for failing to answer my previous letter was quickly given and in a month I had an answer to the question which I had asked three years before. The names omitted from the Roll of Honour were

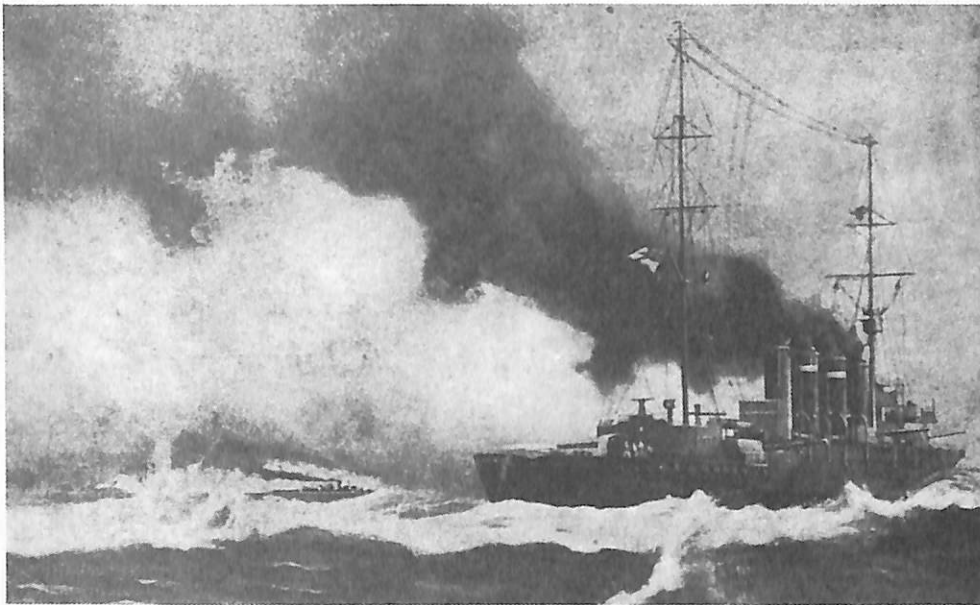
done so because the men were not Australians, they were Royal Navy personnel on loan to the RAN, the fact that they were serving in an Australian warship and had lost their lives in a purely RAN action in defence of Australia did not qualify them to have their names borne on the Roll of Honour.

The inclusion or exclusion of these men's names can be argued from both sides, that their names should not be included as they were not Australian, or that they should as they died whilst serving with the RAN. However a further examination revealed more omissions and some, possibly incorrect additions.

In September 1914 the RAN took part in the capture of German New Guinea during which five

Naval personnel were killed or died of their wounds, these include Able Seaman William G. V. Williams who had the dubious honour of being the first member of the RAN and the first Australian to lose his life in World War I. However Lieutenant-Commander C. B. Elwell RN who was on loan to the RAN and died leading a bayonet charge against a German trench, is not included on the Roll of Honour.

Shortly after the surrender of German New Guinea, the Australian submarine **AE1** was lost mysteriously with all hands off New Britain. As the wreck of the **AE1** has yet to be found her fate can only be speculated at although it is surmised that she may have struck a reef whilst submerged.



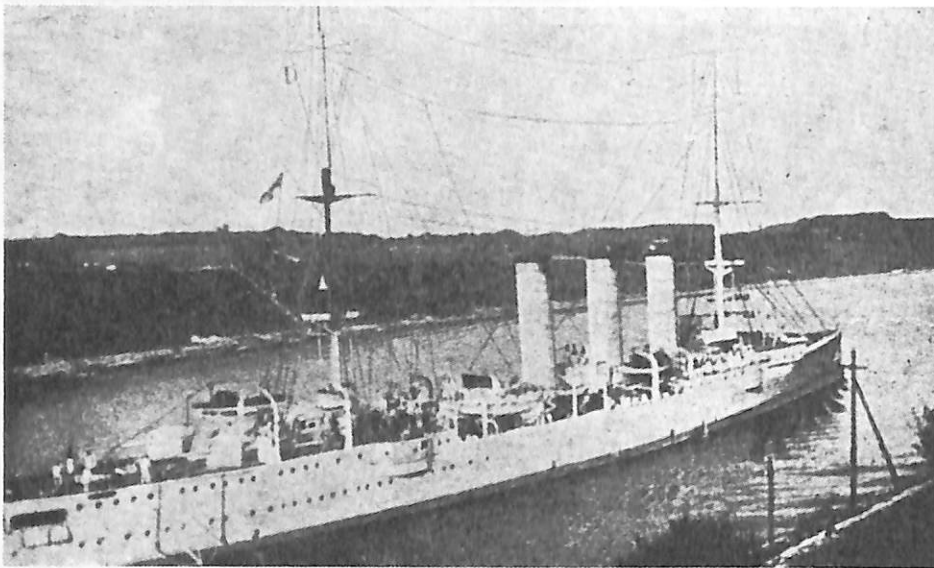
HMAS Sydney in action against the German cruiser, *Emden*

Approximately half of *AE1*'s complement were RAN and the remainder, including all officers were RN on loan. Thus the Royal Navy personnel should not have their names recorded. This is not true as the names of three Royal Navy personnel from *AE1* are included on the Roll of Honour. Those who served in the *AE1* are listed below:

Names Recorded on Roll of Honour

Petty Officer Robert Smail (RAN)
 Leading Seaman Gordon Corbould (RAN)
 Able Seaman John Reardon (RAN)
 Able Seaman Jack Jarman (RAN)
 Able Seaman James Thomas (RAN)
 Able Seaman Arthur Fisher (RAN)

Petty Officer William Tribe (RN)
 Petty Officer Thomas Guilbert (RN)
 Able Seaman Fred Woodland (RAN)
 Signalman George Dance (RN)
 Able Seaman George Hodgkin (RN)
 Able Seaman Frederick Dennis (RN)
 CERA Thomas Lowe (RN)
 Chief Stoker Harry Stretch (RN)
 CERA John Marsland (RN)
 CERA Joseph Wilson (RN)
 Stoker James Guild (RN)
 Leading Stoker Sidney Barton (RN)
 Leading Stoker John Meek (RN)
 Leading Stoker William Guy (RN)
 Stoker Henry Gough (RN)



The German cruiser,
Emden

Telegraphist Cyril Baker (RN)
 ERA James Fettes (RAN)
 ERA John Messenger (RAN)
 Stoker PO John Maloney (RAN)
 Stoker PO Charles Wright (RAN)
 Stoker PO William Waddilove (RAN)
 Stoker Percy Wilson (RN)
 Stoker John Bray (RAN)
 Stoker Ernest Blake (RAN)
 Stoker Richard Holt (RN)

Names Not Recorded on Roll of Honour

Lieutenant-Commander Thomas Besant RN
 Lieutenant Leo Scarlett RN
 Lieutenant Charles Moore RN
 Petty Officer Henry Hodge (RN)

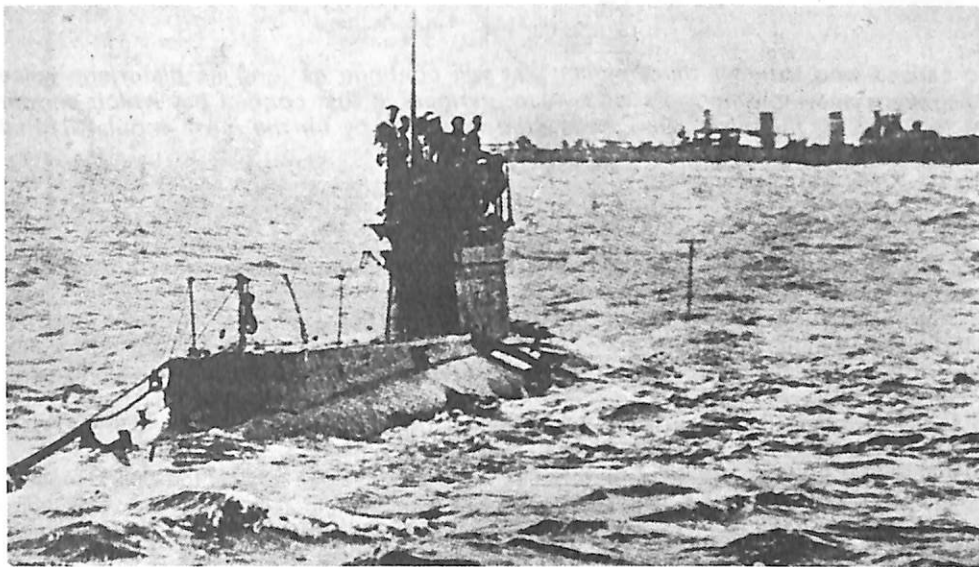
For some unknown reason the Australian War Memorial has decided to include the names of three Royal Navy personnel and exclude that of Able Seaman Woodland from the Roll of Honour. Able Seaman Woodland's name is not the only Australian omitted, once again the submariners are forgotten. Following the sinking of the second submarine *AE2* in the Sea of Marmara on 30 April 1915, her crew were made Prisoners of War of the Turks. During their period of captivity, four *AE2* men died from disease and ill-treatment. Those who died were Chief Stoker Charlie Varcoe, Petty Officer S. J. Gilbert, Able Seaman Albert Knaggs and Stoker Michael Williams.

Williams from Dunkeld in Victoria does not have his name recorded on the Roll of Honour despite

being a member of the RAN. His death is recorded in T. R. Frame and G. J. Swinden's *'First In, Last Out—The Navy at Gallipoli'*... "Stoker Michael Williams was working at Belemedik when he moved to the hard labour site five miles at Bezardjite. In September 1916 he was sent to Pozanti to work and ended in hospital with malaria. With him was Private H. Ridgeway of the 1/5 Lancashire Fusiliers, who had been captured at Achi Baba on 7 August 1915. Ridgeway recovered from his delirium and searched for Williams, who had disappeared without trace. John Wheat the dual escapee alleged at the time that the Turks were murdering the delirious patients in the hospital at Angora. Wheat's contention notwithstanding, William's disappearance was certainly mysterious".

Williams mother tried on several occasions without success to discover her sons fate. He was the fourth of her sons to lose his life during the War.

Why does the War Memorial say it does not include RN personnel on loan to the RAN as Australian war dead when it does and then exclude Australians whose names should rightly be recorded. It appears in the RAN's case that the honouring of its war dead has been done quite haphazardly. Both Woodland and Williams were members of the RAN and their names should be recorded. Those RN personnel who lost their lives whilst on loan to the RAN may or may not have the right to have their names recorded on the Roll of Honour, but it must be remembered that they died whilst serving in RAN ships and units, and in purely Australian actions.



The Australian submarine AE2 in action in the Dardanelles

The sinking of the German cruiser *SMS Emden* was to be Australia's first major naval success at sea. In two succinct sentences, C. E. W. Bean (*Volume 1 The Story of Anzac*) describes the encounter, and victory, as:

At 10.45 (9 November 1914) a further wireless message arrived from the *Sydney*: 'Am briskly engaging enemy', and,

At 11.10 came the signal: '*Emden* beached and done for'.

HMAS Sydney had been part of the convoy that had left Australia on 1 November 1914 with the first contingent of the AIF aboard.

Barry Clissold

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War: prime mover or obedient partner?

Debate on who caused who to enter the Vietnam War will continue as long as historians voice opinion. The Australians and the Americans were major partners in that conflict but which partner was responsible for involving the other? One considered view, and by far the most popular, is that America dragged Australia into war. Or was it the other way around?

It would be folly to argue that Australia dragged an unwilling United States into Vietnam. The United States first stationed military personnel in Saigon in 1950 and in the vacuum created by the French withdrawal in 1954 it assumed responsibility for economic and military aid for the south: a responsibility to last for nearly two decades. There were, however, troughs in American resolve to prevent the collapse of South Vietnam against a perceived communist threat from the north. It was Australia that helped stiffen that resolve and in so doing was in part instrumental in the United States committing combat troops in Vietnam.

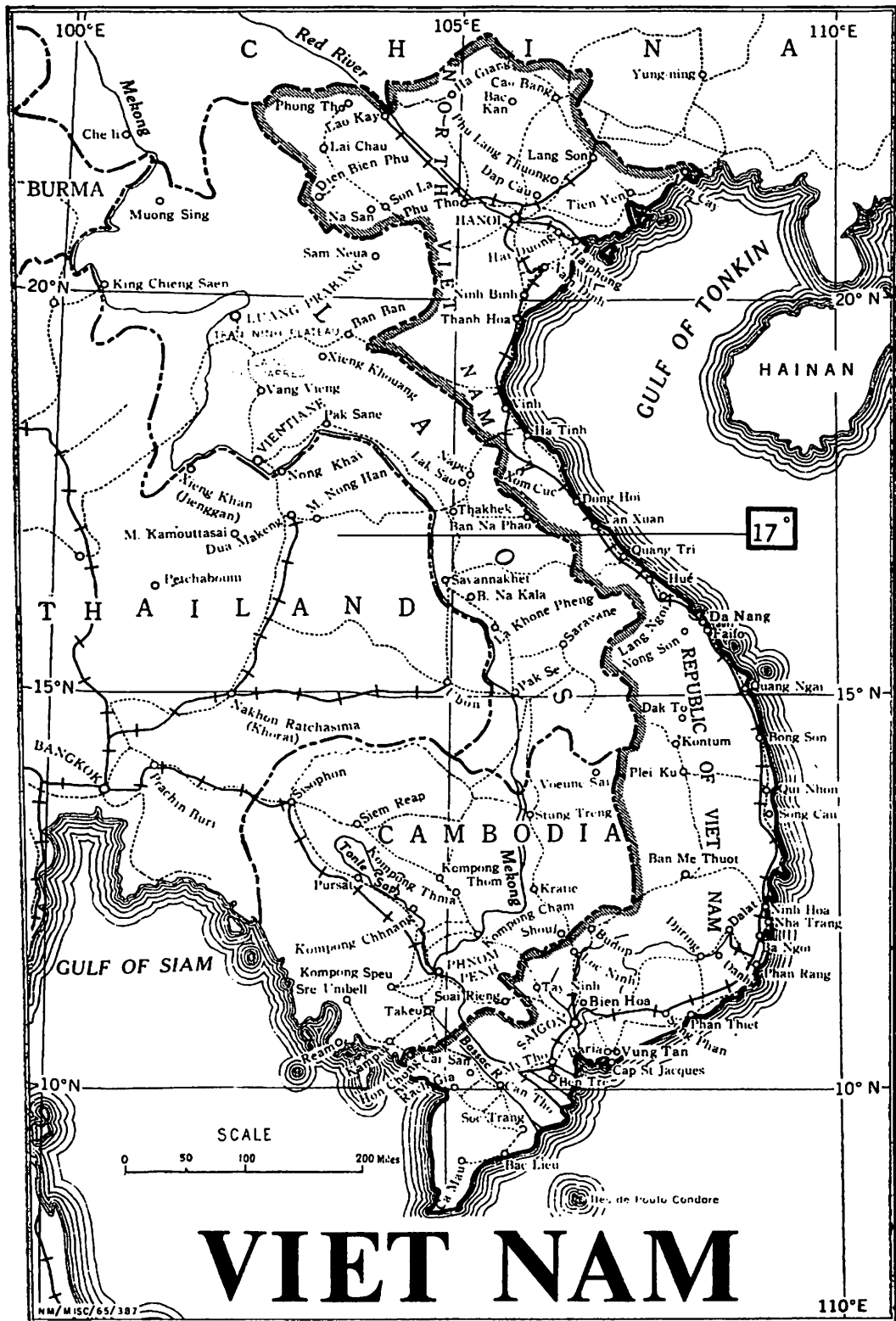
Who then dragged who into Vietnam and to what extent?

Clearly the United States committed itself to a conflict its foreign policy analysts saw as necessary. Its role was to prevent the Chinese version of communism expanding into the area of East Asia.¹ Earlier, this task, to secure Indo China, had been undertaken by the French, who since 1945 had battled the Viet Minh. The Americans chose to help (but not militarily) and by 1952 were contributing something more than a third of the cost of the French Indo China war: by 1953 their contribution had risen to half, or more.

But the French did not last the distance. In January 1954, Viet Minh general, Vo Nguyen Giap, surrounded a large French fort at Dien Bien Phu.

The beleaguered French sought direct American help to save the garrison. To the Americans, unilateral intervention carried grave risks and no promise of success.² Australia was asked by the United States to join a multilateral operation to save the French but Australia's Prime Minister, R. G. Menzies, declined, explaining that Australia was deterred from doing so by the British.³ The United States eventually decided against the operation and the French were left to fight on alone. Inevitable defeat came in May 1954. The resulting Geneva Agreements, concluded in July 1954, were designed to bring to an end nearly eight years of war in Indo-China and to provide the basis for political settlement in Vietnam. What followed was the reverse of what was intended. Significantly it left the United States alone in Vietnam.

The 1954 request was the first of many that the United States was to make seeking Australian assistance to contain the 'menace' of communism in Indo-China. Although Australia rejected America's first request it made known its view that collective defence was necessary in the region. In a statement on 20 July 1954, Australia's External Affairs Minister, R. G. Casey, indicated the need to stem future communist aggression.⁴ By the Geneva settlement, Vietnam was to be divided into a communist territory in the north and non-communist in the south. That the south should remain so was a tenet observed by



MM/M/SC/65/387

110°E

both Australia and the United States but until 1962 only the United States was to back this principle with military presence. Its decision to intervene in supporting South Vietnam against perceived communist aggression, especially the north, was made 'in the name of the whole non-communist world's need for international security and world order.'⁵

This was encouraged by Australia which saw the role of the United States centred on containing China, and more generally, communism. As seen by Australia, the United States was principally responsible for security in East Asia. Australian policy was directed towards strengthening the determination of the Americans in achieving this objective.⁶ Additionally, by supporting the British, and thus bolstering their commitment to stay in Malaya and Singapore, Australia believed it was shoring up its own defences. Australia's own cost in pursuing these objectives were, by comparison, small. Menzies acknowledged that the closest Australia went to a military commitment in Vietnam in the fifties was to provide aid in non-military supplies to the Vietnamese Civil Guard.⁷

Not surprisingly the Americans needed little encouragement to continue in Vietnam. Indeed, American perceptions of its role bordered on duty; it had assumed a global responsibility that required it to serve the interests of mankind.⁸ That self-appointed duty commenced on 17 September 1950 when the United States Military Advisor Aid Group (USMAAG) (Indo-China), was formed in Saigon.⁹ But it was not until 1957 that the United States committed military advisors to combat roles with South Vietnamese forces. This was to counter the North's move from strategic defence to strategic offence.¹⁰

Thus a new phase in the battle for South Vietnam had begun and the United States, without the behest of Australia, moved quickly to counter the threat. Indeed advice on likely American attitudes at the time had been despatched to Australia by Casey. In discussion with Lt General Williams (Commander US Military Advisor Aid Group in South Vietnam) on 25 October 1957, Casey had been told that 'the United States would move immediately with air and sea power in the event of any attack from the north.'¹¹

Events deteriorated rapidly and the following year, 1958, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) was unable to contain northern incursions into the southern regions. Furthermore, American advisors were unhappy with their own inability to improve the effectiveness of the ARVN. Still the United States was politically unable to cross the hitherto uncrossed threshold from advisor to combatant. And Australia remained in its own political cocoon, isolating its commitment in containing communism to membership in SEATO. This gross complacency

was to be tested late in 1960 when advice began to filter back from Washington that the United States was increasing its military commitment to counter the northern offensive.

Then, on 17 November 1961, Australia was asked by the United States to provide military support. This Washington request, for support, conflicted with assessments by American military authorities in Saigon who advised that Australian assistance was not required.¹² In the hiatus between November 1961 and May 1962 Australian foreign and defence officials debated the request. At the ANZUS Council Meeting on 9 May 1962, Menzies told Admiral Felt,



General Paul D. Harkins, Commander of the U.S. Military Aid and Advisory Group (MAAG), Vietnam

the Commander of the US Pacific Fleet, that Australia was willing to supply army instructors. Felt admitted that Australia's military presence was not needed but the United States regarded Australian military presence most important. On 24 May 1962, Australia announced that it would provide military instructors.¹³ Clearly, there was no military or strategic need for Australia to become involved. Felt had confirmed that. But politically, America desperately wanted a partner in Vietnam. Menzies at last was able to oblige them.

Australia turned down further requests in 1963 and early 1964 for additional support of American presence in Vietnam.¹⁴ However a request by President Johnson on 6 May 1964 resulted in Australia increasing its level of commitment. An argument used by the Australian Government in favour of increased assistance was that 'it would influence favourably the obligation which the United States might feel to Australia in an emergency'.¹⁵ Following another American request in June 1964,

the level of Australian assistance was further increased. Significantly the request again came from the United States not South Vietnam. If one was following the other it certainly wasn't the Americans following Australia.

Despite the increase, the political and military situation in Vietnam continued to deteriorate and the so-called war, once thought winnable, looked in danger of defeat. Up until the middle of 1964 the leaders of the 'domino'¹⁶ countries — Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand — believed that the United States would stay the course in Vietnam so as to save them from being crushed between China and Indonesia. But to the Australians the American resolve in Vietnam was now on the wane. Some analysts, however, viewed

in Australia's interests to 'retain an active United States presence in South Vietnam'.¹⁷ The timing of this instruction was crucial as it followed only weeks after the United States had been given a jolt by an attack on American ships by North Vietnamese gun-boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. American inertia appeared to clear by 4 December 1964 when Australia's Ambassador to the United States advised that, 'decisions just taken had moved the United States a little more toward national involvement in the South Vietnam conflict'.¹⁸ The United States were now asking for an additional 200 Australian combat advisors as well as naval ships.

Johnson confirmed this on 14 December. In response, Australia's Defence Department recommended Australia increase its advisors to 100; the



The war escalates boxes of arms and ammunition for Viet Cong forces recovered from Vung Ro Bay in February 1965

this merely a slow down as the United States commenced the run up to their November 1964 presidential elections. This view was not shared by all. Among them was Alan Renouf, a senior diplomat in the Australian Embassy in Washington, who believed that Johnson, far from being comfortable with foreign policy, was floundering. Renouf advised his superiors that he believed the president was procrastinating in moving to solve the mounting problems in relation to Vietnam.

Alarmed by this reluctance, Australia's Minister for External Affairs, Paul Hasluck, sent a stiff message to all Australian representatives abroad on 3 September 1964. Hasluck advised that it was

Chiefs of Staff, however, envisaged that the United States would contribute sizeable ground forces in South Vietnam. In those circumstances it was their view that Australia should also commit ground forces.¹⁹ But to the Australians, Johnson continued to flounder. He had not committed ground forces in a deteriorating situation and there appeared to be a slowing down of the bombing of North Vietnam. Australia informed the United States, in January 1965, it was gravely concerned with the situation in Saigon and stated that it would give the Americans full public and diplomatic support if the United States intensified its bombing of the north. Renouf advised Canberra on 5 January 1965 that he had

told Bundy that the bombings were not enough to convey to Hanoi that the United States had adopted a tougher posture.²⁰ Australia continued the pressure the following month and hinted at readiness to supply ground forces if the United States escalated the conflict.²¹

Then followed a series of events that significantly influenced the conduct of the war. On 7 February 1965 the Viet Cong attacked an American advisors compound at Pleiku. And again, on 10 February the Viet Cong destroyed an American enlisted mens' billet at Qui Nhon. The Americans were stung. On 13 February Johnson directed that preparations be made for the heavy bombing of North Vietnam; 'Operation Rolling Thunder' commenced on 2 March 1965, a decision for which the Australians had been pressing for since Christmas 1964. Six days later United States Marines landed at Da Nang — the first combat troops had been committed to South Vietnam. Any tentativeness that may have existed within Johnson's Administration, to escalate American involvement, were now removed. For America it was now total military involvement.

Thus we return to the question — who dragged who into Vietnam? The Honolulu Talks during 31 March and 1 April 1965 provide valuable insight. At the talks the United States looked for moral support from Britain and some token forces from Australia, New Zealand and possibly Thailand.²² The United States, however, were to make no formal request for Australian troops and Australia offered none. But after the talks the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff recommended that a battalion be offered to the Americans.²³ Following concentrated and protracted diplomatic discussions, Menzies announced on 29 April 1965 the commitment of one Australian Infantry battalion.

However it would be difficult to argue that the United States was dragged reluctantly into the Vietnam conflict by Australia. The United States was there in defence of its own policies and its presence in Indo China suited Australia admirably. From time to time though the Americans had to be encouraged to stay there.

Australia was a member of ANZUS and SEATO and its forward defence policy was based on those alliances, and the presence of the United States in the area. It was Australia's aim to ensure that the United States 'did not waver in its commitment'.²⁴ Australia's actions, pre-1964, were all directed to this end as was diplomatic activity in the early months of 1965. Australia sought a stepping up of American military action against the north. An Australian historian, Michael Sexton argued cogently in, *'War for the Asking'*, that Australia had encouraged escalation and dissuaded the United States from any idea of negotiating with Hanoi.²⁵ 'Operation Rolling Thunder' preceded the United States'

eventual request on 4 April, for Australia to provide forces in South Vietnam.

Thus at last, for Australia, the campaign had picked up and their earlier promise of supporting the United States in Vietnam was realised by the announcement on 29 April 1965. Australia had repeatedly urged the United States for greater commitments but the decision was always in America's control. Once the decision was made to commence bombing the north, Australia was content to be swept along. Some historians have argued that

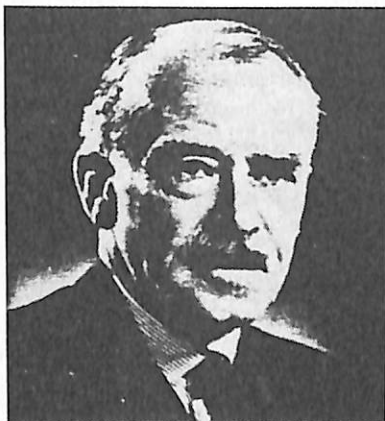


R. G. Menzies.
Australia's Prime
Minister

Australia held the carrot of its own military involvement if the United States would increase the pressure, initially through bombing, on Hanoi to come to the negotiating table. This is not entirely true as Australia announced, on 24 February 1965, that it agreed to participate in the Honolulu Talks but this was not a guarantee that it would contribute ground forces.²⁶

In essence, Australia had, since 1954, encouraged the United States to remain in Vietnam. Furthermore it had, since 1962, believed, as shown, that Australia would support the United States presence. It had done so at the request of the Americans. Events that followed Australia's April 1965 decision to send combat troops to Vietnam confirm this theory. Australia increased its troop levels on 18 August 1965, 8 March 1966, 17 October 1966 and 20 December 1966 under American political, diplomatic and service pressure.

The common theme running through most of the retrospective judgements about Australia's participation in Vietnam is the assumption that Australia was merely a military pawn reacting to the dictates of the United States. That basic assumption proves to be an illusion. At critical stages of the conflict Australia was to bolster the resolve of the United States to 'stay the distance'. It chose voluntarily to partner the United States while other Commonwealth nations, Canada and Britain, chose to remain uninvolved. During the period 1954 to 1965 both the Australians and the Americans courted and consulted each other on the conduct of the conflict. It was the United States, however, that remained the major partner. On balance it was Australia who was dragged into Vietnam. It did so though as a most willing partner.



R. G. Casey.
Australia's Minister
for External Affairs

NOTES

1. David Fromkin and James Chace, "Vietnam: The Retrospect. What are the lessons of Vietnam?", *Foreign Affairs*, Spring 1985, Vol. 63, No. 4, p. 740.
2. David Palmer, *Summons of the Trumpet*, Presido Press, California, 1978, p. 5.
3. Glen Barclay, "The Light that Failed": Australia and the Vietnam War, *History Today*, Vol. 38, February 1988, p. 18.
4. Department of External Affairs, Select Documents on International Affairs, No. 1 of 1965, *Vietnam since the 1954 Geneva Agreements*, Canberra, p. 19.
5. Fromkin, op. cit., p. 739.
6. Gordon Greenwood, *Approaches to Asia, Australian Postwar Policies and Attitudes*, McGraw-Hill, Sydney, 1974, p. 485.
7. Department of External Affairs, op. cit., p. 28.
8. Fromkin, op. cit., p. 739.
9. Ian McNeill, *The Team*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1984, p. 501.
10. Martin Hamilton Smith, "US Counter Insurgency Initiatives in South Vietnam during the administration of J. F. Kennedy 1961-1963", *Defence Force Journal*, No. 71, July-August 1988, p. 24.
11. *Australian Archives (ACT)*, A1209/1, 57/4258. Top Secret and Guarded document Prime Minister's Department
12. Department of Foreign Affairs, *Australia's military commitment to Vietnam*, Canberra, 1975, p. 6.
13. This was to be qualified that the Australian contribution would be at the invitation of the Republic of Vietnam. In reality it was at the request of the United States.
14. Manpower restrictions were given as the main reason although advisers in the Department of External Affairs saw merit in extending Australia's efforts.
15. Department of Foreign Affairs, op. cit., p. 9.
16. The so-called domino theory, according to which Southeast Asia was a region such that if one country fell to communism, the effect would knock down the countries around so that they would fall to communism too.
17. Department of Foreign Affairs, op. cit., p. 11.
18. Michael Sexton, *War for the Asking*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1981, p. 55.
19. Alan Renouf, *The Frightened Country*, MacMillan, Adelaide, 1979, p. 256.
20. Sexton, op. cit., p. 91.
21. Renouf, op. cit., p. 258.
22. Glen St J. Barclay, *Friends in High Places*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1985, p. 145.
23. Sexton, op. cit., p. 91.
24. Department of Foreign Affairs, op. cit., p. 13.
25. Sexton, op. cit., p. 94.
26. Department of Foreign Affairs, op. cit., p. 166.

Rod Pratt

Queensland's Aborigines in the First AIF

The story of Aboriginal involvement in the Great War 1914-18 raised many questions for which answers are not easy to provide. Why did so many enthusiastically volunteer to defend a democracy they were denied, to preserve a political system and a people who either ignored or despised them, and to protect a land from which they had been forcibly evicted? Did the motives of these black diggers in enlisting differ from those of white Australians? Perhaps with more relevance to our own national self-identity we might also ask whether a contradiction existed between the image of the bushman-turned-digger fostered by C. E. W. Bean and the reality of black soldiers?

This article and some to follow, in future issues, attempt to answer these questions and also to redress a lamentable lack of recognition for the contributions of these men. Although their actual numbers represent an extreme minority within the AIF, the absence of any historical acknowledgement of their efforts makes a sad mockery of the words 'Lest We Forget'.

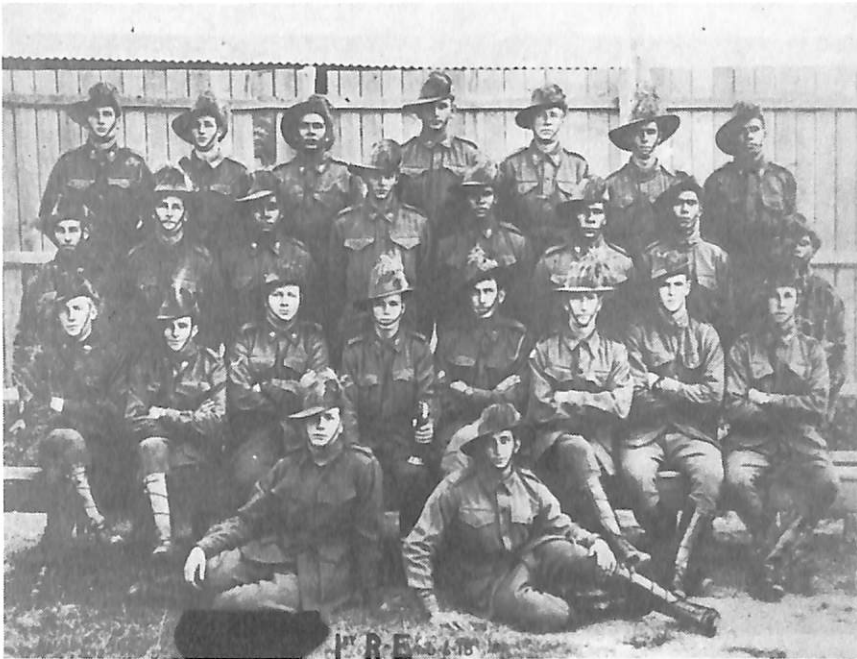
I WOULD begin this first article by emphasising two points. First, documents concerning their service are, to say the least, fragmentary and hence a determined effort was necessary to collect oral histories although, this too, was often incomplete. As a consequence the answers I have provided are by no means definitive and I welcome any efforts researchers might make in other States. Second, the area of study has been confined to Aborigines (and, naturally, part-Aborigines are included in this term) who either came from or enlisted in Queensland. This geographical focus on one State does not necessarily detract from this study's value in understanding Aboriginal enlistees across Australia. This is not an unreasonable assumption since of the four hundred Aboriginal enlistments estimated from Australia, almost half this number came from Queensland.

An historical examination of the background to Aboriginal involvement with the military forces prior to 1914 provides many possibilities but few facts. Discounting Aboriginal involvement in the paramilitary and justifiably notorious Native Mounted Police, one is left with a clear disinclination by the

Queensland Defence Force (QDF) to enlist Aboriginal volunteers. The Queensland *Defence Act* of 1884, unlike its Commonwealth successor around twenty years later, contained no racially exclusive rulings. However, one should not interpret this as a magnanimous gesture of racial tolerance in an otherwise xenophobic society. Instead, the absence of any clear prohibition was an affirmation of the obvious sentiment then prevalent amongst white Australians that it would have been unthinkable to permit black Australians into the ranks of the QDF. Aborigines were then regarded as the embarrassing and degenerate dregs of a race whose ultimate demise was felt to be as inevitable as it was opportune. Not surprisingly there exists no firm evidence that any Aborigines served in this colonial army. In spite of this, photographs occasionally emerge from collections depicting Aborigines dressed in cast-off military uniforms or wearing other semi-military artefacts (especially brass gorgets). These items were usually given to specific Aborigines to signify their position as "chief" or "boss-fella" and have no military relevance.

With the escalation of souring relations between Briton and Boer in South Africa, Queensland's Premier Dickson anticipated the other Australian colonies and the war itself by three months by offering the colony's forces while Parliament was in recess. Although Queenslanders came to display a clear imperial loyalty in the cause, QDF military authorities experienced some reluctance from the rank-and-file to volunteer their services. One unit found no difficulty to enthusiastically offering their services. This force, composed of fifty mounted infantry who were 'expert horsemen and dead shots' was offered by Archibald Meston. Meston, an amateur anthropologist, historian, body-builder,

The lack of evidence for Aboriginal participation in the colonial and later Commonwealth forces prior to 1914 should be taken as confirmation that none served. It remains possible that some may have evaded popular prejudice and there is clear proof that the Bushman contingents raised in outlying areas only required men to be 'good shots and competent riders, though need not be members of any trained regular force'. Perhaps one notable whose usefulness was never recognised was Jerry Jerome who later came to fame as a boxer. Jerome was reputed to have broken in at least a thousand horses for the Queensland Boer War contingents alone and, like most other Aborigines subject to the



1st Reinforcements to Egypt. This batch of reinforcements contains seven Aborigines, an unusually high proportion. While their names are known, it has not been possible to place names to faces. Depicted are: Pte 50271 Patrick Brady, Pte 50278 Harry Roberts, Pte 50280 Alex Stanley, Dvr 50248 Glen Combarngo, Pte 50246 Will Allen, Pte 4441 Niney McDonald and Pte 4445 Robert Shepard. Photograph courtesy John Oxley Library

gameshooter and co-administrator of the *Aboriginal Protection and the Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act* (1897) was able to raise a unit whose composition would have been largely, if not completely, Aboriginal. Unfortunately both Dickson and the QDF failed to take the offer seriously and the unit never reached fruition. At much the same time as Meston made his abortive offer, his southern counterpart the Victorian Protector of Aborigines called upon his charges to 'fight for the homeland'. Although the irony of this declaration was no doubt unintended, few Aborigines evidently felt the same tug at their imperial heart-strings as white Australians and no record exists of any volunteering.

1897 Aborigine Act, he was a superb horseman. By 1901, this same act was amended to permit Aborigines to serve as civilian employees on board vessels of the Queensland Marine Defence Force and ships of the Royal Navy's Australia Station. If any were employed, they left no record and the only instance of their use was in 1923 when HMAS *Geranium* took on Aboriginal labourers with somewhat suspicious consequences.

The only confirmed use of Queensland Aborigines in South Africa arises in a history of the Native Mounted Police published in 1902. In this, the story is told of a black-tracker named Billy whose skill earned him some recognition but no confirmation of

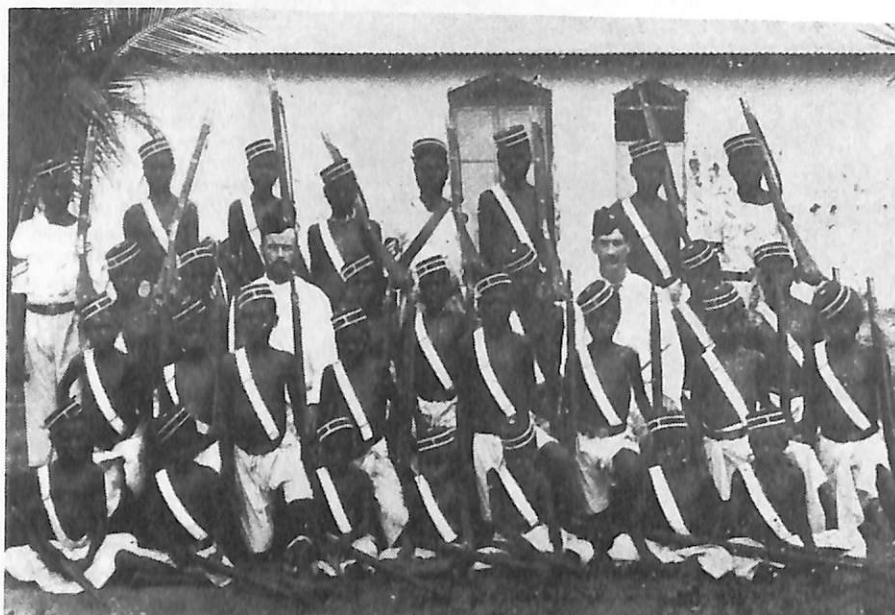
his identity. In all, four "first-class trackers" were sent from Queensland to assist the South African Constabulary in locating Boers although none were combatant.

While this historical background has failed to positively demonstrate Aboriginal involvement in the QDF prior to 1914, it has established two facts. First, that Aboriginal participation was not legally prohibited and second, that the 1897 Act's requirement that Aborigines be employed in rural positions resulted in special skills, especially horsemanship; a fact which will later prove to be quite significant.

The following shall be exempt from service in time of war...

(h) Persons who are not substantially of European origin or descent, of which the medical authorities appointed under the regulations shall be the judges.¹³

The ambiguities entailed in this section are breathtaking. Did this mean that Aborigines would be excluded as 'not substantially of European descent' even though they are not specifically referred to? did 'exempt from service' mean positively prohibited from voluntary service? Moreover, was this clause in



1st Weipa North Queensland Company — Boys' Brigade, Weipa Mission.
Photograph courtesy John Oxley Library

With the conclusion of the war in South Africa came a recognition of the deficiencies of current military (especially British) methods. Paramilitary clubs proliferated such as Scouts, rifle clubs had a boost of membership and, more importantly, the Commonwealth introduced in the period 1909-11 the 'Boy conscription' or Cadetship scheme. This required boys in populated areas to receive military training under the new amendments of the *Defence Act*. The most relevant aspect of this piece of legislation with regard to Aboriginal services occurs in clause 61 (h) which states the following:

direct contradiction to the Australian *Constitution Act*? In this, part V section XXVI declares that:

The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have the power to make peace, order and good government with respect to:—

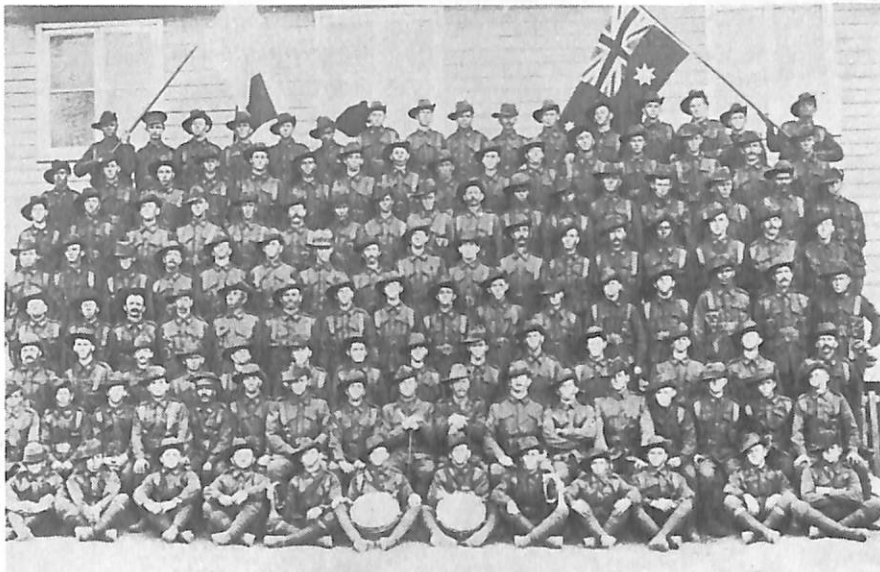
(XXVI) the people of any race, *other than the Aboriginal race in each State*, for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws. (my emphasis).¹⁴

In short, the Commonwealth lacked the authority to pass any laws concerning the Aboriginal population

and instead left such laws to the power of the States. This results in a curious paradox. Although the *Defence Act* does not specifically refer to Aborigines, the assumption is that Aborigines would be included in the blanket definition of those 'not substantially of European origin or descent'. This interpretation was adhered to by the military authorities themselves when they stated in their booklet for recruitment officers that 'Aborigines and half-castes are not to be enlisted'.¹⁵ Similarly, in 1915, as in 1899, Archibald Meston made a vain offer of raising a unit of mounted Aboriginal sharpshooters which, predictably, met with a flat refusal by the military authorities.¹⁶

(later of AIF fame) immediately wrote to the Secretary of Defence informing him that "as a matter of policy, only persons of pure European descent should be admitted as cadets and if the regulations ... do not secure this, then it should be amended without delay". In reply, the Crown Solicitor advised Bridges that there existed no legal grounds for excluding the boy, though military regulations were later amended to read that only persons 'substantially of European origin or descent' would be admitted as cadets in accordance with the *Defence Act* ruling.¹⁷

A similar incident occurred in 1906 when the secretary of the Carnarvon (W.A.) rifle club wrote to the



The Tenth Reinforcements
for the Forty-ninth Battalion
Photograph courtesy
John Oxley Library

The question must now be asked whether the Commonwealth intended that Aborigines be included in the definition of 'not substantially of European origin or descent', which was contrary to the Constitution, or that Aborigines were not to be included in this definition, which meant the military authorities misinterpreted the definition. There remains little doubt that the military authorities felt that Aborigines were both unwelcome and unwanted as servicemen. A story is related by Chris Coulthard-Clark in his *A Heritage of Spirit* of a lad in 1913 who attempted to apply for Duntroon Military College. The young man's mother was British but his father had been an Afghan camel driver forty years before and was now a naturalised British subject. Commandant Bridges

State Commandant of the Citizen Military Forces for clarification.¹⁸

As a consequence of these clear prohibitions facing Aboriginal participation in the military forces, including the cadetship scheme and later the AIF, one enterprising group of north Queensland missionaries formed their own cadet unit. Equipped with obsolete government muskets and homemade uniforms, these young Weipa Aborigines met for:

military drill... every Friday afternoon, and I (the missionary in charge) was extremely interested in witnessing the many varied evolutions some two dozen of the boys had been taught to perform.¹⁹

Commendable as this effort was, the unit was never intended to perform wartime service and the drill they received was solely to instil the soldierly virtues their evangelical masters deemed necessary, that is, self-restraint and obedience to authority.

The next article in this series will focus on the eventual efforts to recruit Aborigines into the First AIF and the confused policies which initially surrounded this.

NOTES:

- 1 The plausible estimate that 400 Aborigines enlisted across Australia has been proposed by David Huggonson and the existence of around 190 Aboriginal enlistees has been established by my own research.
- 2 The Queensland *Defence Act* 1984. *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*
- 3 The concept of the "doomed race" had been expounded since the middle of the nineteenth century and was a major reason for the 1897 *Act* which regulated Aboriginal life throughout this period
- 4 Pratt, R. "Queensland's Entry into the Boer War: Patriotic Triumph of Political Intrigue" *Mentioned in Despatches* 2 3 (April) 1989. p 8
- 5 *Darling Downs Gazette*. 23.12 1899.
- 6 Mace, M & Stannage, G. (Eds). *Aboriginal History* AIAS. Canberra 1979. p 174.
- 7 Field, L. M. *The Forgotten War*. M.U.P., Melbourne 1979. p 194
- 8 Bleakley, J. W. "The Story of Jerry Jerome". *Redcliffe Herald* 7 4 1944
- 9 Queensland *Aboriginal Protection and the Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act* 1897-1901.
- 10 Swinden, G. "Mutiny and Black Magic — H.M.A.S. *Geranium* 1923". *Sabretache* 30 1 (Jan-Mar 1989) pp 10-11
- 11 Kennedy, E. B. *The Black Police of Queensland* John Murray, London 1902 pp 170-73
- 12 Queensland State Archives COL 144
- 13 *Defence Act* 1903-11 s 61 (h)
- 14 Australian *Constitution Act* 1898. Part V (xxvi)
- 15 John Oxley Library OM71-41 Meston Papers
- 16 Meston A *Brisbane Courier* 29 6 1915. p 7
- 17 Coulthard-Clark, C. D. *A Heritage of Spirit* M.U.P. Melbourne 1979. p 9
- 18 Australian Archives B168 1906 3491
- 19 Chief Protector's Annual Report for 1911. *Q.P.P.* 1912 p 28

With the outbreak of war in 1914 Australia offered her 'last man and last shilling' but not her Aborigines. Although it has been suggested that the Imperial Government was unwilling to accept the services of non-Europeans in a European foe, the contributions of Indians, Gurkhas and Maoris does not support this view.

From this interesting argument Rod Pratt looks at the policies of the Australian Government as it sought to establish the eligibility of Aboriginal enlistment in the AIF. Appearing in the April-June Issue.

Australian War Memorial



HISTORY
Conference

1990

**Australian War Memorial
HISTORY CONFERENCE
Australian Defence Force Academy
9-13 July 1990**

The Council of the Australian War Memorial will sponsor the Memorial's Ninth Annual History Conference, to be held in Canberra from 9 to 13 July 1990 at the Australian Defence Force Academy. The Conference provides an opportunity for those interested in the field of Australian military history to hear a range of papers and to exchange views and ideas in formal and informal sessions. It attracts a diverse range of speakers and participants, including academics and students, non-institutional historians, teachers, archivists, librarians and members of the Memorial's staff. This year's conference, with over sixty speakers, is the largest so far held by the Memorial.

1990 is the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, and several sessions will explore aspects of the campaign and its significance for Australia.

REGISTRATION FEE

Full rate — \$100
Concessional rate — \$60

The registration fee entitles participants to a complete set of available papers, the conference kit, morning and afternoon teas and a discount in the Memorial Shop during the conference. It would be appreciated if intending participants could register before Friday, 15 June 1990, to:

**Conference Secretary
Historical Research Section
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
CANBERRA ACT 2601**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Monday 9 July

5.00-6.30 pm Registration session, drinks and browsing hour in the Memorial's shop.

Tuesday 10 July

8.30 am Registration
9.00 am Official Opening
9.15 am Bill Gammage, 'Anzac, Turkey and Australia'
10.00 am Morning tea
10.30 am Denis Winter, 'Re-assessing the Australians on Gallipoli: some second thoughts'
11.15 am Off and Over Gallipoli
Tom Frame, 'The Royal Australian Navy and Anzac'; Karl Schneide, 'Aviation in the Dardenelles campaign'
12.30 pm Lunch

2.00-5.00 pm *Option A* The battles for Gallipoli
Chris Roberts, 'The landing at Anzac; an Australian defensive action'; Chris Pugsley, 'The New Zealanders on Gallipoli'; Joe Crumlin, 'The left assaulting column'

Option B The New South Wales Corps, 1790-1990
Margaret Steven, 'A colonial regiment reviewed'; George Parsons, 'The NSW Corps and commercial and agrarian capitalism, 1793-1880'; Pamela Statham, 'A new look at the NSW Corps'

Option C 1915: History and heritage
Clem Sargent, 'The other 75th anniversary: the Australian Army Survey Corps 1915-1990'; David Chinn, 'Australian army colour patches since 1915: a brief history'

Wednesday 11 July

- 9.00 am Gallipoli
Robin McLachlan reports on the Memorial's education programme, 'Schools and communities remembering'
- 9.45 am *Option A*
John Mordike, 'From Dreadnought to Gallipoli: the triumph of the imperial idea, 1909-14'
Option B War, schools and society 1
Peter Cochrane, 'Why Simpson?'
- 10.30 am Morning tea
- 11.00 am *Option A* Doctors and nurses at war
Jan Bassett and Bryan Egan, 'The 1st Australian General Hospital, Cario, 1915'
Option B War, schools and society 2
Kathryn Curkpatrick, Pam Cupper and Phil Taylor, 'Returning to Gallipoli'
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 2.00-5.00 pm *Option A* Curator's showcase
Curatorial staff from the Australian War Memorial present the results of their research into the collections
Option B War, schools and society 3
Discovering Gallipoli: a practical workshop on using the Discovering Gallipoli kit in schools
War, schools and society 4
Talking history: using oral history in schools
Option C The RAAF in peace and war
Chris Coulthard-Clark, 'A History of the Royal Australian Air Force, 1921-39'; Alan Stephens, 'A matter of survival: towards an air power doctrine for the RAAF, 1921-39'; Lindsay Peet, 'Air war in north-west Australia'; Michael Nelmes, 'The B-24 Liberator in RAAF service'
- 7.30-9.30 pm Evening session
Michael McKernan, 'Gallipoli 1990 - a reflection'

Thursday 12 July

- 9.00 am The Murdoch Sound Archive of Australia in the war of 1939-45: a progress report
- 9.45 am *Option A*
David Horner, 'The Royal Australian Regiment in Australian military history'
Option B War, schools and society 5
Bob Lewis, 'An inquiry based approach to teaching about the western front'
- 10.30 am Morning tea
- 11.00 am *Option A* Australians on Gallipoli
Jeffery Grey: 'A hard school: the AIF and Gallipoli service'; Ashley Ekins, 'Crime and punishment on Gallipoli; Australian soldiers under British military law', Bill Sellars, 'Australian prisoners of the Turks'
Option B War, schools and society 6
James Harpur, Ian Sutherland and Thomas Cantwell on teaching about the Vietnam War

Option C The Malitia

Allan Box, 'The Gippsland Light Horse'; Ron Blair, 'The Gippsland Regiment'

12.30 pm Lunch

2.00-5.00 pm *Option A* Work-in-progress session
Researchers deliver ten-minute reports on current projects*Option B* History in the galleries: the South African war
Peter Stanley, 'The South African war gallery'; Max Chamberlain, 'Australian battles of the Boer war', Peter Burness, 'The 1st Australian Horse'; John Sweetman, 'The first Australian contingent'; John Price, 'The tragic voyage of the troopship *Drayton Grange*'*Option C* War, schools and society 7
History in the galleries

Michalina Stawyskyj leads a practical session on using exhibitions in museum education programmes

7.30 pm Conference dinner

Friday 13 July

- 9.00 am Technology and war
George Raudzens, 'Doubts about the effectiveness of superior armaments: weapons determine how we fight but not how we win'; Leigh Edmonds, 'using new tools: some thought about the manufacture of aeroplanes in Australia during the second world war'
- 10.45 am Morning tea
- 11.15 am War and Australian society:
1 War and identity
John Moses, 'Australia's academic garrison, 1914-18', Niall Brennan, 'Wartime in a multi-cultural society'; Val Noone, 'Anzac Day, the Melbourne Catholic *Advocate* and Vietnam'
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 2.00-5.00 pm *Option A* War and Australian society:
2 Between wars
Kent Fedorowich, 'Society pets and morning coated farmers: Australian soldier settlement and the participation of British ex-servicemen, 1915-29', 'An EATS trainee's progress'
3 War and ideology
Andrew Moore, 'Retreads and reactionaries?': the ideological terrain of the Volunteer Defence Corps, 1940-45'; Sean Brawley and Nicole Adler, 'Ours is not to reason why: Australian and British army education and the post-war world'
Option C The Papuan campaign
Richard Hall, 'Allied strategy in the south-west Pacific'; David Denholm, 'Alec Palmer, Ted Young and the track to Kokoda'; Peter Brune, 'Maroubra Force and Gona Beach'; Lex McAulay, 'Kokoda - the Japanese side'

John E. Price

South African War Memorials known to exist in Victoria

ON the morning of Christmas Eve 1972, during a rest break at Rochester, my wife and I wandered around the streets of this northern Victorian township and noted with interest the memorial to a Farrier Sergeant J. W. N. Williamson, of the 3rd Victorian Bushmen, who had died of disease in Pretoria in 1900.

Thus began a quest to locate other South African War Memorials that may exist in Victoria: a search that took me over the length and breadth of the State, resulting in the publication of *They Proved to all the Earth* and, in a minor capacity, some research material for *Southern Cross Scots*.

My long suffering wife could detect, in a second, the gleam in my eye whenever there was the possibility of a new discovery. Many of our travels were fruitless for, as it sometimes eventuated, the memorials we had journeyed many miles to see was either a monument to the Great War, or one honouring an explorer of the region.

We received many queer looks whenever we enquired of locals as to the whereabouts of a memorial to a war that, in those early days, was almost forgotten. In the passing of the years I became proficient in



identifying a Boer War Memorial by its appearance but still made the odd mistake when, on a closer look, they were found to be tributes to long dead Councillors.

In my files there are lists of many cemeteries in which tombstones commemorate husbands, sons and grandsons who died whilst on active service. But these are difficult to locate and, in most cases, I am grateful to those genealogists who have so willingly passed on the finds.

All these monuments, plus those to other conflicts, have a tinge of sadness to them. Especially when

they have been vandalised — either wilfully, accidentally, or by well intentioned Municipal authorities.

I do not claim, for one moment, that the attached list is complete and have the nagging feeling that there are still a few that have eluded me. If a reader can let me have any, in the State of Victoria, that has been excluded I would be happy to hear from them.

As a sequel, it was uncanny to note in 1978, that whilst searching through the military section of Pretoria General Cemetery, Farrier Sergeant Williamson's date of death was given on his tombstone as the **24th December 1900**

Albert Park	3026	Tablet in Primary School	Learmonth	3352	Monument in Main Street
Albert Park	3026	Monument in St Vincent's Gardens	Learmonth	3352	Tablet in Anglican Church
Alexandra	3714	Tablet in Shire Hall	Lilydale	3140	Mafeking Tree in Town Centre
Allansford	3277	Tablet in Uniting Church	Longwood	3665	Monument near Railway Station
Anakie	3221	Tablet in State School	Mansfield	3722	Monument in Main Street
Ararat	3377	Memorial Fountain outside Town Hall	Maryborough	3465	Monument outside Post Office
Avenel	3664	Monument alongside Hume Highway	Melbourne	3000	Tablets in St Paul's Cathedral
Bacchus Marsh	3340	Monument outside Post Office	Melbourne	3004	5th VMR Monument in St Kilda Road
Bairnsdale	3875	Monument in City Centre	Melton	3337	Lamp Standard in Main Street
Ballarat	3350	Monument in City Centre	Milawa	3678	Tablet in Church Hall
Ballarat	3350	Tablet in Anglican Cathedral	Mildura	3500	Tablet in Workingmen's Club
Ballarat	3350	Tablet in Scots Church	Moe	3825	Tablet in Old Gippsdown
Ballarat	3350	Tablet in College Common Room	Moonee Ponds	3039	Monument in Queen's Park
Ballarat	3350	Tablet in TAFE College*	Mooropooona	3629	Monument in Main Street
Beaufort	3373	Tablet in Shire Hall	Morwell	3840	Tablet on W.W. 1 Memorial
Beaufort	3373	Tablet in Anglican Church	Murchison	3610	Monument in Gardens
Beaufort	3373	Photo in Shire Archives	Nathalia	3638	Monument in Main Street
Bendigo	3550	Monument in Pall Mall	Northcote	3070	Tablet in Rechabite Hall
Box Hill	3128	Monument in Main Road	Parkville	3052	Monument in Royal Park
Brunswick	3056	Monument at Tram Stop 24	Parkville	3052	Tablet in Ormond College
Byaduck	3301	Monument on Roadside	Parkville	3052	Tablets in Trinity College Chapel
Camperdown	3260	Monument in Main Street	Picola	3639	Tablet in Church
Camperdown	3260	Tablets in Anglican Church	Port Campbell	3269	Honour Board in Sports Centre
Casterton	3311	Monument on Main Road	Pyramid Hill	3575	Monument in Town Centre
Castlemaine	3450	Monument in Mostyn Street	Queenscliff	3225	Tablet in Anglican Church
Charlton	3525	Monument in Town centre	Rochester	3561	Monument outside RSL Club
Cheltenham	3192	Monument in War Memorial Gardens	St Arnaud	3478	Monument in Main Street
Cheltenham	3192	Tablet in Old Anglican Church	St Arnaud	3478	Tablet in High School
Cheltenham	3192	Name on State School Honour Roll	St Kilda	3182	Monument in Alfred Square
Chilwell	3220	Monument in Kardinia Park	St Kilda	3182	Monument in Cleve Gardens
Colac	3250	Tablet in St Andrew's Church	St Kilda East	3183	Tablet in Anglican Church
Dandenong	3175	Tablet in Uniting Church	St Kilda East	3183	Tablet in Caulfield C.E. Grammar School
Darraweit Guim	3756	Monument in Schoolyard	Sale	3850	Monument in McMillan Park
Echuca	3564	New Memorial in City Centre (Old monument destroyed by truck)	Sea Lake	3533	Monument opposite Post Office
Eldorado	3746	Monument on One Tree Hill	South Melbourne	3026	State War Memorial, St Kilda Road
Eoroa	3666	V.C. Tree outside Shire Offices	South Melbourne	3026	Monument outside Town Hall
Glengarry	3854	Monument in Town Gardens	South Yarra	3141	Tablet in Melbourne C.E.G.S. Chapel
Hamilton	3300	Monument adjacent to Football Oval	Stawell	3380	Memorial Gates to Central Park
Hamilton	3300	Tablets in Anglican Church	Stratford	3862	Tablet in Mechanics' Institute
Hamilton	3300	Photo in Museum	Talbot	3371	Monument outside Post Office
Heathcote	3523	Monument adjacent to Shire Offices	Talbot	3371	Tablet in Shire Hall
Heywood	3304	V.C. Monument in City Centre	Trentham	3458	Monument outside Post Office
Horsham	3340	Tablet in Roberts Avenue	Violet Town	3669	Monument outside State Bank
Inverleigh	3321	Monument on Roadside	Wangaratta	3677	Monument in Memorial Gardens
Kerang	3579	Monument in Park	Warracknabeal	3393	Tablet in Anglican Church
Kyneton	3444	Memorial in Shire Offices	Yea	3717	Monument in Town Centre
Lake Rowan	3727	Monument in Town Centre	Yea	3717	Tablets in Anglican Church

NOTES

* There was a tablet commemorating Lieutenant Johnston at the Ballarat School of Mines. Whilst it is no longer sited at the School entrance I do believe that it still exists

There have been many people, including members of the Military Historical Society of Australia, who have told me of the locations of many of the Victorian Boer War memorials. I thank them immensely.

***South African War Memorials
known to exist in Victoria***



Heathcote

St Kilda Alfred Square





Darraweit Guim Primary School



St Vincent's Gardens, Albert Park

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. 2606
or Telephone a/h: (06) 248 0175



WANTED



Crimea Medal:

“Alma, Inkerman, Sebastapol”, named to
Cpl Robert Argue, 7th Foot,
wanted for family collection.

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

Book Reviews

Alfred Passfield, *The Great Escape*, 256 pp, Artlook Books, Perth, \$19.95.

When defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory on Crete, Private Alf Passfield of the Second Eleventh Battalion AIF fell into enemy hands and was transported to Germany. In the four years of his imprisonment he escaped no less than eight times, usually in disguise, sometimes by bicycle (stolen), at other times in railway trucks or on foot. Like most escapers he failed to make the home run, but the disruption he caused was a creditable contribution to the Allied war effort. He may fairly be said to have taken captivity captive.

On his sixth attempt, Private Passfield escaped from Germany and was arrested in Hungary, also an enemy country. The authorities there allowed British escapers to accept paid employment and move around unescorted, visiting shops and cafes. Unfortunately a change of regime occurred and Hungary was occupied by the German Army, the escapers being rounded up and returned to the Reich. After two further escapes the war ended and the author was flown by the Americans to Britain, where in romantic circumstances he met and married a Wren.

Private Passfield planned his escapes with all the thoroughness of Monash preparing an attack on the Hindenburg Line. He was awarded the Military Medal, an honour he thinks he did not deserve. Former residents of the Moosburg Stalag and other camps will not agree.

The author was an alert and perceptive observer, his retentive memory and attention to detail enabling him to paint a vivid picture of life in the camps, in pre-communist Hungary and in woodland Austria. For the historian *The Escape Artist* is a valuable primary source, for the general reader it is a rattling good yarn, wittily told.

The book contains photos and maps. The type-face is clear.

HENRY ROSENGREN



Ian Skennerton, *200 Years of Australian Military Rifles & Bayonets*. Ian Skennerton, P.O. Box 56, Margate 4019 for \$19.95 (soft) or \$29.95 (hard) plus post and packing of \$5.00.

This publication is a worthy reference in any library with an Australian Military Historical perspective. The book lists and briefly describes, using photographs and text, the long arms issued to the Colonial and later Australian Defence Forces.

The coverage begins with the SHORT LAND PATTERN MUSKET as issued to the Marines of the Botany Bay Detachment in 1788 and extends through Federation to the 5.56 mm STEYR AUG Rifles on current issue to the Australian Defence Forces. In addition to the Firearms themselves the material includes details of the variants and the Bayonets issued with each weapon.

As would be expected, considerable coverage is given to the .303 SMLE and its many variants. Anybody who used it or merely humped it in either war or later conflicts will get something from the extensive material provided.

The format of the book combines a black and white photograph or photographs of the weapon alongside a historical resume of the issues and general information about the weapon. The result is in an interesting and easily read coverage of the long arms issued to The Military Forces in Australia.

The book also provides details of markings and dates and details of issues and includes a chronological reference to the number series used by the Lithgow and associated factories.

The book is soft covered (155mm x 235mm) containing 124 pages of reference material that is arranged generally in the chronological order of issue. It is fully indexed and a useful Bibliography is provided.

Mr Skennerton, has a considerable number of other publications to his credit, including the *British Service Lee*, *The Handbook of British Bayonets* and others related to the general subject. His research sources for his book included The Infantry Museum at Singleton. They appear to have helped considerably with the publication.

If you're looking for a quick reference to the subject there are few better and the book is recommended library material.

BARRY TEAL



Malcolm Saunders and Ralph Summy, *The Australian Peace Movement: A Short History*, 78 pp., Peace Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, 1986. \$3.75 plus postage.

Malcolm Saunders, *A Bibliography of Books, Articles and Theses on the History of the Australian Peace Movement*, P.R.C. Monograph No. 5, 115 pp., Peace Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, 1987. \$10.00 plus postage.

These are two valuable works which anyone interested in war and peace should read. For those whose view of peace advocates is that they form an undifferentiated group of lefties, the Saunders and Summy book will provide a useful corrective. The book by Saunders alone is an admirable bibliography which examines and lists the Australian literature on the Crimean War, the Sudan Campaign, the Boer War, the Boxer Rebellion, compulsory training before World War I, that war and its successor, and the Vietnam War, in order to identify peace movements and peace advocates. It also deals with the periods between the wars.

The effect of both books is to emphasise the greatly changing character of the 'peace movement' and its vital dependence upon contemporary issues and events, rather than upon a reasoned and consistent opposition to war as such. Only a few groups, of which the Quakers are the most enduring, qualify as what the authors identify as 'pacifists', those to whom all war is hateful. The great majority are described as 'pacifists', those 'whose opposition [to war] is qualified and [who] under certain conditions will take up arms'. Thus the books are much more concerned with opposition to particular wars and to particular measures such as conscription, than with outright pacifism, of which there has been relatively little in Australia.

Something which should be of interest to readers of this journal is that the various movements do not seem to have been worried that Australia possessed armed forces. They have protested at the use of the forces at particular times, and sometimes at their composition (as with opposition to conscription in the Vietnam War). Apart from some diatribes against 'militarism' earlier in the century, the movements appear to have been generally respectful of the military career and the bravery and devotion associated with it. The breaking strain has usually been conscription.

PROFESSOR J. D. B. MILLER

Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia



Peter Pinney, *The Barbarians*, 238 pp., University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1990. Retail \$12.95.

The Barbarians will appeal to all those that served in the New Guinea Campaigns and particularly those that served in the WAU-SALAMAUA operations. The narrative has been drawn from an illicitly kept diary.

The diary was kept by a young signaller, who ultimately managed to get himself transferred to an Independent Company. He develops some good mates and the narrative gathers value from the typically dry wit inherent in the fireside conversations.

The basic survival truths will be well recognised by all those who saw New Guinea from mud-level. They will also recognise the vernacular of the day and should have no difficulty in relating to the author's experience amongst danger, and discomforts of that place.

Despite that, this small descriptive slice of a soldier's lot in those campaigns is not arduous and no attempt is made to get into the philosophical side of the issues.

It's a good little read for those that were there and all those who remember the value of mateship.

BARRY TEAL

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Australian Coastal Defence Study Group (A.C.D.S.G.)

Would you please advise readers in your forthcoming edition that:

At the recent annual general meeting of the A.C.D.S.G. it was resolved to forthwith disband the Group and all necessary appropriate measures to be taken to wind up its outstanding affairs, as early as possible, also to inform the Editor, *Sabretache*, and other appropriate persons.

The Committee assisted with the successful formation and launching of the Point Nepean National Park —being one of its major projects. The Park containing the relics of the major Fixed Defence Fortifications for Port Phillip from inception during the early 1880s until their demise in 1945. This has led to the recent formation of a 'Friends of the Point' (Point Nepean) group which will advise the managing State Government Agency for the National Park on matters relating to the history and relevance of these Fortifications and their Garrisons to enable Park daily visitors to be better informed on these fixed defence structures remaining in existence today.

W. GOOGALL
2 Fourth Street
Black Rock, Vic. 3193
(on behalf of the Committee)

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor

Re: *Sabretache* XXX, Number 3
July/September 1989
Erratum 17th (Leicestershire)
Regiment

In my article on pages 26-34 I have made a couple of typographical errors on my manuscript which I would like to correct.

Page 30 Part 2 Endnotes should read ENDNOTES

Page 31 Endnotes 7 Red should read SCARLET

Page 32 Endnotes 7 Red should read SCARLET

Page 32 Endnotes 13 Escaped prisoners John Poole aged 24 years should read John PERRY aged 24 years.

D. A. MURPHY
P.O. Box 288
Queanbeyan N.S.W. 2620

★ ★ ★

Dear Secretary,

The Australian War Memorial have advised I contact your Society for expert advice. Briefly I am a collector of Scottish military badges, and have some queries reference uniforms and badges of Scottish units of the Australian army.

My queries commence with tartans, and attached to this letter will be found a list itemising all Scots units of your army together with their tartans, the only exception being the South Australian Scottish Infantry. It is possible their tartan was the Gordon owing to their cap badge being identical in all respects to that of the Gordon Highlanders. Can you please confirm or deny this?

Query two concerns the Western Australian Highlanders where my sources ambiguously quote Cameron as the regimental tartan. Since there are a number of Cameron setts this is hardly definitive, the usual sett in military use is Cameron of Erracht. Can you kindly confirm it's use by this regiment?

The final tartan query concerns regimental pipers, and I am sure you will know that in certain regiments pipers wear a tartan different to that of their regiment. Examples of this are the Black Watch, and the 48th Highlanders of Canada. The former wear the government tartan but their pipers wear Royal Stewart, whilst the latter wear a Davidson sett and their pipers Stewart Fingask. My knowledge of Australian regiments is entirely deficient in this area and I wonder if you can enlighten me?

We now move to cap badges, where I note three Australian regiments share identical cap badges with British regiments; these are:

Mount Gambier Scottish Coy.
(with seaforth Highlanders)
South Australian Scottish Infantry
(with Gordon Highlanders)
Western Australian Highlanders
(with Queens Own Cameron Highlanders).

Are you aware of any means whereby one can differentiate between the Australian and British types?

Returning again to the pipers, their badge sometimes differs from the standard regimental version either in design or quality of metal. (Examples of this are the Cameronians and the Scots Guards where the design is different for both, and where with the latter their badge is silver.) Do you know of any such exceptions with pipers of Australian regiments?

Officers badges tend to be of a superior quality to those of 'Other Ranks'. Does this apply to the Australian regiments quoted in this correspondence?

My final query lies with dress and is simply which of the units were

killed and which wore trews, and inevitably if trews were regimental wear did this include pipers or were they killed?

I also seek a source to obtain badges of ALL regiments quoted and wonder if you are able to advise. (Here in U.K. there is a fairly ready availability of Scottish regimental badges from almost all corners of the earth except Australian and New Zealand — one even sees the Shanghai Scots quite often available.)

In closing may I thank you in anticipation of your help. Please find enclosed a small donation towards the work of your Society.

P.S. Should I have missed any Scottish unit of the Australian army, your advice to same will be welcomed.

P. J. GIBBONS
23 Clyde Road
Stanwell, Staines
Mx. TW19 7RG
England

★ ★ ★

Dear Sir,

I am the Battery Commander of 107th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment. The battery currently is engaged in a project to gather information associated with our battery history.

In 1916 107th Howitzer Battery first came into existence. Since then it has changed its name to 107th Field Battery, part of 4th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Only little of the battery's past is known and we are trying to piece together a more extensive account of battery history.

Any stories, photographs, recollections, dates or names you may be able to supply us with to help us achieve our task we would greatly appreciate. Photographs or negatives sent to us will be carefully looked after and returned after reprinting.

If you require any information or assistance please contact me or the battery historian, Lieutenant Matthew Jones, on (077) 71 7474, or at the address below. Thank you

for any information however small you may be able to provide us with.

Major F. G. COLLEY
107th Field Battery
4th Field Regiment RAA
Chau Pha Lines
Lavarack Barracks
Townsville, Qld 4813

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you, on the advice of the 'Information Services of the Australian War Memorial', seeking your assistance, and/or advice, in the matter relating to Foreign Service medals issued to the AIF in France from 1916 to 1919.

The information I seek is relevant to research on my fathers service in the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company of the First AIF — 1270 Cpl B. J. Lear, who was in France from the 5th May 1916, to the 10/14th March 1919. He was wounded at Lens on the 27th November 1916, and his unit served in the following areas:

- (1) Armentiers Raids, 1916.
- (2) Battle of Fromelles, 1916.
- (3) Hill 70 prior to Third Ypres.
- (4) Third Ypres, Hill 70, loos, Lens, Hulluch.
- (5) Battle of the Lys, 1918.

Army Form B103 indicates service in the Line after April 1918, details of this service are not yet known to me.

All of his service Medals and R.A.S. Badge were lost by me, 60 plus years ago, under or around the family home, and while I can identify the Imperial Medals from correspondence with C.A.R.O., I can not name the French/Belgium medals lost at this time, but even today I have positive memories of their appearance, as does my brother, who is six years my senior.

If you can assist me in this matter please advise me as to what I have to do relevant to the Military Historical Society. I have researched Beans, 'Official History' as far as I can go, and my next step is to the War Memorial in Canberra.

JOHN LEAR
12 Willow Grove Parade
Corrimal, N.S.W. 2518

Books for Sale

The following selected books may be purchased from the A.C.T. Branch of the Society:

- 1st VB King's Royal Rifles - 1st Middlesex (Victoria & St George) VRC
Andrew, Christopher - The First World War
Australian Army - Dismounted drill - All Arms - Training
Australian Army - Fieldcraft - All Arms Training
Barrie, Alexander - War Underground
Bean, C. E. W. - Anzac to Aimens
Bostock, Henry P. - The Great Ride
Bradley, Joyce - Roll Call: AWM Genealogical Sources
Brophy & Kennington - Britain's Home Guard: A Character Study
Burge, Laurel - NSW Military Volunteer Land Grants
Chant-Sempill, Stuart - St Nazaire Commando
Cunningham, C. A. - Fort Queenscliff & Aust Staff College
De Negrier, General - Lessons of the Russo-Japanese War
Defence Intelligence Agency - Soviet Tank Company Tactics
Dinning, Hector - Nile to Aleppo - Australian Light Horse
Farquar, Murray - Derrick VC
Glover, Michael - WQarfare in the AGE of BONAPARTE
Gower, S. N. - Guns of the Regiment
Graham, Brig Gen C. A. - The Story of the Royal Regt of Artillery
Hall, Timothy - Tobruk 1941: The Desert Seige
Hay, David - Nothing Over Us: 2/6th Aust Infantry Bn
Hollows, W. H. - Northamptonshire and the Great War



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 schedules are:

Jan.-March edition mailed last week of March
Apr.-Jun. edition mailed last week of June

July-Sept. edition mailed last week of September
Oct.-Dec. edition mailed last week of December

ADVERTISING

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

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

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

! January for January-March edition
1 April for April-June edition

1 July for July-September edition
1 October for October-December edition

QUERIES

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

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Please address all correspondence to:

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



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

..... 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.

