

Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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SABRETACHE

The Journal and Proceedings of
**The Military Historical
Society of Australia**

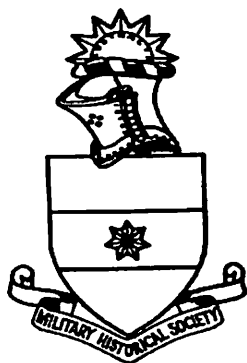
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Contributions in the form of articles, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note, and, where possible, submit the text of the article on floppy disk as well as hard copy. The annual subscription to the Society is \$30.

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**The Journal and
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(founded 1957)**

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The Military Historical Society of Australia

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

Organisation

The Federal Council of Australia 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 appear below.

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.

Members' notices

Society members may place, at no cost, one notice of approximately 40 words in the 'Members' notices' section of the Journal each financial year.

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

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The Search for Lt Col F W Bell VC

James C Briggs

It all started with walks through a local cemetery. In 1993 I retired from 28 years as a Consultant Pathologist at Frenchay hospital in Bristol. For the 8 years or so prior to that I had also been one of the three Medical Referees for the City of Bristol, a job I still do. This means that on two evenings a week I have to check all that day's applications for cremations. Each application consists of a set of papers with about 40 questions which have to be answered by an appointed member of the deceased's family and by two independent doctors. When happy that all answers are correct then I am empowered to grant permission for cremation. Before my retirement the sets of papers were delivered to my house, but now I tend to walk to the crematorium office and work there. The office is at the entrance to a beautiful cemetery, at the start of an elegant avenue of trees leading up to the original chapel at the very top. Many superb trees decorate the grounds and they are full of birds and squirrels. The graves lining the avenue are often large and grand and there is absolutely no sense of foreboding anywhere; my grandchildren love going there.

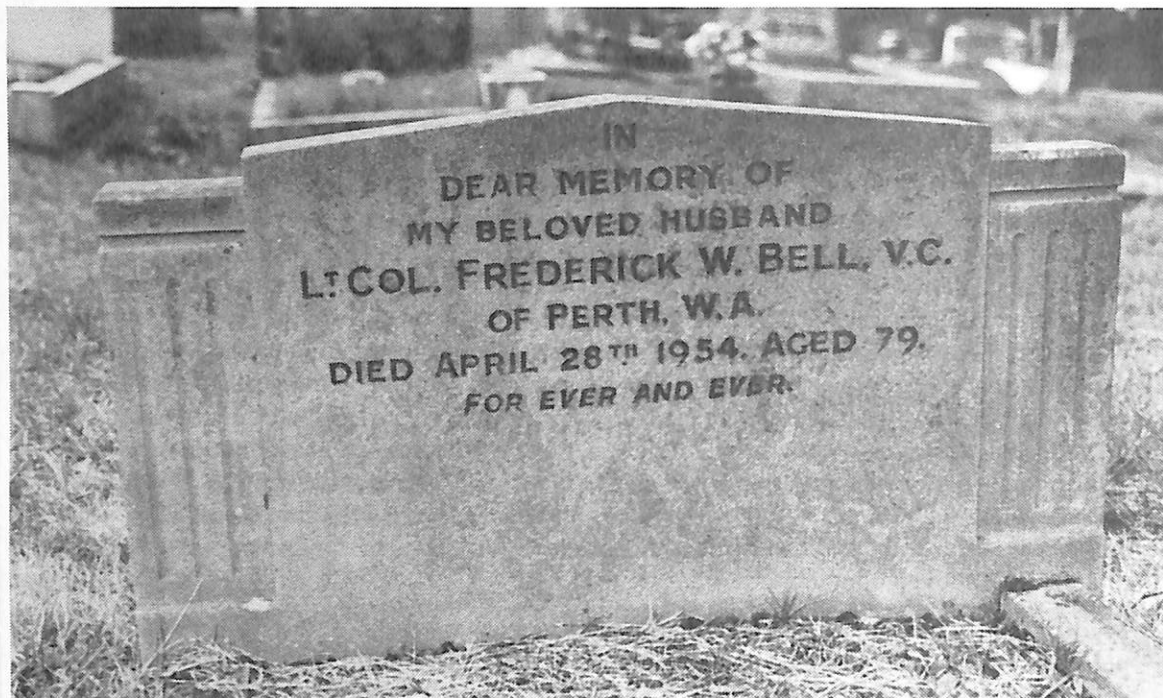
My house is not far away from the back entrance, a ten minute walk along some of the many public footpaths which criss-cross this part of Bristol. These paths were originally the ways between the fields before the houses came in the late 1920s and early 1930s. In places the footpaths still resemble country lanes and it is easy sometimes to forget that you are in the suburb of a big city. My walk to the cemetery has become one of the bonuses of the job.

Although many of the graves are large and elegant, others are less so; some are frankly near-derelect and others uncared-for. This is one of the consequences of burial tradition in this country; frequently there is no family around to care for the grave of someone who died 80 or so years ago. In Germany, a country I know well because I have a German wife, graves are uniformly well tended since they are re-used every few decades and family is nearly always there. Some of the graves near my back entrance fall into the uncared-for and partially derelict categories. Just inside the entrance is a special grave I first noticed in the autumn of 1995. Its headstone leans a bit, the kerbstones marking the plot are also tilted; the plot itself is uncared-for and partly covered with weeds. The headstone reads:

In Dear Memory of my beloved Husband, Lt Col F W Bell VC, of Perth, WA. Died 28th April 1954, aged 79. For Ever and Ever.

What was an Australian VC doing in this Bristol cemetery? Other Commonwealth soldiers can also be found buried, but these overwhelmingly died of their wounds in one of the many WW1 Bristol Military Hospitals. Col Bell clearly didn't fall into this category. I was intrigued. I asked the foreman gardener if he had any idea; he hadn't. I felt a real need to know more and, if possible locate some family in order to take the first step in what I hoped would result in some improvement to the grave, currently, I felt, an inadequate resting place for a brave man. Where to turn?

The first real inquiry I made was to the local branch of the Royal British Legion. The cemetery contains an impressive War Memorial, near the top of the main avenue, and the Legion always lay poppies there on Remembrance Sunday; they also put poppies on the many war graves that are scattered around the grounds. No poppies appeared on Frederick Bell's grave on Remembrance Day 1995 and it turned out that the Legion had no knowledge of him. (There's another VC's grave too, and I don't think they know of that one either).



So far I had thus reached two dead ends. However, inspiration came. In early December I rang British Telecom (BT) and was given the phone number of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association in London. A call to them elicited details of why Frederick Bell had been given his medal. They gave me their address and I immediately wrote and confirmed the details I had verbally given them; they promised me a copy of his entry in *The Register of the Victoria Cross*. Christmas came and went and the promised details didn't. So, in frustration, I wrote again on 8 January 1996. The details which came a few days later, and included a photo of Frederick Bell, read:

BELL, Frederick William

Lieutenant (later Lieutenant Colonel) West Australian Mounted Infantry

Date of Gazette: 4 Oct. 1901

Place/Date of Birth: Perth, Western Australia – 3 April 1875

Place/Date of Death: Bristol — 28 Apr 1954

Memorials: Canford Cemetery, Bristol; Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Town/County Connections: Bristol

Remarks: Served in First World War — Commandant Embarkation Camps, Plymouth; After the war was Political Officer, British Somaliland then Administrative Officer, Northern Nigeria and Kenya Colony

Account of Deed: On 16 May 1901 at Brakpan Transvaal South Africa, when retiring under heavy fire, Lieutenant Bell noticed a man dismounted. He returned and took him up behind him but the horse not being equal to the weight, fell with them. The lieutenant then remained behind covering the man's retirement until he was out of danger.

At last I had made a start but what of Mrs Bell? She had clearly outlived her husband but the dates and time scale made it most unlikely that she was still alive. Why was not she buried with her husband? Had she gone back to Australia? Were there any children of the marriage and if so where were they? The questions kept popping up. The Australian High Commission could not help.

Near the end of February 1996 *The Times* carried an article about the efforts of a London policeman to locate the unmarked grave of one of the first holders of the VC who died in 1855. Not only had he been successful, but he had raised enough money to erect a headstone with enough left over to do the same for another VC's unmarked grave. The policeman had even located family in New Zealand and they had attended the headstone ceremony. I thought that if this is possible with, someone who died in 1855, then I ought to be able to do something for someone who had died in 1954. How to start?

In early March, the *Bristol Journal*, a local free newspaper carried an account of their successful efforts to locate the names of local veterans who had been killed in WW2. Over 50 had been found at that stage (the final total was 127) and it is planned to inscribe their names on the large WW1 Memorial in the centre of our local community. I thought the Journal might be interested to hear of Frederick Bell and my efforts; perhaps some family would come forward. The item was considered sufficiently interesting to warrant a short article along with a photograph of myself and the grave; my telephone number was included and readers were requested to contact me if they could offer help. I sat back and hoped.

Two phone calls came on the day of publication, before I had even seen the article myself. It was nice to get them but the callers had no information to give—they just wanted a chat! The next day began the start of an amazing series of calls and letters. The first came from a retired officer in the British Army currently engaged in writing a doctoral thesis on aspects of late Victorian Australia; he was in collaboration with an Australian colleague, also with a military background, whom he rang each week in Australia. The caller, John Black said he would raise the matter with his Australian colleague when he phoned next day—the common military background offering a real chance of progress. John then went on to describe the exact stage of the Boer War during which Frederick Bell had gained his medal. The Boers had retreated to the hills and the War was largely of a guerrilla type hence the use of mounted infantry.

The next day, a Sunday, my wife and I returned from a walk to find a message on our answer-phone. The caller said he thought that he had something to interest me. I rang and Clive Seward said that about 15 to 20 years ago, before he moved to his present house, he'd lived next door to a Mrs Bell; he had a memory that her deceased husband had held the VC. He also thought that Mrs Bell had moved to Oxford to live with a daughter, probably from a previous marriage. I asked if she were Australian. The answer was a very firm: 'No—a more prim and proper English lady would be hard to find'. Clive went on to say that a Mr and Mrs Paul had lived opposite and they had been active with the Royal British Legion. He knew that Mr Paul had died, but he thought that Mrs Paul was still alive and that she could well know a bit more about the Bells than he did. I then asked him where the Bells had lived. He told me that it was 89 Stoke Lane, Westbury-on-Trym. I was dumbfounded, for I live at 194 in the same road. Frederick Bell had lived only 400 yards from my present house!

The next day, my wife and I visited number 89. The present owners, George and Mary Banting, knew of Frederick Bell. Mary, additionally, has a great interest in the previous owners of their house (they are the 10th), she had a complete list of all the transactions, including dates and sale prices. She was able to tell me that the Bells had moved from 'Darklands', Symonds Yat, Hereford, that Mrs Bell herself had purchased the house on 11 July 1952 and that she had sold it on 7 October 1980, some 26 years after her husband had died.

The next thing I did was to look for Mrs Paul's phone number—there was no entry in the book. She was either dead, moved away or ex-directory in that order. In any case, the chances of contacting her seemed remote. Nevertheless a call to my contact in the Legion looked worthwhile and so I rang. I described the situation and was immediately told that Mrs Paul was

still the Legion's Standard Bearer. Subsequently it turned out that Mrs Paul knew very little about Mrs Bell; she kept herself to herself.

With this news any Australian connection seemed tenuous—the search, would need to concentrate on Britain. Probably Oxford. However I still needed more information about Frederick Bell himself. It struck me that since he had the VC there could well have been an obituary published in *The Times*. At home we have a copy of *Obituaries from The Times 1951-60*. Frederick Bell died in 1954 and it was therefore worth a look—no luck. Closer examination of the book however showed that it was clearly a selection the entries were mainly for nationally and internationally prominent people. Perhaps there had been an obituary after all.

Bristol is a large city with a marvellous Central Reference Library which includes a newspaper section. A trip there was called for. I asked the receptionist for copies of *The Times* for 1954 to be told that they were all on microfilm. The 1954 index was then given to me and in a very few moments I found an entry 'Lt Col F W Bell VC obituary' with details of the date page number and column for the actual edition (Saturday 1st May 1954). What I found on the microfilm read:

Lt Col Frederick William Bell who won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry at Brakpan in the South African War died at Bristol on Wednesday at the age of 79.

He won the decoration on May 16th 1901 at Brakpan. He was retiring under heavy fire after holding the right flank when he saw a colleague who was dismounted. In spite of the intensity of fire he turned about, went to the man's aid, and took him up behind him on his horse. The weight of the two men proved too great for the animal who fell with them. Bell thereupon insisted that the man should mount the horse and make his escape. Bell remained behind and covered his retirement until he was out of danger. Bell also saw active service in Somaliland and later in the 1914-18 War.

He later served as a political officer in British Somaliland and as an administrative officer in both Nigeria and Kenya Colony. He retired from the colonial service in 1925 and at the time the circumstances surrounding his retirement received a considerable amount of prominence. The late Lord Delamere moved a resolution in the Administrative Assembly of Kenya drawing the attention to 'the reprimand and notice of termination of his services given by the Government to Lt Col F W Bell VC, a District Commissioner, following his evidence before the Masai Inquiry Committee'. The Government contended that Bell's retirement had been previously recommended on the ground that he had reached the age limit and that it was not connected with the evidence that he had given.

The account of Frederick Bell's deed was better than that given in *The Register of the Victoria Cross*¹, but what was this reprimand and termination of services? What had he done? More research was obviously needed! I therefore went back to the Reference Library and looked up 'Masai Inquiry Committee' in *The Times* 1925 index. I found an entry for 23 April, page 11 which read:

¹ A more detailed account of the action at Brakpan is given in the Western Australian Museum's pamphlet associated with the display of Frederick Bell's medals. It states:

In May and June 1901 the Fifth and Sixth WA Mounted Infantry Contingents were searching for Boer parties in open country east of Johannesburg. In a severe engagement on 15 May, five members of the Sixth Contingent were killed. The following day Boers ambushed the Contingent in long grass in marshy country. They let the leading scouts pass by, then opened fire at close range on the main body. Galloping for the safety of high ground, the West Australians were pursued by Boers firing from horseback. A retreating horse fell with its rider. Lieutenant Bell hoisted the man up behind, but their combined weight was too great for his horse. Bell sent the man on to safety on the horse while he gave rapid covering fire from behind an anthill, covering not only the man's retreat but that of Captain Campbell, a brother officer with another rescued rider mounted behind him. For his bravery that day, Bell was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Reprimand of Kenya Official
Lord Delameres' Criticisms
(from our correspondent)
Nairobi April 20th

In the Kenya Legislative Council Lord Delamere moved a resolution drawing attention to the reprimand and notification of termination of his services given by the Government to Col F W Bell VC, a District Commissioner, following his evidence before the Masai Inquiry Committee.

Lord Delamere stated that Col Bell had given evidence that certain sums of the Native Trust Fund earmarked for certain purposes had been diverted to other purposes, also that he was ordered to send *askaris* (native troops) to round up Masai children, who were forced to attend school against the wishes of their parents, and further that he had characterised permission given to superior officers to allow Masai warriors to maintain their war-like insignia as very injudicious.

The resolution was defeated. The Government contended that Col Bell's retirement was previously recommended because he had reached the age limit and was not connected with the evidence, although it was true that action was not taken in regard to Col Bell's retirement until the evidence was given. The Government stated that it retains the right to censure officials who criticise the policy of their superiors, even when giving evidence. It also denied the truth of the allegations made.

Lord Delamere, in the same resolution, asked the Government to abandon the practice of instructing natives beforehand as to the evidence they were expected to give, and quoted a statement of Col Bell that he had been ordered to hold a meeting of the Masai for this purpose before the sitting of the Committee. The Government denied tampering with witnesses, asserting that it endeavoured to assist the Inquiry, but Lord Delamere regarded it as significant that the native speeches which were delivered to the Parliamentary Commission had been typewritten beforehand. He said he was fighting for principles and had no personal interest to serve.

I later found out in an entry in *The Times* for 24 June 1924 that Lord Delamere had been a member of the Inquiry Committee (I never did manage to find out why the Committee had been set up in the first place). It was crystal clear that Lord Delamere had been deeply disturbed by the treatment handed out to Frederick Bell whose only 'crime' seems to have been that he told the truth about matters which the Government did not wish to accept—was it not ever so? Frederick Bell was not only a brave man but also an honourable one who suffered for his honesty.

Just before I found out about the Masai Inquiry on 16 March I had a totally unexpected letter from a John Woodgate. He introduced himself somewhat apologetically and went on to say that he had read the article in the *Bristol Journal* and taken the liberty of transcribing it onto the Internet. John has a great interest in genealogy and had been largely responsible for setting up an international genealogy group on the Net. He has contacts around the world and had sent the transcription particularly to contacts in Australia. He enclosed an e-mail that he had received from Rob Nelson in Perth with a mine of information about Frederick Bell! It was unbelievable. Further e-mails and other documents followed² to reveal much of the life and background of

² One of the documents sent was a copy of a sketch map of the actions at Brakpan. Of the five killed on 15 May one was Lt Anthony Forrest, son of the former Lord Mayor of Perth, and a nephew of the Premier, Sir John Forrest. The news of Anthony Forrest's death may well have contributed to his father's own death soon afterwards. The sketch map, from Lord Forrest's papers, shows where Lt Forrest was killed, and where Bell won his VC. The map now resides in the J S Battye Library of West Australia. The map-maker is not named but from the considerable detail included it must have been drawn by someone very familiar with the scene, probably present on both days.

Frederick Bell³ and the respect he has in his native West Australia. Based mainly on this information it is now possible to draw up a comprehensive account:

Summary of the life of Lt Col F W Bell VC

Born in Perth, Western Australia, 3 April 1875. His grandfather was George Bell (born UK in 1818 died Western Australia 29 November 1908). On 24 January 1846 George married Lydia Charlotte Duffield (born UK 1829; died Western Australia 23 July 1915). George was a petty officer on HMS Warrior which arrived in Fremantle in 1830; Lydia and her parents arrived with early settlers in 1830 They had 12 children between 1846 and 1872, 7 girls and 5 boys, Henry Thomas (1848-1923), Lt Col Bell's father, was the second child.

In 1871 Henry Thomas married Alice Agnes Watson (7 May 1853 – 4 September 1936); they had 10 children between 1873 and 1894 and Frederick Bell was the second

Of his siblings the eldest, Luna Alice (25 April 1873 – ?), married a Mr Jones and was living in the UK in 1936. Two of his brothers served in the Australian Imperial Force in WW1; Edgar was killed at Gallipoli and Bert at Pozières in France.

Frederick Bell was initially in the Western Australian Customs Dept, joining as a cadet in 1894; he later became a cashier. In October 1899, at the outbreak of the South African War, he enlisted as a private in the 1st West Australian (Mounted Infantry) Contingent.⁴ He first saw action at Slingsfontein, and later took part in the relief of Johannesburg and Pretoria and the battles of Diamond Hill and Wittenbergen. On 19 July 1900, in a sharp engagement at Palmeitfontein, he was seriously wounded in the abdomen and invalided to England. He returned to Perth in February 1901, was commissioned Lieutenant in the 6th Contingent on 8 March and re-embarked for South Africa.

He gained the VC at Brakpan in the Transvaal for bravery in action. He was the first Western Australian to achieve this honour. Details of his action were carried in the *London Illustrated News* of 12 October 1901, pages 534-535, along with two other VC recipients from different actions. All crosses are engraved with the date of the action on the back and the recipient's name on the back of the suspender. However Frederick Bell was originally presented with an unengraved Cross in South Africa, one of several taken out for presentation in the field by the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. It was returned to the War Office for engraving. In the meantime another Cross with Frederick Bell's name on it had been prepared for presentation and sent separately to South Africa, but it was later melted down. (There is another version of this story which says that the medal was presented by the Prince to Frederick Bell in London on 11 July 1901.)

After his discharge in May 1902 he joined the Australian section of the Coronation Escort for King Edward VII. He then settled in Perth, but returned to England, joined the Colonial Service in 1905 and was appointed to British Somaliland as an Assistant District Officer in April. He became an Assistant Political Officer later that year, a post which he held until 1910. He took up big game hunting and, in 1909, narrowly escaped death, in a lion hunt. He found himself alone as a lion charged. He shot it, but managed only to infuriate it by blowing away its lower jaw. The lion and he wrestled in the dust until help arrived. He spent six months in England recovering from the mauling.

³ A letter, dated 10 August 1901, from Frederick Bell to his parents that was published in *The West Australian Mercury* of 21 October 1901 is reprinted as an appendix.

⁴ The Commonwealth of Australia came into being on 1 January 1901. The troops sent to South Africa in 1899 and 1900 were colonial contingents which became the responsibility of the new Australian Government on federation.

He became Assistant Resident in Nigeria in 1910 and an Assistant District Commissioner in Kenya in 1912. In 1914 he became ill and was sent to England to recuperate.

At the outbreak of WWI on the eve of his recovery he immediately volunteered for service (In 1907 he had been commissioned in the 4th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry). He went to France with the Royal Irish Dragoon Guards. He was mentioned in dispatches and promoted to Captain in October 1915. He was also wounded again. He returned to England and was made Commandant of a rest camp and promoted to Major; later he was made Lt Col and became the Commandant of the Embarkation Camps in Plymouth.

After the War he became a District Commissioner in Kenya. In May 1927, aged 47, he was married in London to Mabel MacKenzie Valentini (nee Skinner), a divorcee. She died in 1944.

In 1924/25 he gave evidence at the Masai Inquiry Committee at which his evidence appeared to displease the Government; he was retired in 1925 allegedly on the grounds of age—he was 50 at the time. The Government denied the allegations he gave under oath to the Inquiry.

He remarried on 20 February 1945 to Brenda Margaret Cracklow (nee Illingworth), a widow. At this time he was 69. He visited Western Australia with his wife in 1947 and took part in a ceremony with other holders of the VC.

Prior to 1952 he lived at 'Darklands' Symonds Yat, Hereford. He moved to 89 Stoke Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol following the purchase of the house by his wife on 11 July 1952. He died in Bristol on Wednesday 28 April 1954 at the age of 79. He is buried in Canford Cemetery, Bristol. An obituary appeared in *The Times* on Saturday 1 May 1954. His wife continued to live in the house apparently with Mary Brenda Cracklow, her retired secretary but also probably an unmarried sister-in-law from her first marriage. Lt Col Bell had no children of his own.

In 1979 Western Australia celebrated the 150th anniversary of its first settlement. 150 brass plaques were placed in the pavements of Perth. His initials are on the one for 1901.

In 1984 a medal dealer offered his VC (and other medals) for sale to the family in Western Australia. The asking price was apparently \$A43,000, possibly for the VC only. The medal had been sold much earlier (details unknown, but possibly by his widow or step son) and went to Canada. It then reappeared on the market in London from where the offer to the family came. In view of the price the family were forced to decline the offer. However the Western Australian Government was alerted about the sale and made arrangements for one of their representatives to make the acquisition. The story hit the Western Australian newspapers on 12 October 1984. The medals are now on permanent display in the Western Australian Museum. The medals, 10 in all, consist of the VC; Queen's South Africa Medal (clasps for Wittenbergen, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg, and Cape Colony); King's South Africa Medal (clasps for South Africa 1901 and 1902); Africa General Service Medal (clasp for Somaliland 1908-10); 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal with Oak Leaf (Mention in Dispatches), Coronation Medals for Edward VII, George VI, Elizabeth II.

In 1991 a permanent display about him was placed in the foyer of the Customs Department in Fremantle.

So far three relatives have been traced, all in Western Australia and all are children of Frederick Bell's brother Harry George (22 February 1879 – 3 August 1962)

In one of Rob's e-mails he said that he would be in contact with both the Customs Service in Western Australia and the Western Australian Government in the hope that some money to

help restore the grave might be available. He also said that the relatives, some of whom he had actually spoken to, had no objection to the grave being restored. With a view to helping his campaign I made short videos of Frederick Bell's house in Stoke Lane Canford cemetery where he's buried and his grave. I sent these off to Rob on 25 March.

Rob had also indicated that the Western Australian Museum, where Frederick Bell's medals are displayed, had a great interest in discovering how they came to end up in Canada; he had spoken to the Western Australian medal dealer who had been offered the medals in 1984 and had been told that the medals had been found in Canada by the London firm of Spinks; the name of another London intermediary was also given. On 1 April I rang Spinks in London; they knew of the intermediary and said they would make enquiries and ring back. This they did about six hours later, but the news was not good. They themselves only had records back to 1986 and other sources had no records. As a result we can get no further with the saga of the lost medals. Pity.

In return for all the information from Australia I was asked to try to find out more about Frederick Bell's English period after his forced retirement. I knew that the address where he and his second wife lived prior to their removal to Bristol was 'Darklands', Symonds Yat, Hereford. Back in 1952, when they moved to Bristol, Symonds Yat lay right on the border of Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. Monmouthshire and Herefordshire no longer exist as separate counties. Where was I to turn? I put off the decision until mid May when I rang the General Property Services of Bristol City Council. They were a bit bemused by my request for help as to where to look for information; nevertheless after some internal consultations they suggested that I rang Gwent County Council, since they thought that Symonds Yat was now in that domain. BT rapidly gave me the correct phone number and, again after some internal discussions in which it became clear that Gwent had no records, they gave me the number of the Hereford Record Office which still exists as a separate entity in spite of the county now being Hereford and Worcester. I rang and told them the information that I was trying to gain about Frederick Bell. There and then they checked the Electoral Registers but with no result; they next turned to *Kelly's Directory* for 1941 and discovered that Frederick Bell, presumably with his first wife who died in 1944, lived at 'Pengwyn', Symonds Yat. They also told me that a Mrs Cracklow was living at 'Darklands', Symonds Yat. (Mrs Cracklow was Frederick Bell's second wife whom he married in 1945). They then checked the 1934 Directory and established that both Frederick Bell and Mrs Cracklow were at the respective same addresses. Unfortunately the next oldest Kelly's that they had was for 1922 when I knew that Frederick Bell was still in Kenya. All of this Hereford information came over the phone in the course of about 20 minutes.

It thus appears that Frederick Bell lived in Symonds Yat, a very beautiful part of the world incidentally, at least from 1934. Initially he was with his first wife whom he married in London in 1922. She died in 1944 and about a year later he married Mrs Cracklow, a widow whom he must have known for many years since they both lived in the same small village. When his first wife died he moved into 'Darklands', owned by Mrs Cracklow and it was for this reason that she and not he purchased the house in Bristol. Whether he ever owned 'Pengwyn' or merely rented, I don't know.

I now regard Frederick Bell's story as complete. If there are ever funds from Australia then these will clearly go towards the refurbishment of the grave. In the meantime I hope to be able to do some fund raising myself.

Appendix—Letter dated 10 August 1901 from Frederick Bell.

The following to his parents was originally published in *The West Australian Mercury* of 21 October 1901.

The contingent have had a tough time but are recompensed by the results of same, taking in all 50 prisoners, innumerable wagons, cattle horses and sheep; also mealie and foodstuff. This morning we left Ermelo after spending yesterday there in collecting the inhabitants who were the Boers' best friends. We fought a pretty severe rearguard action coming away; as we evacuated, the enemy again going in and following us to this camp, the strength of the commando being 800. Many handsome buildings we were compelled to burn, and last night was unique in my experience. Imagine a dozen houses at least in blaze at one time; and again our column camped on the outskirts having huge bonfire concerts with instruments looted from the adjacent houses including at least five pianos among the different regiments everybody enjoying the scene and life and merriment prevailing on all sides. Such a sight is not easily forgotten and no doubt the night of 10 August 1901 will live a long time in our memories. A few nights since we had the good fortune to bag 25 prisoners. Marching all night we surrounded a farm just as dawn was breaking. We fixed bayonets and charged with a yell with the result of capturing without a shot. Some trouble was experienced in getting them out of the houses but a few men with cold steel worked wonders. They were, indeed, a motley lot and strange to say amongst them were some old enemies of ours whom we had previously met at Brakpan. We identified them by saddlery wearing apparel etc. etc. taken from the killed at that place. One man was also wearing a ring our men recognised as belonging to a dead comrade. Our prisoner tried very hard to hide himself in the roof; it was funny to see them poked out of hiding with a bayonet. In this capture as Tommy would say, 'we got our own back'.

We are now on route to Carolina and on arrival there expect a good mail. In regard to letters lately captured at Reits, I can place very little reliance on them. The prisoners taken assure us that Botha has not the least intention of giving up. This trek we have been in a lot of the same country as when with Kitchener. The third night out we secured 18 prisoners in the same manner as before mentioned. This portion of the Transvaal is now one burnt out and blackened mass. The want of grass is beginning to tell on the Boers cattle and horses; those captured by us are many of them in poor condition. Only this morning we shot over 50 wild ones driven in by us and found to be useless. A few words in reference to the contingent. The men have now thoroughly settled down to the work and are beginning to understand the wily burgher and his many varied and own peculiar ways of fighting; they have not had, as predicted in the first, a huge picnic. Hard work and plenty of fighting have been the general thing intermingling with severe night marches in the biting cold. There are few things more fatiguing or trying than the latter. How entirely different everything now is when compared with the general advance of eighteen months ago.

Unless actually experienced, very few can form any idea of what a prolonged and severe campaign like this really means. Country, one devastated burnt and blackened mass; home and belongings consigned to the flames, as each column winds along; cattle, sheep and livestock either destroyed or driven in; families given short notice to leave their all and come along after watching the destruction of homes they have known since childhood. I am not, in the least, an admirer of the Boer or his ways, but, taking all these things into consideration, I cannot censure him for killing as many of us as possible. What would Englishmen, or Australians do under the same conditions as our enemies but fight to the last? Blood is thicker than water. Even so, we cannot but admire the Dutch women for their loyalty, self-sacrifice and devotion they have shown to the men fighting against us; now alas, for them, a forlorn cause. Small skirmishes are now the order of the day. The Boers are now broken up into small parties. Nevertheless, they cause us plenty of hard work, with

minimum risk to themselves; knowing every nook and corner as they do, it is a simple matter for them to evade us. Night work appears the only way of surprising them as, owing to the intensely cold weather, they are compelled to take shelter in some of the farms. Snipe, snipe, snipe from ridge to ridge, and so the rearguard usually gets it. Guerrilla warfare is now the correct term. From information, gleaned from recent prisoners bagged, this struggle seems no nearer termination than it was twelve months ago. The man who changeth not is the Australian soldier. He goes his way happy in the possession of loot and a good horse and although, perhaps, the weight of a little pig or, perchance a duck on the saddle tells on his mount, he fights none the worse for it. The latest scheme has been collecting kaffirs, the spectacle of a regiment of niggers of all ages and descriptions, from the picaninny to the aged gin with not enough clothing amongst them to make a decent dishcloth, is indeed funny. So they do their daily march in rear of the convoy, carrying their worldly belongings with them. One of the most striking features of the campaign is the necessary destruction of yoke oxen, horses, mules etc. These poor dumb brutes are forced along until they drop from sheer exhaustion, being then shot and left to rot. When I tell you I have seen as many as twenty oxen drop on one march, you will form some idea of the number required; horses even in greater proportion are destroyed. Good old John Bull is ever ready with a fresh one: his purse strings are being pulled severely, however

Something out of the ordinary I witnessed the other evening. We had collected a number of Dutch women and children. It being Sunday night in camp, they asked permission to sing hymns. On being granted them, and after going through well known 'Sankey's', assisted by our own Tommies they sang 'Where is my wandering boy tonight?', first in their own tongue and then in ours. This last would have been quite as successful as the former only our fellows would be original and substitute the word 'girl' in lieu of 'boy' which caused the ladies after singing the Dutch National Anthem to retire and so the proceedings ended with 'God Save the King' from the lusty throats of three or four hundred Britishers. Probably you are wondering where the Boers' supplies are coming from and how he exists. 'Tis a simple matter, for every farm there are at least two kaffir kraals until quite recently these have been left intact by us notwithstanding they all contained large supplies of mealies, millet etc. As the Boer believes in Might before Right, the consequence is that the kaffir has to part with his stock. We are the sufferers. In addition to this his cattle are unmolested with the result of the Boer coming behind and helping himself. There are supplies hidden in the country to keep them for many months to come. We are continually bringing to light such things. A favourite place for hiding different articles is their graveyards shaping the earth so as to resemble a newly made grave. We make some very fair finds in these places; also in the rocks and on the banks of streams we dig up loot of all descriptions.

A rather amusing incident occurred prior to leaving Ermelo. I was behind with a small post. It appears that two privates remained in town after the column had moved out, with the result of the Boers coming in on top of them. As they only had one horse they tossed a coin as to who would remain behind, whilst the other took his chance of running the gauntlet. The man who decided to ride for it had a bad time for, as he approached me I gave my men the order for volleys, never dreaming he was one of our own men as I knew the enemy to be in the town. By his waving and shouting I saw something was amiss and let him approach. Fortunately he was not hit only scared. The man who was compelled to remain was wounded and taken prisoner, being subsequently released and arriving at camp the same evening. Both belonged to the Scottish Horse.

British Opposition to the Boer War 1899-1902

David Vivian

This article is an attempt to look at the Second Boer War 1899-1902 from the angle of the British 'home front'.¹ In this the focus is largely on those elements of the Liberal Party that were dubbed 'pro-Boer'. Some attention will also be given to some British left wing critics of the war. It is certainly not possible to do full justice here to the large and complex question of those Britons who opposed the Boer War. I am very much aware of the gaps in this article, particularly as regards those in the Liberal Party who strongly supported the war. However this article seeks to draw together some of the material on this subject that is to be found in the many fine histories of the Boer War. In attempting to do this I hope to be able to present another aspect of this terrible, but fascinating, conflict.

Many people in Britain in the 1890s felt an extreme confidence in their country. It has been written that Britons felt a 'careless supremacy'² in relation to the rest of the world at this time. Many Britons believed their country to be in the vanguard of human progress. Empire was seen by many as an obligation placed upon Britain to spread the benefits of civilisation. Many of these beliefs about empire solidified into what came to be called the 'New Imperialism' in the 1890s.³ In relation to South Africa it is not hard to see that President Paul Kruger's Transvaal would have seemed an affront to the march of progress. Particularly as it was portrayed by Lord Alfred Milner, British High Commissioner in South Africa since 1897. In this vein Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle wrote in 1901 that 'to change the habits of the most conservative of Teutonic races was a dangerous venture' and that '[the Boers] were all of the Seventeenth century, except their rifles'.⁴ It is not hard to see a sense of irony in the last three words. Thus the origins of the Second Boer War have an aspect of the irresistible force (British belief in progress) meeting the immovable object (the stubborn resistance of the Boers). Yet a section of the British population was unhappy about the way men like Milner and Joseph Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary in Lord Salisbury's Conservative-Unionist government, which had swept into office in 1895, appeared to be conducting affairs in South Africa. Imperial strategists had long come to see the Transvaal as the key to South Africa as a whole. It was felt that the Transvaal posed a threat to British paramouncy in South Africa. Imperialists like Cecil Rhodes had long desired to see Southern Africa federated under a British flag.⁵ Men like Milner and Chamberlain appeared to be pushing the Transvaal towards war; an event that could only attract attention. To the British public, Chamberlain became 'Pushful Joe' the 'Minister for Empire'.⁶ Many would have called him this with satisfaction—a few would not have. Radical Liberal MP Henry Labouchere, in an article written in 1896 discussing the Jameson Raid, stated that:

¹ My thanks to Mr Don Pedler for his pertinent criticism.

² B Tuchman, *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World before the War 1890-1914*, Macmillan, London, 1985, 30

³ J Morris, *Farewell the Trumpets: An Imperial Retreat*, Penguin, Middlesex, 1981, 29,55,58-59.

⁴ A Conan-Doyle, *The Great Boer War*, Smith, Elder and Co., London, 1901, 6,66

⁵ T R H Davenport, *South Africa: A Modern History*, (3rd Ed) Macmillan, London, 1987. 207; R. Kruger, *Goodbye Dolly Gray*, Pan, London, 1983,21.

⁶ Tuchman, 1985, 56

If the events of the past few weeks have not opened the eyes of Englishmen at large to the character of the patriots and heroes who have too long ruled the roost in South Africa, our boasted national common sense must indeed be a pitiful sham.⁷

While he is discussing Rhodes and Jameson it is perhaps not too much to suggest that people like Labouchere would have included Milner and Chamberlain in the above mentioned 'patriots and heroes'. In fact even before the war began Salisbury's government worried that a South African war would not find general favour with the public.⁸ Thus it was not with an entirely easy conscience that Britain went to war in 1899. Barbara Tuchman wrote that there was a sense of 'ignoble motive'⁹ about fighting in South Africa, a suggestion that the reasons for the war fell well below Britain's lofty imperial ideals. Many members of the Liberal Party were not happy with the development of the 'New Imperialism' of the 1890s. Some were upset by this type of imperialism being linked with the less savoury face of capitalism, even if they did not believe that capitalism was a central cause of the war.¹⁰ It will soon be shown that some saw the capitalist angle as the complete motive for the war. As is implied above many Liberals were not opposed to imperialism. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Party's leader in the House of Commons, considered himself an imperialist—but was against a brash, arrogant 'grabbing' imperialism.¹¹ The philosopher Herbert Spencer stated in a letter at the time that 'national honour is not advanced by putting down the weak'.¹² In fact the element of the Liberal Party that was to be truly 'Pro-Boer', the Liberal Party being very divided, were the 'reactionary' elements of the Party. These were the older members who wanted to hark back to the old ideals and values of the Gladstonian past.¹³ What they were reacting against was the arrogance and brashness that Campbell-Bannerman found so upsetting. Beatrice Webb believed that the Liberals under Campbell-Bannerman retreated into that Gladstonian past.¹⁴

By the end of the war some Liberals came to believe that the 'New Imperialism' was more likely to weaken the Empire than strengthen it. Labour MP Kier Hardie expressed well what many Liberals would have agreed with 'You cannot build an Empire of free peoples by force'.¹⁵

As has been noted above some Liberals were unhappy with the way imperialism was linked with the unpleasant face of capitalism. Labouchere felt that the imperialism of a Rhodes was little more than a cover for financial expansion.¹⁶ Other, left wing, critics would go further than this and say that the war had little to do with imperialism and everything to do with capitalism. Some left wing commentators felt that an unjust war was being waged on behalf of capitalism in South Africa.¹⁷ It is not the place here to debate whether they were right or wrong in this assumption, but it cannot be denied that the mining magnates of South Africa, the 'Randlords', were open to such charges. The economist J A Hobson wrote that the whole war was fought to 'place a small international

⁷ Quoted in A L Thorold, *The Life of Henry Labouchere*, Constable and Company, Ltd., London, 1913, 390

⁸ B Porter 'The Pro-Boers in Britain', in P Warwick (Ed), *The South African War: The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*, Longman, London, 1980, 239

⁹ Tuchman, 1985, 58.

¹⁰ Porter, 1980, 244.

¹¹ J Wilson, *C.B.: A Life of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*, Constable, London, 1973, 305

¹² Quoted in M Davitt, *The Boers Fight for Freedom*, Funk and Wagnalls, Co., New York and London, 1902, 49

¹³ Porter, 1980, 247

¹⁴ Wilson, 1973, 347

¹⁵ Quoted in Wilson, 1973, 252

¹⁶ Thorold, 1913, 393

¹⁷ Porter, 1980, 243

oligarchy of mine-owners and speculators in power in Pretoria'.¹⁸ In a similar vein an earlier pamphlet making reference to the formulation of Uitlander grievances stated:

The dignity of the Uitlander cause suffers from exposure of its earliest origin in the business-room of Messrs. Eckstein and Company's 'Corner House'¹⁹ in Johannesburg.²⁰

Thus if Liberal Party critics of the war were unhappy about the unfolding of a new, ugly, type of imperialism in South Africa, which was linked to the ugly side of capitalism, left wing critics were ready to see a sinister conspiracy. Hobson saw a press conspiracy at work in South Africa and Britain which had as its aim the, 'conquest of the Government and the conscience of Great Britain'.²¹ A consideration of the popular press would take up more space than is available here, perhaps all we need to say here is that for people like Hobson the 'Randlords' would have succeeded extremely well in this 'conquest'. While no doubt the 'Randlords' would have used their considerable power to further their own ends, critics like Hobson seem to have forgotten that the 'Randlords', the British ones at least, may have believed in the Imperial mission as much as the advocates of the 'New Imperialism' at home. This is certainly true of a man like Cecil Rhodes. It is interesting to note that some at the 'Corner House' actually wanted to preserve the Transvaal's independence as they did not want it to become a place of exclusively British investment.²²

However, regardless of how right or wrong these critics were, both in the Liberal Party and on the left, what they believed to be true is important here. What they believed caused them to be nothing but critical of policies in South Africa before and during the war. Thus it can be said that when Tommy Atkins marched away to South Africa in 1899 he did not go with everyone's blessing.

By September 1900 many in Britain felt that the war was as good as over. The Orange Free State had been annexed on 24 May 1900 and the Transvaal on 1 September 1900. Yet the war was just entering its ugly, bitter guerrilla phase which was to drag on until 31 May 1902. In Britain, politics became increasingly bitter as the war dragged on. In the so called 'Khaki Election' of October 1900, called by Salisbury's government, but not with the full support of the Prime Minister, to capitalise on the supposed ending of the war, feelings ran very high. This built on antagonisms that had been growing for months. For example, earlier in 1900 the outspoken Liberal MP David Lloyd-George had to be protected by police from an angry crowd in Glasgow because of 'Pro-Boer' comments he had made.²³ It is not hard to see why a 'Pro-Boer' like Lloyd-George would have attracted such animosity. What in peace time is 'grumbling' rapidly becomes 'treason' in war time. Indeed a strong critic of British policy in South Africa like Henry Labouchere had the charge of treason thrown at him on account of letters he had written to F W Reitz, former President of the Orange Free State and after 1897 State Secretary of the Transvaal, before the outbreak of war.²⁴ The 'Khaki Election' was to be a very bitter and dirty one.

Joseph Chamberlain set the tone of the election with the government campaign slogan of 'Every seat lost to the government is a seat gained by the Boers'.²⁵ Thus Chamberlain promoted, no doubt deliberately, a misconception of what it was to be a 'Pro-Boer'. This was of advantage because the

¹⁸ J A Hobson, *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects*, James Nisbet and Co., Ltd., London, 1900, 197.

¹⁹ This name for the company of 'Randlord' Hermann Eckstein derived from the fact that Eckstein's offices were on the corner of Simmonds and Commissioner Streets in Johannesburg. See, G. Wheatcroft, *The Randlords: The Men who made South Africa*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1985, 8.

²⁰ F Parker, *Arbitration or War?*, Harrison and Sons, London, 1899,40.

²¹ Hobson, 1900, 215.

²² Davenport, 1987, 209.

²³ Kruger, 1983, 369-370

²⁴ Thorold, 1913, 404, 411 A son of F. W. Reitz, Deneys Reitz, wrote the book *Commando* which is without doubt one of the classics of Boer War literature.

²⁵ W S Churchill, *My Early Life: A Roving Commission*, Fontana, London, 1972 (1930), 361

Liberal Party had set the character of the anti-war movement.²⁶ Campbell-Bannerman summed up well the feelings of many people erroneously labelled as 'Pro-Boer'. He stated 'I have never uttered a pro-Kruger word: I have been anti-Joe but never pro-Kruger'.²⁷ Regardless of what Campbell-Bannerman said many, including Chamberlain, did not believe him or did not want to believe him. It has been stated that Chamberlain wanted a mandate to continue his policies and to be in charge of the peace in South Africa. A Liberal victory, to his mind, would have allowed the survival of 'Krugerism' thus wrecking the federation plans he had for South Africa.²⁸ No doubt Chamberlain would have remembered that a previous federation plan for Southern Africa had been in tatters by 1881.

It has been seen above that British politics tended towards violence at times and certainly the verbal violence in the House of Commons became increasingly bitter. This was something that was to last until the end of the war. The Liberal Party was very divided by the war, so much so that Chamberlain claimed that they had as many 'opinions as a caterpillar has legs'.²⁹ Yet the very savagery of Chamberlain's attacks on the Liberals during and after the 'Khaki Election' caused some of the Liberals to close ranks.³⁰ Winston Churchill suggested that the 'Liberal and Radical masses' rallied to their parties because they felt that the war was over by October 1900.³¹ While no doubt true, one cannot help feeling that this 'rallying' was also a result of the savagery of Chamberlain's tongue. Yet it needs to be stressed that some Liberals (the Liberal Imperialists) supported the war and sided with the government on this issue. An example of this is shown in the fact that the Liberals who ran against Churchill in the 'Khaki Election' supported the war but were critical of the government's competence in running it. Churchill commented: 'The Liberals, it appeared, would have made quite a different set of mistakes'.³² The result of the election was that the Conservative-Unionist government was returned with much the same margin as it had before.³³ Thus it was a severe defeat for the Liberals and in reaching this electoral result many enemies had been made in British politics. One of the reasons why bitterness manifested itself in British politics and stayed until, at least, the end of the war was the anger aroused over the methods being employed in South Africa. Reports of farm burnings and conditions in the Concentration Camps shocked many in Britain. Irishman Michael Davitt called the British a 'callous and unmanly foe ... [who waged war] ... upon the helpless as well as the combative section of the two republics'.³⁴ Emily Hobhouse's reports on conditions in the Concentration Camps caused many people much concern in Britain.³⁵ One person who was concerned was Campbell-Bannerman. Hobhouse wrote that of all the people she spoke to in Britain it was he who, 'seemed to have the leisure and the determination to hear and understand everything'.³⁶ Hobhouse opened up to him like she had to nobody else. What Campbell-Bannerman learnt shocked him greatly. One cannot help thinking that British people with a conscience must have not only been shocked but also confused by the events in South Africa. How could a nation so attuned to 'progress' act in such a way and cause such hardships to

²⁶ Porter, 1980, 244.

²⁷ Quoted in Wilson, 1973, 327.

²⁸ Kruger, 1983, 367.

²⁹ Kruger, 1983, 369.

³⁰ Wilson, 1973, 344

³¹ Churchill, 1972, 363

³² Churchill, 1973, 364.

³³ Kruger, 1983, 372.

³⁴ Davitt, 1902, 592

³⁵ After the war the official archivist of the Transvaal government gave the figure of white deaths in the concentration camps as 27,927 of which the vast majority were women and children. British records put the number of deaths slightly lower at about 20,000. Black African deaths in such camps were officially put at 14,154. See, E Lee, *To the Bitter End: A Photographic History of the Boer War 1899-1902*, Penguin, Middlesex, 1986, 186; Davensort, 1987, 221

³⁶ E Hobhouse, *Boer War Letters*, Edited by Rykie van Reenan, Human and Rousseau, Capetown, 1984, 125

occur? These first years of the Twentieth Century must have caused many British people to re-think a lot of old assumptions. However, shock sometimes becomes anger and nowhere was this anger more eloquently expressed than by Campbell-Bannerman in his famous speech in the House of Commons in which he stated, 'When is war not a war? When it is carried on by methods of barbarism in South Africa'³⁷—words of much bitterness and anger indeed, but we shall see that they also contain an element of healing in them.

In the peace negotiations at Vereeniging it is possible to see some of the effect that the 'Pro-Boer' lobby had on the war. A platform of some 'Pro-Boer' agitation was a demand for a negotiated settlement to end the war.³⁸ Campbell-Bannerman in December 1900 had attacked the idea of unconditional surrender and had called for generous treatment of the Boers.³⁹ The governments attitude to the war was one of no negotiations with the Republics; if the Boers surrendered they would be treated well, but the Republics themselves would be 'blotted out'.⁴⁰

By the end of the war some Boers felt that the British wanted to do more than just 'blot out' the Republics. Some believed that the war had become a grisly one of extermination. However, a few Boers could come to Vereeniging with some hope of reconciliation with the British. For this the 'Pro-Boer' lobby could claim some credit. It has been stated above that Campbell-Bannerman's famous speech had an element of healing in it. It gave the Boer's hope that not all British were aggressive imperialists like Milner and Chamberlain. Indeed General Louis Botha commented in 1909: 'Three words made peace and union in South Africa—"methods of barbarism"'.⁴¹ Yet there is a suggestion that the 'Pro-Boer' lobby may have had another, less helpful, effect on conditions in South Africa. Clause Eight of the Peace Agreement stated that no question of extending political rights to black people would be undertaken until self-government had been restored in the republics,⁴² this, in effect, allowed the Boers to decide the future political role of black people. It has been said that Britain could have given political rights to black people at this time had it wanted to but did not do so. One reason given for this is that the 'Pro-Boer' groups had caused so much sympathy for the wrongs done to the Boers that they should be compensated at the expense of other groups.⁴³

Black-white relations have not been touched on before in this article as the Boer War was in many ways a war fought to decide which white group in South Africa would have power. In fact General J C Smuts had informed black people during the course of the war that it did not concern them.⁴⁴ Thus in taking up and championing the plight of the Boers in the face of an imperialism that many 'Pro-Boers' felt uneasy with they may have helped to pave the ground for reconciliation between whites, but it cannot be denied that this may have been at the expense of any hope of black-white reconciliation.

At the close of the war the 'Pro-Boers' emerged with a good reputation.⁴⁵ Many people had grown sick of the war as it dragged on and one cannot help thinking that many Britons would have been glad to have the war ended not so much because they had won, but because it was finally over. Public opinion now swung to support Campbell-Bannerman (he eventually became Prime Minister

³⁷ Quoted in Wilson, 1973, 349.

³⁸ Porter, 1980, 250.

³⁹ Wilson, 1973, 340

⁴⁰ Churchill, 1972, 361

⁴¹ Quoted in Wilson, 1973, 359-360

⁴² P Warwick, *Black People and the South African War 1899, 1902*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1983, 164

⁴³ Davenport, 1987, 223

⁴⁴ Warwick, 1983, 26.

⁴⁵ Porter, 1980, 255.

in 1906) as people came to realise that he had largely been right about the war and had had the courage to speak out about it.⁴⁶ Those in the Liberal Party, and others, who had been labelled 'traitors' and 'Pro-Boer' were really neither. They were people, particularly in the Liberal Party, who were deeply worried about the type of imperialism that their country was developing which had led them into a war in South Africa that rapidly became brutal. Perhaps some who would have abused such people as 'traitors' in 1899 may have come to agree with them in 1902. It has been stated that a kind of 'liberal' imperialism triumphed from the war.⁴⁷ Thus in 1902 a great potential for healing the rifts in British society and politics existed. The bitterness and wounds of this war were, sadly, not to be so easily healed in South Africa.

The Military Historical Society of Australia

Federal Council

Notice of 1997 Annual General Meeting

Monday 25 August 1997

RSL Club Civic

7.30 pm

⁴⁶ Wilson, 1973, 390.

⁴⁷ Porter, 1980, 255

The service heritage of the Honourable Austin Asche AC 15th Administrator of the Northern Territory, 1993-1996

Major Paul Rosenzweig ADC¹

Darwin has always been something of a Service town. The current Defence Force build-up, and the Army Presence in the North (APIN) project, are really nothing new in a town which had to raise a Cable Guard in 1911 to protect Darwin's Cable Station from German raiders. The Northern Territory gained its first real experience of APIN with the establishment of the 'Darwin Detachment' in September 1932, which was responsible for building fortifications, including two 6-inch Mark VII guns at East Point and two guns at Emery Point, and quarters on the headland behind Emery and Elliott Points.²

More men came to Darwin on 20 September 1933 on the steamer *SS Marella*, to establish a permanent garrison as part of an imperial strategy to contain the Japanese.³ They combined with the men of the Detachment to form the 9th Heavy Battery RAA⁴—known simply by all as the 'Darwin Garrison', first commanded by Major Cyril Albert Clowes DSO MC. The men of the Garrison had the task of finishing work on the coastal defences and assisting with construction of Larrakeyah Barracks, named after the original inhabitants of the area, the Larrakia. By December 1942, there were 32,000 Australian troops in the NT, and 5,000 US soldiers, an indication of the enormity of the defence build-up.

There was a strong association between Government House Darwin and the Services at this time. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hunter Weddell VD was Administrator,⁵ a former Captain of Melbourne's Scotch College Cadet Corps, Captain in the 7th Battalion AIF⁶ and later its Commanding Officer, and Intelligence Officer until 1926 and then again during World War 2. His successor, as the 4th Administrator of the Northern Territory, was the Honourable Aubrey Abbott. Abbott had served as a Private in the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force in German New Guinea, then with the 12th Australian Light Horse Regiment AIF at Gallipoli (as a Corporal at first but later commissioned in the field), the Sinai (where he was wounded-in-action), Palestine and Syria. He demobilised in 1918 with the rank of Captain.

¹ Aide to the Administrator of the Northern Territory, and author of the book, *The House of Seven Gables. A History of Government House, Darwin*, published in 1996 by the Historical Society of the Northern Territory, PO Box 40544, Casuarina, NT, 0811. Formerly a reconnaissance troop commander and squadron 2IC in the North West Mobile Force, and currently Officer Commanding Army Reserve Recruiting Component - Darwin.

² Comprised 5 officers and 42 men of the RAA and RAE under the command of Lt Col T R Williams, and administered by the 1st Military District (Queensland).

³ Comprised 3 officers and 29 other ranks.

⁴ The engineer detachment under Lieutenant R R McNicholl was designated 7th Fortress Company in 1936.

⁵ Administrator of the Northern Territory since 12 June 1931, after the *Northern Australia Act* 1926, which had established the separate Territories of North and Central Australia, was repealed by the Scullin Government on 11 June.

⁶ Notably commanding the two lead companies in the attack on Krithia on 8 May 1915, in which the battalion occupied a front of about 500 metres in the assault, from which Weddell was the only surviving officer (See Bean, C E W (1924) *The Story of Anzac. Volume 2*. AWMC, pp. 24-43).

Appointed on 29 March 1937, Abbott arrived in Darwin on April 19th, and one of his first public duties was to inspect the Darwin Garrison,⁷ on parade by the Cenotaph in Liberty Square, just outside the front fence of Government House. One of the young Lieutenants, posted as the 'Works' officer at Larrakeyah Barracks, was Lieutenant A T 'Dinger' Bell. He recalled:

"The Garrison, as it was called, led by our esteemed CO then Lt Col W W Whittle had a great respect for the Administrator A Abbott and for his control of his house. At that time Darwin was very much a frontier town full of amazing characters including some notable rogues. Much of it was in the style and behaviour of the outback. The Administrator's House constituted an island of calm in this often troubled sea".⁸

The association between Government House, Darwin and the Services, and the military backgrounds of some Northern Territory Residents and Administrators, has previously been discussed in a previous edition of *Sabretache*.⁹ Upon his retirement after serving as the 15th Administrator of the Northern Territory, it is worth now reflecting on the military background of the Honourable Austin Asche AC, who has been a witness to the two big APIN projects in the Top End, in the 1930s and then again in the 1990s.



Austin Asche's heritage actually dates well back to the Viking era. More recently however, his paternal great-great-grandfather was Thomas von Asche, who first served as a hussar at Copenhagen at the start of the 19th century. He was then commissioned and served as a Second Lieutenant in the Norwegian Army. On taking retirement from the army, he married Johanne Frederikke Schou in 1813 and they settled on a farm at Brutnu near Ullensaker which Thomas had inherited. Thomas von Asche died in 1826, thirteen days after the birth of his sixth child, which they named Thomas, and he was buried on the same day that young Thomas was christened.¹⁰

Thomas Asche (1826-1898) graduated from the University of King Frederick in Christiania (now Oslo) in 1851. In April 1854, he sailed for Australia and arrived in Melbourne on 27 August 1854. He first served as a mounted trooper but then sought his fortune on the goldfields of Ballarat and Bendigo, as a miner, shopkeeper and then hotelkeeper—running 'The Scandinavian'. He was naturalised in 1862 and married an Australian girl, Jane Wier, who died in 1863. In 1866 he re-married, to Harriet Trear, daughter of Colonel William Trear of the Life Guards. A son of this second marriage was Oscar Asche, one of the best known Shakespearean actors of his generation, who wrote, produced and directed the famous musical *Chu Chin Chow*. Thomas Asche was a Geelong City councillor, owner of Mack's Hotel in Geelong, the Union Club Hotel on the corner of Collins and Market Streets, Melbourne, the Royal Hotel in George Street, Sydney and then the Imperial Hotel in Wynyard Square. John Frederick William Asche, a child of the first marriage, married Lucy Rebecca Wilson, and a son of theirs was Eric Thomas Asche (1894-1940), born in Armadale, Victoria on 20 March 1894.¹¹ Eric was educated at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School and commenced a law degree at Melbourne University, in the same classes as Robert Menzies.

⁷ At this time, the Darwin Garrison had a strength of just 4 officers and 84 other ranks commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Wilford William Whittle. The four 6-inch guns had been installed, an anti-aircraft battery had been installed at Elliott Point, and Larrakeyah Barracks was operational.

⁸ Brigadier A T Bell (retd), pers comm, 3 March 1993.

⁹ Rosenzweig, P A, "The Retirement of the Honourable J H Muirhead AC QC", *Sabretache*, XXXIV (January/March 1993): 13-22.

¹⁰ Blake, L, *Tales from old Geelong*. Neptune Press, 1979, p.74.

¹¹ *Liber Melburniensis, Centenary Edition*. MCEGS, 1965.

His mother denied him permission to enlist in the AIF as his elder brother was already serving, so during the early stages of World War I Eric served with the Young Men's Christian Association. He was a Red Triangle worker in camps in NSW from December 1915 to March 1916. He then embarked as a YMCA Military Representative attached to the Australian Imperial Force in Egypt from April to December 1916.¹² He was commended for his "whole-hearted enthusiasm in the service of the Australian soldiers", and was described by the Sydney YMCA's General Secretary as "a high souled Patriot".¹³ He returned to Australia and enlisted



Lance-Bombardier Eric Asche MM, circa 1918

in the Australian Imperial Force on 30 April 1917, being allotted to the 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade with the rank of Gunner and number 38053. When Asche joined the Brigade in France, they were on the march from the Hindenburg Line to Belgium and were then in action at Zillebeke Lake near Ypres, Paschaendaele Ridge, Anzac Ridge and Messines.

By August 1918, the Australians were paramount during assaults on the German line, driving along both sides of the Somme Valley to Mont St Quentin and the Hindenburg Line trenches themselves. The Australians led an Allied offensive against the outer Hindenburg defences—from St Quentin Tunnel to Montbrehain—breaking into the third and final layer of the Hindenburg Line. Asche joined the 2nd Battery on 28 August as a

signaller, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery when he kept up communications after heavy shell fire, at Villeret in the vicinity of St Quentin Canal on the night of 28/29 September 1918 and the day following.

Gunners Asche and Moreton maintained communications by laying a ground line from Group Headquarters near Villeret to an Observation Post on the ridge facing Bellicourt. They carried

¹² Mr J Henry Lang, YMCA National General Secretary, 30 September 1919.

¹³ Mr W Gillanders, General Secretary, YMCA of Sydney, NSW, 3 October 1919.

the line forward to Riqueval as the infantry of the 30th American Division and 5th Australian Divisions advanced, under a heavy and continuous artillery barrage. They were required to make about thirty repairs in the line, under constant machine-gun fire as well as shell fire. This entire operation resulted in the capture of the Hindenburg Line and the villages of Bellicourt and Nauroy. The citation for Asche and Moreton concluded with the commendation:

‘Their coolness in patrolling and mending the line alone, enabled the FOO [Forward Observation Officer] to get valuable information as to the progress of Infantry back to Group Headquarters. Throughout the whole operation their behaviour was exemplary and courageous’.¹⁴

Asche was later wounded and gassed at Etricourt on 3 October 1918, and suffered from this for the rest of his life. In early 1919 a number of men were sent to England for demobilisation, the horses and mules were sold by public auction in Mettet, Belgium, and those men remaining moved to Chatelineau and thence to England and into camp at Longbridge, Deverill. When the Brigade embarked on the *Konig Friederick August* at Davenport on 20 June, Asche remained in England and completed a BA degree in Jurisprudence at Magdalen College, Oxford, with Distinction in Shortened Honours. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in April 1920. He was discharged from the AIF on 27 May 1920 with the rank of Lance-Bombadier, and returned to Australia on 26 March 1921. In the intervening period, however, he gave up his intention of completing a Bachelor of Civil Law and PhD, and instead had travelled with the Red Cross to assist during the famines in Poland and Russia.

Upon his return to Melbourne, he completed his studies at Melbourne University to gain his Bachelor of Law (LLB) in 1922, and was admitted to the Victorian Bar. From 1921, he was a Legal Assistant in the Secretary’s Office of the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department, in Melbourne at first and then in Canberra. On 24 February 1925, in the Chapel of Melbourne Grammar School, Eric married Beryl Woinarski. Beryl also came from a European family with a record of military service. Her grandfather was Captain George Gustavus Zichy-Woinarski (1825-1891), the great-grandson of a Hungarian Count named Zichy whose son came to live in Cieszyn in Polish Silesia.¹⁵ George Zichy-Woinarski was a Polish lawyer, a graduate of Lvov University, and was then an officer in Kossuth’s rebel army during the Hungarian Revolution. From about October 1848, he was Aide-de-Camp to Prince Woroniecki who commanded a Polish Legion in Zips and Upper Hungary, under the command of the Hungarian nationalist Lajos Kossuth. Before long, General Joseph Bem assumed supreme command over all Hungarian forces in Transylvania, and Prince Woroniecki’s Polish Legion was incorporated into Bem’s Army. Zichy-Woinarski became a Liaison Officer between Kossuth and the Commander-in-Chief, and is reputed to have participated in a total of sixteen battles.

After the war, Zichy-Woinarski was held in various internment camps in Turkey, and in 1851 was sentenced to death in absentia by the Austrian Government, but by this time had already escaped and made his way to England, living in a barracks in Liverpool. The following year he migrated to Australia, arriving in Melbourne on 9 September 1852, where he joined other veterans of the Polish Legion on the goldfields. He ran ‘The Polish Store’ near Maryborough and then in Ballarat, where he married, and then at Taradale, and was naturalised in 1863. It is an interesting coincidence that both Austin Asche and his wife can boast great-grandfathers from the Ballarat goldfields.

¹⁴ 1st AFA Brigade Routine Order No.94 dated 6 November 1918; *London Gazette*, 4th Supplement, No.31405 dated 17 June 1919; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No.115 dated 10 October 1919.

¹⁵ Reitstap, J, *Armorial General des Familles Nobles et Patriciennes de l’Europe*. Gauda, 1861, p.1156.

George Zichy-Woinarski had eight children, several of whom took up careers in medicine or law. One of his sons was later Dr Victor Zichy-Woinarski (1865-1921), who married Gertrude Brind (later MBE), and Beryl was born on 19 May 1896. Dr Zichy-Woinarski gained fame for developing those health-giving potatoes 'Brinds Gin' and 'Brinds Whisky'.¹⁶ Zichy-Woinarski served in the Australian Army Medical Corps as a Medical Officer with the rank of Captain, and saw service overseas in Egypt in 1915-16.

Eric and Beryl Asche's first child was Keith John Austin, who later rose to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and was then Administrator of the Northern Territory, born in Melbourne on 28 November 1925. Beryl had obtained one of the first driving licences granted to a woman in Victoria and for some years had acted as a chauffeur for her father. She enjoyed driving, and Eric Asche's engagement present to her had been a Baby Austin, so Beryl always claimed that her first son was named after her car. He was, in fact, named by his father Eric after the English jurist John Austin (1790-1859), the first Professor of Jurisprudence in England.

From 1926, the family spent a year in Rabaul where Eric was Legal Assistant in the Crown Law Office for the Territory of New Guinea. He was then Crown Law Officer of North Australia, and they arrived in Darwin on SS Marella on 18 February 1928. The family home in Darwin was the grand old residence built on the foreshore by John George Knight in 1883-84, which was known either as 'Knight's Folly' or 'the Mud Hut'.¹⁷ The house burnt down on the night of 31 December 1933, while the family was on holiday in Melbourne, and on their return to Darwin they moved to the newer government housing on Myilly Point. Eric Asche was admitted to practice in North Australia in March 1928, and was appointed Crown Law Officer of North Australia by the Commonwealth Attorney-General under the Judiciary Act, 1903-1920 on 11 June 1928.¹⁸

At this time, since 1927, the Northern Territory had been divided at the 20th parallel by the federal government, into North and Central Australia, each with separate administrations.¹⁹ Eric Asche was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Central Australia on 31 May 1929. However, the Supreme Court did not sit in Alice Springs until 1935, by which time North and Central Australia had been reunited and Eric Asche had been appointed as Crown Law Officer for 'Our Northern Territory of Australia'. He was Crown Prosecutor at the first Supreme Court sittings in Alice Springs on 6 February 1935, and travelled there with Judge Wells and Mr J W Nicholls (the Sheriff) by train and then by De Havilland Dragon.

On 29 April 1930, Eric Asche was with Government Resident for North Australia Robert Weddell, together with the Chief Medical Officer Dr Cecil Cook when Weddell met with a deputation of unemployed men, who were joined by other protesters who forced their way into Weddell's office, bolting and locking the doors behind them. Two of the protesters left and the other nine were forcibly evicted by Police Inspector Stretton and five constables: all eleven were charged with unlawfully imprisoning the Government Resident in his office, and a further fourteen were charged with trespass. After the arrival of Aubrey Abbott as Administrator, the Crown Law Officer's office was adjacent to the Administrator's office, built in the grounds of Government House next to the garage in 1937.

In 1938, suffering from health problems, Eric Asche resigned and took the family to Melbourne where he died on 26 March 1940. Beryl Asche died on 2 May 1970. Of Eric Asche's five chil-

¹⁶ The Hon Austin Asche QC, address to the NT Chamber of Mines & Petroleum Annual Dinner, 23 November 1993.

¹⁷ Refer Rosenzweig, P A, *The House of Seven Gables. A History of Government House, Darwin*. Historical Society of the Northern Territory, 1996.

¹⁸ *North Australia Government Gazette*, 11 June 1928.

¹⁹ The *Northern Australia Act* 1926 had been assented to on 4 June 1926, and the division of the Northern Territory took place by proclamation on 1 March 1927.

dren who survived him, it was perhaps only natural that Austin Asche should continue the family association with the Law. Austin Asche²⁰ attended Darwin Primary School and Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, and then served with the RAAF for two years, 1944-46, as a Leading Aircraftman. He was one of the few on the troop-trains and trucks heading north who was actually pleased to be heading up to Darwin. He first served at No.344 Radar Station on West Montelivet Island off the northwest coast of Western Australia, which used at various times the Australian-made, hand-operated Light Weight Air Warning radars, Mk1, Mk1A, Mk2 and Mk5. This was a particularly remote and isolated post of about 30 men living in tents, which was resupplied every two or three months.

In March 1945 he transferred to No.38 Radar Station at Mitchell Head, near Cape Fourcroy on the southwest tip of Bathurst Island - luxury by comparison to Montelivet because they slept in huts by night and rode the surf by day, crocodiles, sharks, marine stingers and radar duties notwithstanding. The party here had been using an Air Warning radar with 'transportable' tower, though by late 1944 they had the Mk5 Chain Overseas Low Flying radar; they also maintained an ASV (Air to Surface Vessel) beacon for coastal navigation. Though the risk of attack was by this time considered to be low, this was a significant station as its site had previously been used as a navigation assembly point for Japanese aircraft on their way in to Darwin. The story of No.38 Radar Station has been documented and privately published by radar historian Morrie Fenton and Bathurst Island veteran Max (Bill) Counsell.²¹ During the Anniversary celebrations of 1995, Austin Asche recalled that he had been on duty at Cape Fourcroy on VP-Day.

"We had a ration of two bottles [of beer] a week. But I think that was supplemented on that night, and quite a few did not drink and they helped out with their ration ... They all wanted to go home except me. I was the only one who didn't. I didn't care how long I stayed, being an old Territory boy".²²

He related his last adventure of the war, the night of VP-Day when he was on duty on Australia's frontline:

I was on duty that night and made myself very unpopular with our radio operator. He had imbibed freely and dosed down on the Ops Room floor and went soundly to sleep. About 2 am I spotted an incoming plane [on the radar]. With great difficulty I awoke him and insisted that he signal this to base. He was rotable, pointing out in forceful language that the war was over. But I had heard of the incident on 19 February 1942, when an observer at Bathurst [Island] had spotted a large fleet of aircraft heading to Darwin and had reported this to base and been ignored; and this had turned out to be the first Japanese raid on the Australian mainland. My reasoning was simple. The supposed surrender might have been a fiendish trick to lull us into a false sense of security; and this unknown plane, with no IFF, may have been proceeding to Darwin with the Japanese equivalent of the atomic bomb. I was blown if I was going to go down in history as the Radar operator who let it through.

With much grumbling (and some reflections on my sanity and legitimacy), the wireless operator sent the message. Although I pointed out to him that I had possibly saved us both from a court martial and probably a firing squad, he didn't seem the least bit grateful.²³

²⁰ The Honourable Chief Justice Austin Asche, pers comm, 26 May, 20 November 1992; the Honourable Austin Asche AC QC, pers comm, various, 1993-96; Simmonds, E & N Smith (eds), *Echoes over the Pacific*, 1995; *Northern Territory News*, 26, 28 January 1994.

²¹ Fenton, M & M Counsell (eds), *38 Radar Bathurst Island*. 1995. Published by Mr M E Fenton, 27 Lasscock Avenue, Lockleys SA 5032.

²² *Northern Territory News*, 14 August 1995.

²³ Fenton, M & M Counsell (eds), *38 Radar Bathurst Island*. 1995, p.62.

From the start, the indigenous Tiwi people had keenly and willingly assisted with the erection of the tower, and the filling of sandbags which were carried up the 200' hill and placed around the radar. This good rapport with the Tiwis is perhaps not surprising, as it was a Tiwi on neighbouring Melville Island who captured the first Japanese on Australian soil. It was recorded: 'Their support continued through the life of the station'.²⁴ Recalling the events following VP-Day, Austin Asche continued:

"At that stage we had all virtually gone native. The only difference was the Aborigines wore clothes and we didn't. I remember this column of chaps going up to dismantle the 'doover' (radar) every morning and they had boots on and hats on and nothing in between".²⁵

The party was under the command of Flying Officer L B Lyons, who took the sensible view after VP-Day that as long as the men carried out their light duties and maintained some semblance of discipline, they could be accorded some degree of freedom. Austin Asche recalled, "I'm glad to say we didn't abuse his trust and the camp was a happy one".²⁶ They enjoyed relaxed camping expeditions, fishing, surfing and bushwalking, and watched films at an outdoor cinema:

"The entertainment was always enhanced by various ribald and frequently obscene remarks from the audience as the film progressed. Sometimes the remarks were much more entertaining than the film; although the frank expressions of what the hero really had in mind for the heroine tended to destroy the atmosphere of the more romantic love scenes".²⁷

"Ultimately the authorities got around to remembering us" he further noted, and they were flown back into Darwin, and thence south through Alice Springs for discharge. After the war, Austin Asche gained his Bachelor of Law degree from Melbourne University in 1949 and Master of Law in 1950. He practised at the Queensland Bar (1951-54) and later at the Melbourne Bar (1954-75), and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1972. He was later a Member of the RMIT Council (1974-86), with terms as Vice-President (1977-81) and President (1981-83). He was a member, and later Chairman, of the Council of Frankston State College of Victoria, 1973-79, and was Chairman of the Victorian Enquiry into Teacher Education, 1979-80.

In 1976, he was the first Judge in Victoria to become a Judge of the Family Court of Australia, of which Court he became Acting Chief Judge in 1985. He was a Member of the Family Law Council, 1976-79 and Presidential Member of the Institute of Family Studies, 1980-86, while he was also Chancellor of Deakin University, 1983-87. He was Chairman of the Family Law Council Committee which reported to the Federal Attorney-General in 1985 with a report entitled *Creating Children*, suggesting uniform approaches in reproductive technology. His Honour has been a member of Australian College of Education, and was honoured in 1992 to be made a Fellow of the College.

Returning to Darwin in 1986 as a Judge, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory the following year and held that office when Court moved to its new premises. His Honour was Chairman of the University College of the NT (1986-88) and was Chancellor of the Northern Territory University (1989-93). His Honour would be one of the few Australians to have been Chancellor of two universities (Deakin and NTU); indeed it could be argued that the score is really three since, when President of RMIT, he presided over an institution bigger than most universities and which has since become a university. In May 1987, he had been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by Deakin University and, in May 1994, he received the

²⁴ Simmonds, E & N Smith (eds), *Echoes over the Pacific*, 1995, p.63.

²⁵ *Northern Territory News*, 14 August 1995.

²⁶ Fenton, M & M Counsell (eds), *38 Radar Bathurst Island*. 1995, p.62.

²⁷ Fenton, M & M Counsell (eds), *38 Radar Bathurst Island*. 1995, p.63.

honorary degree of Doctor of Law from the Northern Territory University. His Honour's recreations include tennis, Australian poetry and literature generally. His particular interest in Australian poetry is Banjo Paterson, but he also follows certain later poets including Douglas Stewart, Judith Wright, R D Fitzgerald and Kenneth Slessor. He is also an enthusiastic Shakespearian and Dickensian, and has had published, 'A Dickens of a Legal Quiz' and 'Dickens and the Law'.²⁸



The Honourable Austin Ashe, as Honorary Colonel of NORFORCE, firing the F88 Steyr in Alice Springs, 1993.

Mr Ashe took up his appointment as the fifteenth Administrator of the Northern Territory on 1 March 1993.²⁹ After being sworn-in in Canberra, he returned to Darwin the following day and was received by a Tri-Service guard—the first occasion on which such a guard has been mounted within the grounds of Government House. He quickly gained an enormous degree of respect from the ex-Service community as well as the increasing numbers of Service personnel taking up duty in the Top End. As Patron of the Northern Territory branches of the Royal Australian Artillery Association, Legacy, TPI, the UN Association, the RAAF Association, and the Vietnam Veterans Association, as well as the R&SL Darwin Sub-Branch, he has maintained an active commitment, and is noted as a direct and forthright speaker. For example, one of his early duties was to deliver the 1993 Remembrance Day address for the Darwin Sub-Branch R&SL, honouring the return of the Unknown Soldier to Australia. He remarked of this man,

“... he grew up and absorbed and carried with him an independent spirit, an ideal of mateship, a contempt of pomposity and an overweening cheekiness. It is highly unlikely that he would have thought about these things except to consider them self-evident truths; and if you asked him to define an Australian philosophy he would probably have pondered, and no doubt enquired aloud, and somewhat pugnaciously, what sort of drongo he was talking to”.³⁰

Mr Ashe particularly maintained a military connection through an appointment as Honorary Colonel of the North West Mobile Force (NORFORCE). He was welcomed by the members of

²⁸ Turner, J N & P Williams (eds), *The Happy Couple, Law and Literature*. The Federation Press, NSW, 1994, pp.2-3 and 81-93.

²⁹ Commission dated 17 September 1992.

³⁰ The Honourable Austin Ashe QC, Remembrance Day Address, 11 November 1993.

NORFORCE in a parade hosted by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Bill Forbes AM on 6 March 1993. On being appointed the third Honorary Colonel of NORFORCE, with his RAAF background, Mr Asche coincidentally completed a trilogy: the three Services have now been represented, and in the correct order of seniority (Commodore Eric Johnston was a naval officer, and the Honourable James Muirhead was an Army veteran). Colonel Asche has visited troops in the field, awarded prizes and insignia of rank, officiated at the opening of depots across northwestern Australia, and was Host Officer at the granting of the Freedom of Entry to the town of Tennant Creek to NORFORCE in 1994.

He has also maintained his link with the RAAF as the first Honorary Air Commodore of No.13 (City of Darwin) Squadron, and through an active involvement as Patron of both the Northern Territory Air Training Corps Squadron and the RAAF Association (NT). In addition, he has been Deputy Prior of St John Ambulance, Chief Scout in the Northern Territory, and Patron of over 80 organisations. He has travelled widely throughout the Territory, speaking to community groups as Administrator or fulfilling other obligations for the Scouts, St John Ambulance and the Australian Defence Force (ADF). His incumbency coincided with some of the major APIN developments, including the construction of Waler Barracks, the relocation of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 161 Recce Squadron to Darwin, the redesignation of Waler Lines and the establishment of Chauvel Lines within the new Robertson Barracks consequent upon the arrival of the 1st Armoured Regiment (Tank). The Commander Northern Command, Commodore John Lord RAN, recently spoke of His Honour's "untiring support" of not just APIN, but the complete Defence Force re-orientation northwards, and observed:

While one or two [of us] may claim to have served in more than one Service, there is not one amongst us who has simultaneously held rank in two at the same time ... He has also been instrumental in ensuring that the enhanced ADF presence in northern Australia has been well received.³¹

The Honourable Austin Asche hosted one particular function at Government House in December 1993, at which a framed display of service medals, insignia and photographs was presented by the Butler family. This display commemorates the service of Territorian Dick Butler, who had been Government House's Head Gardener for 17 years. Born in 1908 to a Jawoyn Aboriginal and a European father, Dick was raised in Kahlin Compound in Darwin. He later served with the Darwin Mobile Force after its arrival in Darwin on 28 March 1939, the force comprising artillerymen tasked with providing mobile protection for the Headquarters 7th Military District. Under the command of Captain Francis, Dick Butler served alongside other Aboriginals from the Territory including Stewart Kurnoth, Samuel ('Smiler') Fejo, Juma ('Jim') Fejo, Willy McClennen and Victor Williams. This little band of coastwatchers was based at Peewee Camp at East Point, and called themselves 'the Australian Black Watch'. Butler narrowly missed death at the Naval Oil Fuel Installation at the time of the first Japanese raid and was witness to all subsequent raids, and later suffered personal tragedy at the time of Cyclone Tracy when his wife Louisa was killed.

Dick Butler continued serving with the Army in Darwin until 1961, and was the first soldier to earn the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for service completely in the 7th Military District. He was then Head Gardener at Government House until 1978. Dick Butler had come to be so well respected while he was Head Gardener that, on the morning of 28 August 1987, his funeral cortege detoured en route to Darwin General Cemetery and the hearse was driven to the gates of Government House. The gardeners and those staff who had known him lined up outside the front gate, and the House Manager placed a wreath on the coffin on behalf of all the staff of Govern-

³¹ Commodore J Lord RAN, Dining-Out Address, 27 November 1996.

ment House. Dick Butler was a proud man—proud of his Aboriginality, of his family, and of his service. He was a member of both the RSL and the Royal Australian Artillery Association. He was buried next to his wife, and was survived by his ten children, 24 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. There were three Darwin 'icons' his family was regularly shown and told of: Pee Wee Camp at East Point where he waited to defend Australia, Larrakeyah Barracks where he served during his post-war career, and Government House which ultimately won a Civic Commendation for its splendid tropical gardens. It is not surprising perhaps, that Government House should be chosen by the Butler family as an appropriate repository for Dick Butler's service medals and insignia.

His Honour married Valerie James in 1958 and they have one son and one daughter. Dr Val Asche was a Senior Research Fellow at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin from 1986 to 1994. Of interest, her great-grandfather was from a long line of Cornish Wesleyans, operating the 'Temperance Gold Mine' at Ballarat, and her grandmother, Elizabeth James (nee Powell), had four sons who joined the Army at various times, while a nephew currently serves in the RAN as a Lieutenant Commander, with the appropriate surname of Boatman. During the Asche's term at Government House, the medals, insignia and service records of Dr Asche's father and uncles have been on display:

Captain George Everett JAMES

Born Ballarat 22 December 1890 (1st child / 1st son)

Appointed as 2nd Lieutenant 1914 and allotted to B Company, 8th Battalion AIF.

Wounded at Gallipoli, 19 May 1915.

Wounded again at Pozieres and died of wounds, 24 July 1916; Buried at Becourt Wood Military Cemetery, France.

Awarded 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

5274 Sapper John Cullen JAMES

Born Ballarat 11 October 1895 (3rd child / 2nd son)

Served as a signaller with the 3rd Light Horse Regiment AIF in Egypt and Palestine.

Died 30 August 1979.

Awarded British War Medal and Victory Medal.

81291 Private Thomas Grenville JAMES

Born Ballarat 10 February 1899 (4th child / 3rd son; Valerie Asche's father)

Enlisted 28 October 1918 and allotted to General Service Reinforcements to the 23rd Battalion AIF. Was onboard a troopship in harbour when the armistice was declared.

Died 18 April 1955.

Awarded the Volunteers Badge 1918.

VX15053 Lance-Corporal Robert Courtney JAMES

Born Ballarat 11 December 1907 (9th child / 7th son)

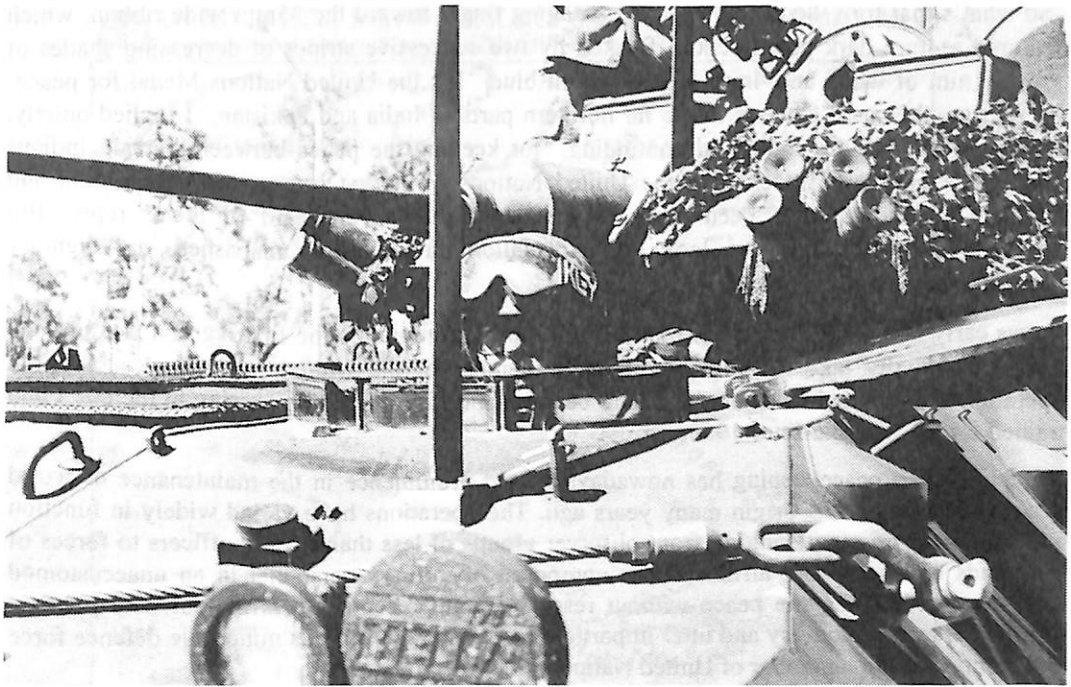
Served with 2/1st Casualty Clearing Station AAMC in Palestine and New Guinea.

Died 8 November 1991.

Awarded 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, and Australian Service Medal 1939-45.

His Honour was appointed a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John in July 1993, while on Australia Day 1994 he was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for 'service to the law, to tertiary education and to the community, particularly the people of the Northern Terri'

tory'.³² This was only the third appointment at this level of the Order of Australia to a Territorian. He was invested with the insignia of these appointments by the Governor-General at Government House, Darwin on 17 June 1994. In addition, he holds the Defence Medal, War Medal and Australian Service Medal 1939-45 for his wartime service, and the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal 1977. The Honourable Austin Asche retired as Administrator of the Northern Territory on 31 December 1996. In addition to travelling widely within the Territory, he has made several official visits to the eastern provinces of Indonesia with which the Northern Territory is continuing to establish strong trade links. He has made a personal commitment to developing this relationship, and shortly before retiring completed studies in an Advanced Indonesian language course.



The Honourable Austin Asche driving a Light Armoured Vehicle of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Darwin.

³² *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* S7, 26 January 1994.

Australians on the Ceasefire Line in Kashmir

Barry Clissold

Readers will know of my Uncle Thomas' unrivalled interest in the 9th Division 2nd AIF in general and the 2/48th Infantry Battalion in particular. And attention well deserved too. So you can imagine my recent surprise when he expressed interest in the United Nations Medal ribbon at the end of my modest five ribbon bar.

'So what's that for?' he asked, pointing an aging finger toward the 35mm wide ribbon, which featured a 4mm dark green centre, flanked by two successive stripes of decreasing shades of green, 1mm of white and 4mm edges of light blue. 'It's the United Nations Medal for peacekeeping on the cease fire line in the far northern parts of India and Pakistan,' I replied quietly, observing his dubious look, and continuing, 'for keeping the peace between warring Indians and Pakistanis while attached to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.' I should have been prepared for the gruff, 'never heard of them' reply. But encouraged by his inquiring look my explanation tumbled out, unabashed, my memory recalling the events of 25 years ago.

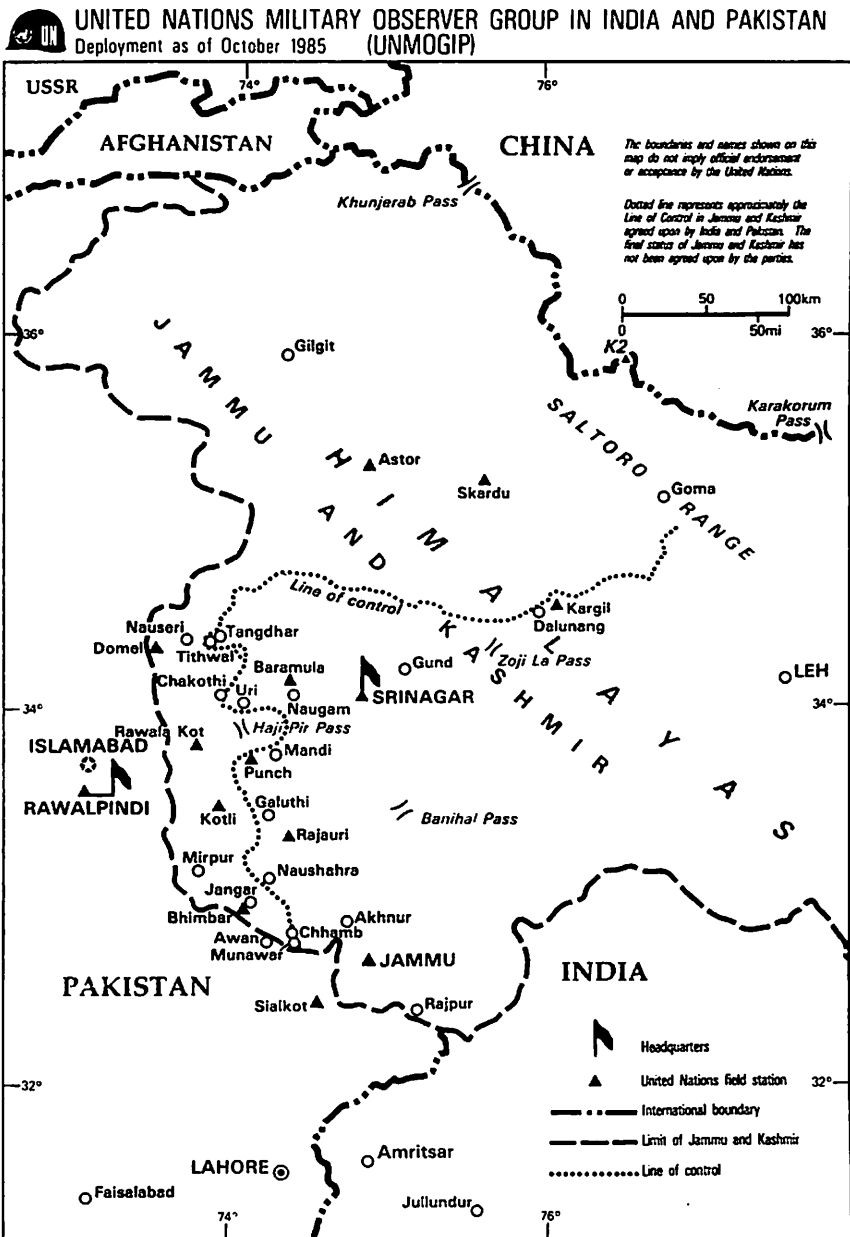
It was early February 1972 when I landed at Karachi, completing the first leg in a journey that would eventually take me to Kashmir as a member of the United Nations' peacekeeping operation in India and Pakistan. It was to be a much different military posting to the one I had trained for in Australia since 1959.

United Nations peacekeeping has nowadays gained prominence in the maintenance of world peace though it had its origin many years ago. The operations have varied widely in function and size, with missions ranging from observer groups of less than twenty officers to forces of thousands of troops. But all have been composed of military personnel in an unaccustomed role—that of keeping the peace without resorting, until recently, to arms, but with political awareness, tact, diplomacy and utter impartiality. Australia, despite its minuscule defence force now contributes to a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Early examples of United Nations peacekeeping include distinctive concepts such as occurring in the Palestine War in 1948, the Suez Crisis in 1956 and before that, in 1949 with conflict in India and Pakistan over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, with Australia becoming involved at an early stage. That conflict was complex as India and Pakistan became independent dominions, in accordance with the scheme of partition provided by the Indian Independence Act of 1947. Under the scheme the northern State of Jammu and Kashmir, then a Princely State within the British Indian Empire, was free to accede to India or Pakistan. Despite dispute as to the exact day of transfer and the validity of the accession, the predominantly Muslim populated state of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to the predominantly Hindu state of India on 26 October 1947. The accession became a matter of immediate conflict between the two countries and fighting broke out in the same year with India declaring that Kashmir was entirely within the sphere of internal Indian policy. Pakistan for its part maintained that the Maharajah of Kashmir's accession to India was not valid at the time of transfer and that popular consultation should have decided Kashmir's future.

In January 1948 India complained to the United Nations Security Council that tribesmen and others were invading Kashmir and that extensive fighting was taking place. India charged that Pakistan was assisting and participating in the invasion. A United Nations Security Council

resolution called for a ceasefire and through the establishment of the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP), and the employment of military observers to it, an uneasy peace was achieved. As an outcome of the Karachi Agreement, signed on 18 July 1949 by India and Pakistan, a cease fire line was created behind which India and Pakistan withdrew and established defensive positions. It was agreed that a new force, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) would establish field stations the length, and on both sides, of the cease fire line. The stations would be manned by United Nations Military Observers who would observe, report and investigate complaints by either India or Pakistan of violations of the line and the cease fire, and submit the resultant findings on these investigations to both India and Pakistan and to the United Nations Secretary-General.



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Command of the newly-established UNMOGIP was given to General Maurice Delvoie, a Belgian, who had been serving as Military Adviser to UNCIP since 2 January 1949. General Delvoie, UNMOGIP's first Chief Military Observer, had been first a cavalry then artillery officer and had served in the 1914-1918 War, and during World War II had been Military Attache in London, accredited to General de Gaulle. He was replaced by a Canadian Brigadier in February 1950 who died in an air crash in July 1950. An Australian, Major-General Robert Nimmo, was appointed to UNMOGIP in October 1950, promoted to Lieutenant-General in 1954, and remained as its Chief Military Observer until he died in his sleep in Rawalpindi in 1966, aged 73.

On his appointment General Nimmo became Australia's first ever commander of a United Nations peace-keeping operation. He was both qualified and highly experienced for the difficult task of melding a multi-nation force of military officers and United Nations administrative officers tasked to bring peace to a disputed and hostile area. Nimmo had had a distinguished military career: born in 1893 he graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, on 3 November 1914 and was appointed Lieutenant in the Permanent Military Forces of the Commonwealth and posted to the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment, Australian Imperial Force. During the 1914-1918 War he saw service in Gallipoli and Palestine; in World War II he commanded, in turn, the 1st Armoured Brigade, 4th Cavalry Brigade and the 1st Australian Motor Brigade. After the war he became General Officer Commanding, Northern Command. He had the distinction of being allotted Australian Army number 1/1. In 1950 he came to the attention of the United Nations Secretary General who offered him the posting of Chief Military Observer of UNMOGIP. Nimmo became the only UN appointee to the military observer group.

Instability along the extent of the ceasefire line greeted Nimmo's arrival despite the understandings reached the year before with the signing of the Karachi Agreement. And there



Captain Barry Clissold (left) and Major Axel Boysen (Denmark) on their way to Tithwal Valley to investigate violations of the ceasefire line in March 1972

was to be little respite in military violations by both sides during the decade. It was little better between 1961 and 1964. In September 1965 India and Pakistan went to war over Kashmir; a ceasefire and withdrawal of troops to respective sides of the cease fire line not being achieved until 25 February 1966. At the height of the conflict 99 military observers were on station. In the period to 1971 the number of observers fluctuated between 35 and 67 provided by 10 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden and Uruguay.

But the ceasefire was short-lived. In 1971 hostilities broke out again between the two forces. It commenced along the borders of East Pakistan as a result of movements for independence which had developed in the region and which would ultimately lead to the creation of Bangladesh. It did not, however, prevent both India and Pakistan from greatly reinforcing their forces along the ceasefire line in the west. Both sides admitted to UNMOGIP violations of the Karachi Agreement. There were exchanges of artillery, mortar, small arms fire and air attacks by both sides and some UNMOGIP field stations came under fire. On 12 December 1971 the Security Council demanded a durable ceasefire in all areas of conflict and armed forces to be withdrawn to their respective territories and to positions which fully respected the ceasefire line in Kashmir supervised by UNMOGIP.

Such demands were reluctantly accepted by India and Pakistan with India, from a position of greater strength, as it had forced both the withdrawal of Pakistan forces from Kashmir and East Pakistan, now re-stating that Kashmir was an integral part of India. But in order to avoid further bloodshed India agreed to respect the cease fire and the integrity of the line. However it insisted that there was now a need for adjustments to the line, not an unnatural position to take as it had gained some territory additional to that delineated as an aftermath of the 1965 war. Conversely, for its part, Pakistan was insisting that Kashmir was disputed territory whose status should be settled by agreement under the aegis of the United Nations Security Council. Again a plebiscite was demanded by Pakistan to let the people decide, however the development of a plebiscitary plan satisfactory to both sides was unsuccessful.

Thus the resultant stand-off between the two belligerents greeted my arrival at Rawalpindi airport. Like others before me, arriving in Pakistan's winter, I travelled from the airport in an ageing four-wheel drive vehicle, bereft of any suspension, or so it seemed. Its driver, a Pakistani Army Naik, with his hand continually on the horn, alone saved us in the hazardous drive from the airport to the UN's winter headquarters, a renovated fort reclaimed by Pakistan from Britain's colonial past. Swapping my green beret for a blue one I reported for my briefing from the Mission's Operations Officer, Lt Col Ian Halliday, one of the six-man Australian Army team attached to the multi-nation mission, at that time comprising of Halliday, Majors Jo Benton and Bill Grassick, Captains Neville Lee, Bill Griffiths and now myself.

Although the fighting of December 1971 had subsided, permitting most field stations to resume operations, Halliday indicated that the Indians would not be likely to give up any of the territory they had just gained. Moreover it was unlikely that India would permit access of disputed areas to observers. Importantly, the Indians were not reporting ceasefire violations by Pakistan, observing that differences between the two could be resolved without military observers or UNMOGIP. India's occupation of Kashmir would arguably give it the stronger hand in any negotiation. But unless both Pakistan and India requested UNMOGIP's withdrawal the peacekeeping force would remain with the full authority of the United Nations Security Council. Halliday observed that Pakistan had more to gain with UNMOGIP's continued presence as it saw the observer group its sole conduit to secure Security Council support in its efforts to reclaim the disputed territory.

I learned that I would join a Dane, a Swede and a Finn at Field Station Domel on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad, capital of the northern province of Azaad (Free) Kashmir. That was sooner than expected as, travelling again in the ageing bone-crusher in its distinctive white livery, we drove northwards the next day into snow country passing through Muree, where Pakistan had an Air Force Officer Training Academy. Thankfully my Pakistan Army Naik driver continued his godly dialogue, depending again on the vehicle's horn rather than its brakes to keep us mortal. At dusk we arrived at Field Station Domel. It was a neat compound, containing a small brick bungalow and garden, within the perimeter of a Pakistan Army Rifle Brigade. It was to be my home for the next three months before rotation to Field Station Jammu on the Indian side of the ceasefire line in Southern Punjab.



United Nations Field Station Domel, Azaad Kashmir

The daily routine of observers at Domel in my first month, which included liaison visits to field units and the investigation and reporting of incidents, was typical of all postings. A day would commence with the 0800hrs radio schedule between our winter headquarters in Rawalpindi and the mission's field stations dotted along the more than 500 mile length of the cease fire line. Here we would learn of the many violations reported by the Pakistan Army to the UN Field Stations. I recall that from Domel at this time we were reporting alleged violations by India together with increases of Pakistan forces in our sector, particularly the movement of mountain batteries being observed moving northwards through the Tithwal Valley towards the base of the Himalayas, and Gilgit. To assist in establishing the veracity of these alleged violations field stations, where possible, were located on opposite sides of the line. So if we at Domel, on the Pakistan side of the line, reported a claim by Pakistan that Indian forces had violated the line, the investigation of the allegation would be conducted by our Station and the opposite United Nations field station on the Indian side of the line. In our case this was Field Station Baramula to whom we not only relayed information by radio but exchanged intelligence reports during twice-weekly meetings on the ceasefire line at Chakoti.

I had arrived in winter in atrocious weather. Ground conditions in our sector were very bad, restricting movement, towards the ceasefire line, both for units of the Pakistan Army, and ourselves. The only road, both narrow and unsealed, which had originally linked Muzaffarabad, on the Pakistan side, and Srinagar, on the Indian side of the line, was partially closed due to massive landslides into the Jhelum River which flowed alongside the road's length. The road was bisected by the river which also formed part of the ceasefire line at Chakoti, some 50 miles from Domel, where until recently there had been a two-lane bridge. That bridge had been destroyed and Chakoti, with its remaining suspension footbridge, was now heavily defended by both sides as they faced each other from opposite sides of the river. It was that sector that gave our field station most concern.

It was the short-straw draw for one of us at Domel to make the trek from the station to the bridge at Chakoti to meet with our opposite number from Field Station Baramula on the Indian side of the ceasefire line to exchange reports and mail. It was a day-long exercise which could easily be extended if suddenly parts of the road disappeared into the Jhelum River, thus cutting off the area to our rear, or a fire-fight developed around the bridge. Then days could be spent, isolated, waiting for conditions to change before returning to Domel and filing lengthy reports. But even on good days conditions weren't that great, travelling near blinded in the bone-cruncher, ice congealing along the fabric window flaps, sleet hammering furiously at a windshield covered in mud from a water-logged road and an icy wind finding its way down through the layers of protective gear. Road parties were omnipresent, repairing minor slides, retrieving vehicles and often bodies from the river and generally delaying all traffic that managed to remain perched but stationary on the road.

Chakoti was defended on one side of the ceasefire line by a detachment of the Azaad Kashmir Frontier Rifles. Arriving at their road block, with its smart looking red and white boom gate, we would assemble a protection party of about six soldiers and travel down the road toward the river and the bridge in vehicles, mine leading displaying both a white flag and the blue of the UN though I suspect this only made my vehicle a better and more visible target. With the bridge in view we would quickly debus and take cover in forward strong-points. Using binoculars I would locate my UN counterpart on the opposite side, and at the pre-arranged time, using both white and blue flags, signal my intentions to move toward our end of the bridge. He did likewise and then with respective protection parties both groups would move in unison toward the bridge under the watchful eyes of those remaining on both sides of the river. Some days it became more pantomime as we inched toward our objective, step by step, as etiquette demanded that neither side arrive in the middle of the bridge before the other. Then, meeting at the middle, under the protection of white and blue flags, Indian and Pakistani soldiers would engage in animated and friendly discussion while we military observers conducted our tasks. With solemnity we departed in reverse order of our arrival, often not much the wiser to what the other side was up to.

Sometimes, after withdrawing from the bridge area, and on return to Domel, firing would resume between the Indians and Pakistani positions. I never found out if they were serious or whether it was just for show. Notwithstanding their intentions the actions would go into my report as ceasefire violations, but not before I had a few drinks with some of the junior Pakistani officers, sometimes to calm my nerves but more often to enjoy their company. Then, clutching my white flag tightly, I would motor back to Domel under the watchful but distrustful eyes of the Brigade-Major who disapproved of such familiarity between his officers and UN officers.

Life for observers in stations on the Indian side of the line at this time was much quieter. Following the Simla Agreement in July 1972, when the Cease Fire Line became the Line of Control, India's Foreign Minister declared that as the Cease Fire Line no longer existed

UNMOGIP's presence was no longer required. As a result there was talk within the mission that we were all going home. It was decreed by the Indians that matters would be 'settled bilaterally' without the intervention of any other party, meaning UNMOGIP. As a further obstacle, to encourage UNMOGIP to leave, India denied military observers movement in forward areas and local commanders refused to accept any communication from field teams. Given the disagreement between the two parties about UNMOGIP's mandate and function, the Secretary - General's position had been that UNMOGIP could be terminated only by a decision of the Security Council. That decision had not been forthcoming and UNMOGIP stayed. Thus while Pakistan continued to report alleged violations to UN Field Stations the Indians refrained from reporting violations of the Line of Control by Pakistan.

Little would appear to have changed in the period between my service and the present day. Kashmir is still disputed territory and fighting continues. The demands of Pakistan for India's return of Kashmir go unheeded and the United Nations' efforts seemingly have no purpose other than window dress a violent area. Australia, who had participated in the mission since 1949 withdrew its contingent on 31 December 1985; Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Uruguay continue to contribute military observers to the mission whose strength on 31 December 1996 was 45.

'Well,' Uncle Thomas broke his reverie, 'I see in yesterday's paper that with or without UNMOGIP assistance the Indians and Pakistanis are again talking about Kashmir.' He sounded hopeful so I didn't tell him that similar talks have been reported for decades with little result. The conflict continues and Kashmir remains, still, disputed territory.

Selected Reading

Dawson, Pauline *The Peacekeepers of Kashmir*, Hurst and Company, London, 1994

Rikhye, Indar *The Theory and Practice of Peacekeeping*, Hurst and Company, London, 1984

United Nations *The Blue Helmets*, New York, 1985



Main street Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir

Book reviews

Ron Thomas, *The 42nd*, 39 pages, colour photocopy with card covers. \$60 postage paid, from 2a 96 Pakington Street, Geelong West.

At \$60 this work may seem to be overpriced but it is very much value for money. Ron Thomas served with the 42nd Battalion during the Second World War and has recorded the lineage of the 42nd battalion using badges and insignia. No less than 24 pages of this slim publication are colour photographs. The book contains numerous badges and insignia which are well illustrated by the colour photocopies. The book includes a short history of the battalion from the 1914-18 War to the present day as the 42nd Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment.

The 42nd will interest anyone with a connection with the 42nd Battalion as well as the specialist unit history collector. Ron Thomas should be commended for his very colourful and very original way of telling the story of a distinguished Australian battalion.—Anthony Staunton

Allan Box, *Footsteps of the Diggers: A travel guide to the Australian battlefields of the Somme, 1996*, ISBN 0 9586828 0 1, \$24 including postage from Digger Press, 20 Brumley Street, Leongatha Vic 3953.

Three outstanding volumes have been published concerning the British Army in France and Flanders. Rose Coombs' *Before Endeavours Fade*, John Giles' *The Somme Then and Now*, and Martin and Mary Middlebrook's *The Somme Battlefields*. These volumes mention the Australians but are primarily focused on the British effort. MHSA member Allan Box has now produced a volume for Australian readers that is devoted to the Australian contribution on the Somme.

The travel guide is designed to inform the Australian tourist and pilgrim of the AIF heritage in the Somme region of Northern France. Allan Box has selected four areas of the Somme battlefields which are strongly identified with Australian actions. They are Pozières 1916 battlefields, the Bullecourt 1917 battlefields and the 1918 battlefields of Villers Bretonneux and Peronne. Each area is mapped with a description of the Australian battles and photographs of nearby Australian memorials. There are directions to military cemeteries where Australians are buried with biographical pen pictures of several Australians who rest in the cemeteries. Over 20,000 Australians are buried on the Somme. The names of 11,000 Australian soldiers who died on the Somme between 1916 and 1918 are commemorated at the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux.

Footsteps of the Diggers is an excellent travel guide for any Australian visiting the battlefields on the Somme. Nearly half of all Australians to fall in war died in France and Flanders. Despite the huge sacrifice and monumental victories these battles are still overshadowed by the Gallipoli campaign. It is therefore timely that such a publication as *Footsteps of the Diggers* has become available to help educate the many Australians who are unaware of these actions. I also recommend that as well as buying a copy for yourself that it would make a nice present to give anyone going to Europe for a holiday.—Anthony Staunton

Ian K Smith, *Records of War: a guide to military history sources at the Australian War Memorial*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1996, index ISBN 0 642 22988 0. \$8.95, available from the Australian War Memorial bookshop.

The memorial and exhibition functions of the Australian War Memorial are well known to the Australian public. Although the numbers visiting the Memorial's Research Centre has increased by over tenfold in the last ten years, the Research Centre is still the unknown treasure of the Australian War Memorial. Ian Smith's excellent guide to the documents, diaries, books, photographs and other records of Australia's military history should help make the Research Centre better known. The guide lets people know the riches held in the Research Centre collections, the myriad of subjects they cover and, most importantly of all, that these collections are simply waiting to be used by researchers, by the general public, by yourself.

The collections document Australia's military heritage which has impacted this country both directly and indirectly. Australian involvement in wars from New Zealand in the 1860s to the Gulf war are covered as well as peacekeeping operations. These collections are the raw material of history, in many cases original documents which are supplemented by donated personal diaries and papers. The Research Centre is one of the most important resources for researching both Australia's military history and Australian history. The records are alive with the exploits, the drudgery, the valour, the comradeship, the hatreds, prejudices and fears of Australians at war.

The guide commences with an overview which explains what researchers can expect to find in each of these collections. It also indicates the indexes and other finding aids that are available. It then describes the Research Centre and outlines the research facilities available to the public. The main part of the guide describes the collections themselves. This section is divided into the periods; pre-1914, 1914-18 War, Inter-war period, 1939-45 War, BCOF and the Korean war, Malayan Emergency, Confrontation and Vietnam as well as the Gulf war and peacekeeping operations. Each collection is then separately described either by campaign or subject. Such descriptions are indicative of the strengths and weaknesses of the collections. Only a selection of these records are described—the finding aids listed in the section.

The Official Records collection contains over 3,300 shelf metres of records. It is the largest of the Research Centre collections and is invaluable for researching most conflicts in which Australia has been involved. The Private Records collection currently consists of over 7,000 separate collections of personal records of individuals and certain organisations. The collection includes material in manuscript format which has grown and developed through donations and an active acquisition program conducted. The Printed Records collection contains 52,000 books, 3,000 serial titles and 30,000 maps. Special Records include: leaflets, plans, souvenirs (menus, concert programs, etc.), sheet music, forms, aerial photographs, stamps, news-clippings and postcards. In this guide each component of the collections is separately described. Nearly 200,000 images are publicly available in the Research Centre's reference collection of photographs. Commencing with the Sudan war, the collection covers all major periods of conflict involving Australia, including the most recent UN peacekeeping operations. The Film collection comprises edited and unedited footage by official cameramen, private individuals and commercial organisations. Approximately 2,000 titles are available in the reference collection.

Records of War is a must for anyone interested in researching Australian military history and also Australian history. Users of the Research Centre will find things treasures of which they were unaware. New visitors will find it an invaluable first step to the collections.—Anthony Staunton

Rules of the Military Historical Society of Australia

The MHSА Constitution adopted on 1 August 1993 was published in *Sabretache* of January/March 1993. A working party of Federal Council has now completed a full review of the Society's Rules, which were last made in June 1973 and were last published in *Sabretache* of October/December 1988. In examining the rules, the working party not only considered what rules were needed under the new 1993 Constitution, but examined what would be needed by way of rules if the Society decided to incorporate (this matter is still under consideration by Federal Council and Branches). Thus, the draft rules presented to Federal Council not only contained updated material but also provisions for disciplining members of the Society including appeal procedures, and some basic rules about finance, the responsibilities of office-bearers at Federal and Branch level and the conduct of regular and exceptional general meetings. All these matters would be compulsory inclusions in the Society's rules should it seek incorporation. The inclusion of this new material does not mean either that the provisions need to be used at present or that the Society should or should not incorporate.

Federal Council considered the draft at its meeting on 6 March 1997 and approved the new rules in accordance with the Constitution. Council decided they would become effective from 14 April 1997 and forwarded copies to Branches. The rules of the Society are published here for the information of all members.

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

1. Interpretation

1. In these rules, unless a contrary intention appears:

'Society' means the Military Historical Society of Australia;

'Constitution' means the constitution of the Society as adopted on 1 August 1993;

'branch' means a branch of the society established in accordance with the Constitution;

'member' means a natural person other than the Patron, a Vice-Patron, an honorary member or a branch cadet, who has been admitted to ordinary or corresponding membership of the Society in accordance with the Constitution and these rules and has not ceased to be a member in accordance with rule 5;

'secretary' means the Federal Secretary, a branch secretary or a branch secretary/treasurer;

'treasurer' means the Federal Treasurer, a branch treasurer or a branch secretary/treasurer;

'branch funds' and 'society funds' have the meanings given in the constitution;

'year' means the year ending on 30 June.

2. Application

2. These rules shall bind the society and every member as if each member had signed and sealed these rules and agreed to be bound by their provisions.

PART 2 — MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership Qualification

3. (1) Membership of the Society is open to any natural person pursuing any of the objects of the Society and approved for membership by Federal Council.

(2) Unless otherwise resolved by Federal Council, on payment of the first year's subscription of the Society, the Federal Secretary shall enter the person's name in the register of members and, upon that entry, the person shall become a member of the Society.

(3) A right, obligation or privilege which a person has by reason of being a member is not capable of being transferred to another person and terminates on cessation of membership.

(4) Bodies corporate and other organisations shall not be members of the Society for the purposes of the Constitution and these rules but may be sold the Society's journal as authorised by the constitution.

4. Register of Members

4. (1) The Federal Secretary shall keep and maintain a register of members which shall contain the name and address of each member, the date on which each member became a member and the date, if any, on which each member ceased to be a member.

(2) The Federal Secretary shall enter in the register any particulars required by these rules and shall keep the register at his or her place of residence.

(3) The register of members shall be available for inspection by members at reasonable times.

(4) The register of members shall include details as required by subrule (1) in respect of each life and honorary member.

5. Cessation of Membership

5. (1) A person ceases to be a member if the person:

- (a) dies; or
- (b) resigns from membership; or
- (c) is expelled from membership; or
- (d) fails to renew membership within the period fixed by rule 6.

6. Subscriptions

6. (1) The membership subscription of the Society shall be as determined by Federal Council in accordance with the Constitution and is payable on 1 July in each calendar year or, where a person becomes a member after 1 July in any calendar year, on 1 July in each succeeding calendar year.

(2) A member whose membership subscription is not paid within three months after 1 July in any calendar year ceases at the expiration of that period to be a member, unless Federal Council decides otherwise.

(3) Branch subscriptions, if charged, shall be as determined by a general meeting of a branch conducted in accordance with these rules and shall be collected as directed by the branch committee.

(4) That portion of the membership subscription of the Society that is allocated as branch funds shall be as determined by Federal Council.

7. Life Membership

7. A person nominated for life membership shall be a member of the Society of long standing who has made a significant contribution to the objects of the Society.

8. Honorary Membership

8. A person nominated for honorary membership shall be a non-member of the Society of good repute who has made a significant contribution to the study of military history or has contributed significantly to the advancement of the objects of the Society.

9. Withdrawal of Life or Honorary Membership

9. Life membership granted under rule 7 may be withdrawn by resolution of Federal Council either at the request in writing of the member or in accordance with rule 12. Honorary membership granted under Rule 8 may be withdrawn by Federal Council either at the request in writing of the honorary member or at the discretion of Federal Council.

10. Branch Cadets

10. Branch cadets are not members of the Society but may take part in Society activities in accordance with the constitution and may be charged a branch membership subscription.

11. Members' Liabilities

11. The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of Society debts and liabilities or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Society or of a branch is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of the membership subscription of the Society and any branch membership subscription.

12. Disciplining of Members

12. (1) Where Federal Council is of the opinion that a member:

- (a) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of the constitution or these rules; or

(b) has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Society, Council may, by resolution, expel the member from the Society or suspend the member from such rights and privileges of membership as it may determine for a specified period.

(2) A resolution of the council under subrule (1) is of no effect unless the council at a meeting held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service on the member of a notice under subrule (3), confirms the resolution in accordance with this rule.

(3) Where the council passes a resolution under subrule (1), the Federal Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, cause a notice in writing to be served on the member:

- (a) setting out the resolution of the council and the grounds on which it is based;
- (b) stating that the member may address the council at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
- (c) stating the date, place and time of the meeting;
- (d) informing the member that the member may either attend and speak at that meeting or submit to the council at or prior to the date of the meeting written representations relating to the resolution, or both.

(4) At the meeting of the council mentioned in subrule (2) the council shall give the member an opportunity to make oral representations, give due consideration to any written representations by the member, and by resolution determine whether to confirm or revoke the resolution made under subrule (1).

(5) Where the council confirms a resolution under subrule (4), the Federal Secretary shall, within 7 days of that confirmation, by notice in writing inform the member of that confirmation and of the member's right to appeal under rule 13.

(6) A resolution confirmed under subrule (4) does not take effect until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal where the member does not exercise the right within that period, or where the member exercises the right of appeal, does not take effect until the Society confirms the resolution under rule 13.

13. Right of Appeal of Disciplined Member

13. (1) A member may appeal to the Society in general meeting against a resolution of Council which is confirmed under subrule 12(4), within 28 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the Federal Secretary a notice to that effect.

(2) Upon receipt of a notice under subrule (1) the Federal Secretary shall notify Council which shall convene a general meeting of the Society to be held within 21 days of the date on which the Federal Secretary received the notice or as soon as possible after that date.

(3) At a general meeting convened under subrule (2), no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted, Council and the member shall be given the opportunity to make representations in relation to the appeal orally or in writing or both; and

(4) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution made under subrule 12(4) shall be confirmed or revoked.

(5) If the meeting votes in favour of the confirmation of the resolution made under subrule 12(4), that resolution is confirmed.

PART 3 — COMMITTEES

14. Scope

14. In this Part, unless the contrary intention appears, 'committee' means both Federal Council and a branch committee and 'committee member' means both a Federal Councillor and a member of a branch committee.

15. Composition, Powers and Responsibilities

15. (1) Committees shall be constituted and shall have the powers, responsibilities and membership prescribed by the Constitution.

(2) Every member of Federal Council shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the conclusion of the second annual general meeting of the Society following the date of the member's election, but shall be eligible for re-election.

(3) Every member of a Branch committee shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting of the branch following the date of the member's election but is eligible for re-election.

(4) No member of a committee is eligible to simultaneously hold more than one position on the committee.

16. Election of Committee Members

16. (1) Nominations of candidates for election to a committee of the Society shall be made in writing or orally by a member of the Society, shall be subject to the candidate being a member and consenting to the nomination and shall be made before or at the annual general meeting of the Society or a branch.

(2) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the person nominated shall be taken to be elected.

(3) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.

(4) The ballot shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such manner as the committee may direct.

17. Secretaries

17. (1) Secretaries shall keep minutes of:

- (a) all elections and appointments of committee members and office-bearers; and
- (b) the names of members of the committee present at committee meetings or general meetings; and
- (c) all proceedings at committee meetings or general meetings.

(2) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting shall be signed by the person presiding at the meeting or by the person presiding at the next succeeding meeting.

(3) Secretaries shall have custody of all books, documents, records and registers required by these rules, other than those required to be kept by Treasurers.

(4) The Federal Secretary shall advise branches of the names of Federal Councillors and Federal office-bearers within one month of their election or appointment.

(5) Branch Secretaries shall advise the Federal Secretary of names and addresses of members elected to Branch committees and of Branch office-bearers within one month of their election.

(6) Branch secretaries shall advise the Federal Secretary of changes of address notified by ordinary members within one month of receipt of this information.

18. Vacancies

18. (1) For the purposes of these rules, a vacancy in a committee occurs if the member:

- (a) dies; or
- (b) ceases to be a member of the Society; or
- (c) resigns the office; or
- (d) is removed from office pursuant to the Constitution or these rules; or
- (e) is absent without the consent of the committee from all meetings of the committee held during a period of six months.

(2) In the event of a vacancy in the membership of a committee the committee may, subject to the Constitution, appoint a member of the Society to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

19. Removal of Committee Members

19. (1) Federal Council may by resolution remove a member of Federal Council from the office held before the expiration of the member's term of office.

(2) Federal Council, branch committees and individual members of branch committees may be removed from office in accordance with the Constitution.

20. Committee Meetings and Quorum

20. (1) A committee shall meet in accordance with the Constitution at such time and place as the committee may determine.

(2) Additional meetings of the committee may be convened by any member of the committee.

(3) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee shall be given by the secretary to each member of the committee at such period as may be unanimously agreed upon by members of the committee before the time appointed for the meeting.

(4) Any three members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.

(5) No business shall be transacted by a committee unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.

(6) At meeting of a committee:

(a) the president (or in the case of Federal Council in the absence of the president, the vice-president) shall preside; and

(b) if the president (and in the case of Federal Council the vice-president) is absent one of the remaining members may be chosen by the members present to preside.

21. Voting and Decisions

21. (1) Questions arising at a meeting of a committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present.

(2) Each member present at a committee meeting (including the person presiding) shall be entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.

(3) Subject to subrule 20(4), the committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the committee.

(4) Any act or thing done or purporting to be done by the committee is valid and effectual notwithstanding any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee.

(5) A resolution in writing signed by not less than three members of a committee shall be valid and have effect as if it had been determined in accordance with this rule at a meeting of the committee.

PART 4 — GENERAL MEETINGS

22. Scope

22. In this part, unless the contrary intention appears, 'general meeting' includes an annual general meeting and means a general meeting of the Society or of a branch.

23. Annual General Meetings

23. (1) Annual general meetings shall be held as required by the Constitution and shall be conducted in accordance with this Part.

(2) Notice of an annual general meeting of the Society shall be given to members in accordance with the Constitution.

(3) Notice of the annual general meeting of a branch shall be given to members in accordance with subrule 25(1) or in such other manner as a committee directs.

(4) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting shall be:

(a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and any general meeting held since that meeting; and

(b) to elect members of the committee; and

(c) to receive and consider the audited statements of account required by these rules.

24. General Meetings — Calling of

24. (1) Federal Council may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a general meeting of the Society or of a branch, and such meeting shall be conducted in accordance with this Part.

(2) A branch committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a general meeting of a branch and such meeting shall be conducted in accordance with this Part.

(3) Federal Council shall, on the requisition of not less than 5 per cent of the total number of members of the Society convene a general meeting of the Society and a branch committee shall on the requisition of not less than 5 members of the branch convene a general meeting of the branch in accordance with this Part.

(4) A requisition of members for a general meeting:

- (a) shall state the purpose or purposes of the meeting; and
- (b) shall be signed by the members making the requisition and may consist of several documents in similar form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.

(5) If the committee fails to convene a general meeting within one month after the date on which a requisition is lodged with the secretary, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may convene a general meeting to be held not later than three months after that date.

(6) A general meeting convened by a member or members referred to in subrule (4) shall be convened as nearly as practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by a committee and any member who thereby incurs expense is entitled to be reimbursed by the Society or Branch as applicable for any reasonable expenses so incurred.

25. Notice of General Meeting

25. (1) The secretary shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause to be sent by pre-paid post to each member at the member's address appearing in the register of members, a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted.

(2) No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting shall be transacted at the meeting except, in the case of an annual general meeting, business required to be transacted under subrule 23(4).

(3) A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the secretary who shall include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of that notice from the member.

26. General Meetings — Procedure and Quorum

26. (1) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.

(2) Ten members present in person constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting of the Society and 25% of the members of a branch constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting of a Branch.

(3) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.

27. Presiding Member

27. The president (or, in the case of a Society general meeting, in the absence of the president the vice-president) shall preside at each general meeting. If the president (and in the case of a Society general meeting the vice-president) are absent from a general meeting, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

28. Making of Decisions

28. (1) A question arising at a general meeting shall be determined on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the person presiding that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or loss, or an entry in the minute book to that effect, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour or against the resolution.

(2) At a general meeting, a poll may be demanded by the person presiding or by not less than three members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

(3) Where a poll is demanded at a general meeting, the poll shall be taken in such manner and at such time before the close of the meeting as the person presiding directs and the resolution of that poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting on that matter.

29. Voting

29. (1) Subject to subrule (3), upon any question arising at a general meeting, only members may vote and each member has one vote only.

(2) All votes shall be given personally or by proxy but no member may hold more than 5 proxies.

(3) In the case of an equality of votes on a question, the person presiding is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.

30. Appointment of Proxies

30. (1) Each member shall be entitled to appoint in writing another member as proxy to vote on his or her behalf at a general meeting and such written appointments shall be produced on request to the person presiding.

PART 5 — FINANCE**31. Funds Management — General**

31. (1) Society funds and branch funds as defined in the Constitution shall be used only in pursuance of the objects of the Society in such a manner as a Committee determines and shall be managed in accordance with this Part.

(2) All money received shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of a bank account approved by a committee.

(3) As soon as practicable after receipt of any money an appropriate receipt shall be issued.

(4) All cheques and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by any two members of a committee, being members authorised to do so by the committee.

32. Treasurers

32. In respect of Society and Branch funds as defined in the Constitution, the Federal Treasurer and Branch Treasurers shall:

- (a) collect and receive all moneys due and make all authorised payments; and
- (b) keep accounting records that correctly record and explain all transactions and the financial position and are kept in such a way that true and fair accounts can be prepared from time to time and can conveniently and properly be audited; and
- (c) retain accounting records for such period after the transactions to which they relate are completed as is required by the auditor; and
- (d) be in a position to state on demand to a committee or to a general meeting the financial state of the Society or Branch including bank balances, cash in hand and current financial commitments; and
- (e) report immediately to the committee any matters which may affect the financial position of the Society or Branch; and
- (f) provide to the committee before the annual general meeting or if required before a general meeting a statement of accounts including income and expenditure and assets and liabilities for the most recently ended financial year.

33. Remittance of Society Funds

33. Membership subscriptions of the Society and any other Society funds received by branches shall be remitted (less any portion authorised by Federal Council to be retained as branch funds) within one month of receipt to the Federal Secretary, accompanied in the case of subscriptions by a schedule of the names and addresses of new members and the names of renewing members.

34. Responsibilities of Committees

34. (1) Federal Council shall not enter into any financial commitment of any branch funds, nor of Society funds in excess of the net available cash Society funds after provision for publication and dispatch of the current calendar year's journals.

(2) Branch committees shall not enter into any commitments in respect of any Federal funds, nor of branch funds in excess of net available branch cash funds.

(3) At each annual general meeting and if necessary at a general meeting the committee shall present for consideration an audited statement of account of Society or branch funds, as applicable, in respect of the financial year most recently ended with a copy of the auditor's report on those accounts.

35. Auditors

35. (1) Federal and branch auditors shall be appointed in accordance with the Constitution.

(2) The Federal Auditor shall not be a member of the Society and a branch auditor shall not be an office-bearer of a branch nor shall the branch auditor have prepared or assisted with the preparation of the accounts.

PART 6 — FORMATION AND CLOSURE OF BRANCHES

36. Formation

36. (1) Where members or potential members decide that they wish to form a branch of the Society, they shall hold a meeting for this purpose and elect a Chairman and Secretary for the duration of the meeting. A minute of the meeting signed by the Chairman and Secretary, listing those present at the meeting, identifying members and non-members and showing the number of votes for and against the proposal shall be forwarded to the Federal Secretary who will acknowledge receipt to the Chairman of the meeting and refer the proposal to Federal Council. In considering the proposal, Federal Council shall take into account the views of members residing in the area of the proposed Branch and may require a poll of those members to be conducted. After consideration of these views and any other relevant considerations, Federal Council may approve the formation of a Branch.

(2) If formation of a new branch is approved, the Federal Secretary shall arrange for a further meeting to be held in the locality for election of a branch committee, and shall advise all members of the Society residing in the likely catchment area, including corresponding members, of the meeting. The meeting shall be called and conducted in accordance with these rules, and will consider, in addition to any other matters, a name for the proposed branch. The Federal Secretary and Federal Treasurer shall make arrangements to enrol members of the new branch as ordinary members and for the allocation of branch funds in accordance with the Constitution and these rules. Formation of the new branch shall be announced in the Society's journal.

(3) If Federal Council does not approve the formation of a new Branch, a requisition for a general meeting of the Society to consider the question may be made in accordance with subrule 24(3) and further determination of the question shall be in accordance with that rule.

37. Closure

37. (1) Where Federal Council considers that continuing existence of a Branch is not in the best interests of the Society, it may in writing require the branch committee to provide within 30 days reasons why the branch should not be closed. If not satisfied, Federal Council may by resolution close the branch but closure in accordance with that resolution shall be subject to the disciplinary procedures set out in rules 12 and 13, including the appeal procedure.

(2) If the resolution to close the branch is finally confirmed, the Federal Secretary shall advise all members of the branch in writing of the decision, offering them corresponding membership for any unexpired portion of their current membership subscription. Notice of the closure shall be given in the Society's journal. Federal Council will take the necessary action to settle records and financial matters in accordance with these rules. Remaining branch funds shall become Society funds in accordance with the Constitution.

(3) Where members of a branch consider that a branch should be closed, a general meeting of the branch shall be convened and conducted in accordance with these rules. If a resolution to close the branch is carried by that meeting, Federal Council shall consider the resolution and may require a poll of all ordinary members of the branch to be conducted by the Federal Secretary on the question. If Federal Council resolves that the Branch shall be closed further procedure shall be in accordance with subrule (2).

PART 7 — MISCELLANEOUS

38. Alteration of Rules

38. These rules shall not be altered except in accordance with the Constitution.

39. Notices and Delivery of Documents

39. (1) For the purposes of these rules, a notice may be served by or on behalf of the Society or a Branch upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member at the member's address shown in the register of members, or, unless otherwise provided in these rules, by publication of the notice in the Society's journal. A notice may be served upon a branch committee by sending it by post to the branch secretary at the address for the branch provided to the Federal Secretary or otherwise to the address of the branch secretary shown in the register of members.

(2) Where a document, including the Society's journal, is sent to a person by properly addressing, prepaying and posting to the person a letter containing the document, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of the Constitution and these rules, to have been served on or delivered to the person at the time at which a letter would have been delivered in the normal course of post.

Notices

Sabretache Award

Federal Council at its March 1997 meeting approved the *Sabretache* awards for 1995 and 1996. This award is presented annually for the best original article by a Society member published in *Sabretache*. There were a number of worthy articles in both the 1995 and 1996 volumes, and the winners were:

1995: Barry Clissold: "The Australians' Attack at El Alamein—on Trig 29, Hill 28 or Kidney Ridge". Vol. XXXVI No.3, July/September 1995.

1996: Paul Rosenzweig: "Northern Vedettes". Vol. XXXVII No.3, July/September 1996.

On behalf of all members of the Society, Council warmly congratulates both winners.

"Northern Vedettes"

"Northern Vedettes" (*Sabretache* Vol. XXXVII(3) July/September 1996) by Captain (now Major) Paul Rosenzweig is part of a detailed regimental history of the North West Mobile Force, which is still in the draft stage. For the sake of completeness, the author has asked that the following sources be noted. They were referred to in the footnotes to the published article:

Abbott, C L A (1950) *Australia's Frontier Province*. Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

Battye, J S (1913) *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia*. Cyclopedia Company Perth.

Lockwood, D (1975) *Australia's Pearl Harbour*. Rigby, Adelaide.

McCarthy, D (1959) *Australia in the War of 1939-45, Series 1 (Army), Volume 5, South West Pacific Area - First Year*. Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

NAOU War Diary, 1942-45. Copy held by NORFORCE regimental museum Darwin.

Powell, A (1988) *The Shadow's Edge*. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne

Stakehouse, J (1982) A presence in the North. *The Bulletin*, 13 July 1982, p.80.

Vane, A (1975) Defence of continental Australia. *Army Journal*, 318: 30-36.

Vane, A (1979) The surveillance of northern Australia – its history. The story of Stanner's Bush Commando, 1942. *Defence Force Journal*, 14: 15-30.

Walker, R & H (1986) *Curtin's Cowboys*. Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

Notes from the Editor on contributions to *Sabretache*

While the following are merely guidelines, it certainly helps the Editor in preparing copy for publication if these guidelines are followed. Nevertheless, potential contributors should not be deterred by them if, for example, you do not have access to computers or typewriters. Handwritten articles are always welcome, although, if publication deadlines are tight, they might not be published until the next issue.

Typewritten submissions are preferred. Material should be double spaced with a margin. If your article is prepared on a computer please send a copy on either a 3.5' or 5.25' disk (together with a paper copy).

Please write dates in the form 11 June 1993, without punctuation. Ranks, initials and decorations should be without full-stops, eg, Capt B J R Brown MC MM.

Please feel free to use footnotes, which should be grouped at the end of the article (however, when published in *Sabretache* they will appear at the foot of the relevant page). As well as references cited, footnotes should be used for asides that are not central to the article.

Photos to illustrate the article are welcomed and encouraged. However, if you can, forward copies of photos rather than originals.

Articles, preferably, should be in the range of 2,000-2,500 words (approx 4 typeset pages) or 5,000-7,000 words (approx 10 typeset pages) for major feature articles.

Articles should be submitted in accordance with the time limits indicated on page 2. Recently, lateness in receiving articles has meant that the Journal has been delayed in publication. Nevertheless, where an article is of particular importance, but is received late, the Editor will endeavour to publish the article if possible and space permitting.

Elizabeth Topperwien
Editor



Application for Membership

I/*We
(Name/Rank etc.)

Of (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

My main interests are

I/*We enclose remittance of A\$30.00 being annual subscription, due 1 July each year.

Send to: Federal Secretary, PO Box 30, Garran, ACT 2605, Australia

