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Sabretache



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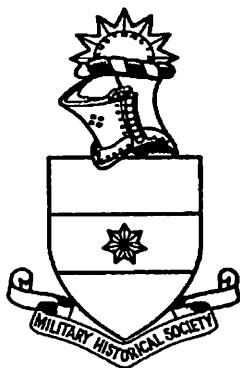
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Contributions in the form of articles, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note, and, where possible, submit the text of the article on floppy disk as well as hard copy.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

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The 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.

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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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Early Colour Patch Schemes of the 2nd AIF—Part 2

Paul Skrebels

The first comprehensive scheme of colour patches for the infantry battalions of the 2nd AIF, introduced in mid-1940, had caused something of an uproar. It had allotted patches on a divisional basis, but generally without regard to the colours and shapes worn by the battalions' First War predecessors, and therefore ignored the Anzac tradition to which many of the new generation of soldiers aspired, and which the older generation was keen to see carried on into the second global conflict. Not surprisingly, in the face of objections from the more vocal elements of Australian society—politicians and returned soldiers, mostly—the scheme was abandoned.¹

In response to the controversy, the Adjutant-General, Maj Gen V P H Stantke, had suggested in August 1940, 'that present AIF units should be allotted the colour patches of the original AIF units according to their numerical designation', but 'that the grey background be retained and that its shape correspond to the division to which the particular unit is allotted.'² The Master-General of the Ordnance, Maj Gen T R W Williams, agreed, and arranged 'for future issues of battalion colour patches to be made in accordance with the Divisional shape of light battleship grey, and a half size replica of the original AIF Battalion bearing the same number.'³ The proposed scheme attempted to satisfy both the need for divisional identification within the 2nd AIF and the desire for maintaining historical links with established AIF tradition, and, as the saying goes, seemed like a good idea at the time. Unfortunately, as with the first scheme, several factors would intervene to disrupt its unanimous adoption by the new expeditionary force.

Implementation of the new scheme

In common with the first scheme, the 'original authority' promulgating the new scheme 'remains unlocated', and is undoubtedly another of those culled or lost after the war.⁴ The *Colour Patch Register* assembles the available information concerning the new scheme from a number of sources, however, and tentatively dates its authorisation as November 1940.⁵ The first problem encountered in implementing the scheme was that at this stage of the war the divisional organisation of the 2nd AIF was still in a state of flux, with some brigades already overseas, some on their way, and some still being raised and trained in Australia. As will be seen, the brigades allocated to a division in late 1940 were not necessarily those with which it ended up once things had settled down by about April 1941.⁶ So while the issuing of patches in original AIF colours appeased traditionalist sentiment, fixing the divisional shapes was somewhat hasty, in that many units soon found themselves making do with inappropriate

¹ The first scheme and the controversy it caused are the subject of part 1 of this series; see *Sabretache* vol.37, no.3 (July/September 1996), pp.11-19.

² Department of the Army Minute AG 36/756/34, 19 August 1940, reproduced in *Army Colour Patch Register 1915-1949*, Department of Defence (Army Office), Canberra, 1993, part 3, p.16E-1.

³ Minute MGO 36/756/34, 5 September 1940, reproduced in *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, p.181-1. The minute paper as reproduced actually has an example of the proposed scheme—a half-size diamond superimposed on an 8th Division oval—pinned to it. Whether this was submitted with the original paper or attached later is not made clear.

⁴ *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, p.18-1, and part 1, p.3-4, para.321.

⁵ 'Assumed Colour Patch Authority DCP-03: 6, 7, 8, 9 Divs etc', *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, pp.18-1 to 18E-1.

⁶ As with part 1, a detailed account of the organisation of battalions and brigades within the divisions is outside the scope of this article; for a description of the organisation and changes, see Graham R McKenzie Smith, 'The Numerology of the Second AIF (Infantry) 1939 to 1945', *Sabretache*, vol.30, no.2 (April/June 1989), pp.3-11.

patches for the divisions in which they were finally placed. As if that were not problem enough, there was a degree of non-compliance with the new scheme by some formations. What should have been a straightforward process of adopting old colours on new shapes, therefore, became in some respects even more complex than trying to impose the first scheme. In order to understand just what these complications were, it is necessary to deal with the introduction of the new scheme on a division-by-division basis.

6th Division

Sixth Division had avoided the controversies associated with the first colour patch scheme by being already overseas when it was introduced, and by having had a set of patches issued before the expansion of the 2nd AIF warranted some standardisation of insignia. One would be forgiven, therefore, for thinking that the second scheme likewise left the division unaffected, and, indeed, the *Colour Patch Register*—in common with other sources—shows no change to the patches of 6th Division under the new scheme.⁷

Nevertheless, patches in half-size colours on full-size grey rectangles were not only manufactured but also issued to at least some battalions in the division. As the accompanying photograph shows, indisputably authentic patches of this pattern survive for the 2/6th and 2/7th Battalions, and no doubt there are examples still around for other battalions as well.⁸ Just how frequently the pattern was actually worn, and for how long, is another matter entirely. An uncredited photograph in the unit history of the 2/6th shows the battalion marching through Melbourne on 28 August 1942; one man is clearly wearing a patch of the half-colour pattern, which is all the more obvious because it can be compared with those of his mates, who all wear the original full-colour version.⁹ There is, however, no evidence that the pattern was ever taken up by any battalion as a whole, let alone the division; certainly the unit histories seem to make no mention of its introduction, attempted or otherwise. The man in the photograph was in all likelihood a reinforcement who was issued second scheme patches while in Australia, and for whatever reason still had not reverted to the older pattern maintained by the rest of the division.¹⁰

If indeed 6th Division either rejected the scheme outright, or quietly ignored it in the belief that it would go away, it would not be the only time in military history that official home policy regarding dress and insignia was overridden by 'more official' unit policy—governed by tradition and precedent—at the front.¹¹ In the case of 6th Division, this appears to have

⁷ In response to an enquiry from the author, Col David Chinn, compiler of the *Colour Patch Register*, writes that 'the decision not to show any changes in the 6 Div patches for the late 1940-early 1941 period was simply that, after considerable research both with the Australian War Memorial and Australian Archives, no Army or AIF Headquarters authorities could be either identified or located; this is not to indicate however that such authorities were not issued.' He also adds that the three other principal sources, the Master General of the Ordnance Drawings 1939-45, the AHQ Register 'Distinguishing Colour Patches AMF-AIF Units'—both now held by the War Memorial—and the colour plates in Gavin Long, *To Benghazi, Australia in the War of 1939-45, Series I (Army)*, vol. I, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1952 (reprinted with corrections 1961), appendix 4, 'do not show half-size patches for 6 Aust Div battalions.' These three sources (described in *Colour Patch Register*, part 1, pp.3-7 and 3-8.) form the basis for the assumed authority DCP-03 in *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, section 18.

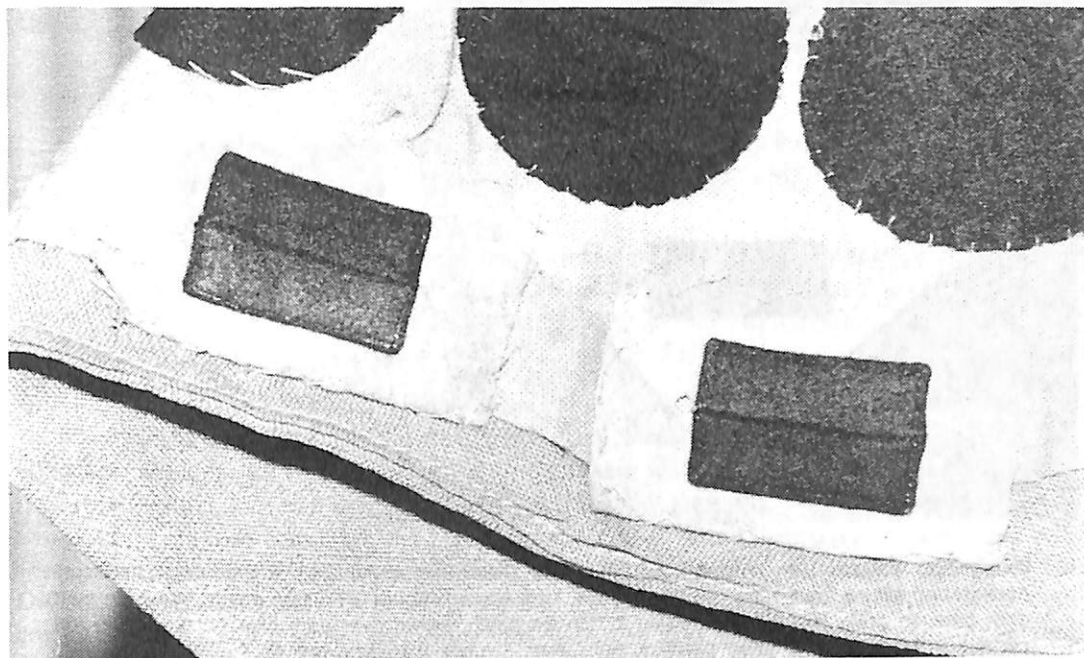
⁸ Another such patch in 2/8th Battalion colours has also been sighted.

⁹ See David Hay, *Nothing Over Us: The Story of the 2/6th Australian Infantry Battalion*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1984, p.237

¹⁰ This possibility is made more plausible by the example of the 2/10th Battalion reinforcements, described below in the discussion of 9th Division.

¹¹ In the Canadian Army in WW2, for example, reinforcements joining the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada overseas were ordered to alter their 'home service' militia pattern cap badges to the 'imperial' pattern of the Seaforth Highlanders of the British Army.

succeeded to the point where the second scheme has faded so far from memory that it is not even documented anecdotally, let alone officially. The overwhelming weight of evidence therefore suggests that in reality, the scheme of half-colour patches did not apply to 6th Division. The only change to 6th Division patches was the approval on Christmas Day 1940 of a dark blue full-colour rectangle for the headquarters of 19th Brigade, which had been created to accommodate the battalions removed from 16th, 17th and 18th Brigades by the change in structure from four-battalion to three-battalion brigades. Even this was not a concession to the second scheme, however, as the authority had come from headquarters in the Middle East rather than from Australia.¹²



Patches of the second scheme in half-sized colours on full-sized divisional backgrounds were manufactured for 6th Division, and issued at least to some members who were still in Australia at the scheme's inception. Left: 2/6th Bn, purple over red on a grey rectangle (but appearing upside down here). Right: 2/7th Bn, brown over red on grey. These examples are part of a collection of over sixty patches and other insignia gathered by a member of the Cheer Up Society from troops in Australia, and stitched inside her sky-blue cape. (Aldo Sbrissa collection)

7th Division

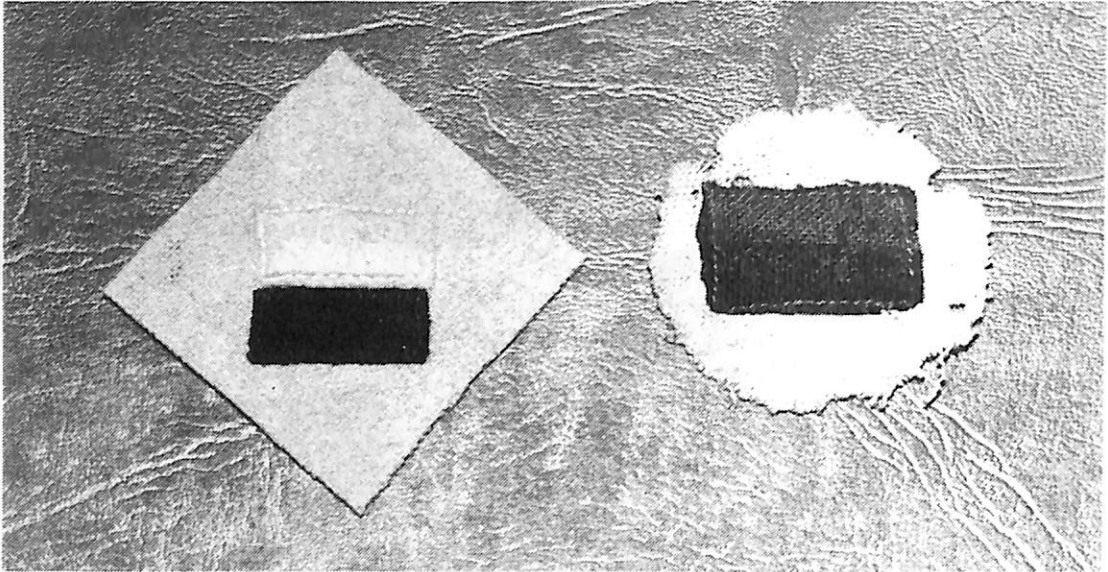
The composition of 7th Division upon the introduction of the new patch scheme was as follows:

20th Brigade:	2/13th Bn	2/15th Bn	2/17th Bn
21st Brigade:	2/14th Bn	2/16th Bn	2/27th Bn
26th Brigade:	2/23rd Bn	2/24th Bn	2/48th Bn

All battalions were issued the half-sized colours and shapes of their First War predecessors on full-sized grey diamonds. Brigade Headquarters patches were to remain as they had been allocated in the first scheme, even though they were now out of sequence with respect to the standard colour

¹² AIF Order (Middle East) 147 of 25 December 1940, reproduced in *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, p.15-2.

ranking within the AIF. Thus 20th Brigade had a red diamond, 21st a sky blue one, while 26th kept its green diamond, despite being the junior brigade in the division.¹³ By April 1941 both 20th and 26th Brigades found themselves in 9th Division, besieged at Tobruk, their diamond-backed patches no longer indicating their place in the 2nd AIF. As a result, the battalions of 20th Brigade gradually trimmed their diamonds into circles to conform to the 9th Division shape.¹⁴ Curiously, 26th Brigade did not follow suit, but retained its diamond-shaped backgrounds right up until the whole 9th Division adopted the distinctive 'T' patches in December 1942.¹⁵



When 20th Brigade was shifted from 7th to 9th Division in early 1941, it gradually altered its background shape from a diamond to a circle. Left: earlier version 2/13th Bn patch, light blue over dark blue on grey. Right: later version 2/15th Bn patch, brown over dark blue on grey. It is not certain whether 20th Brigade patches were ever actually manufactured as circles, or were all modified 'in the field'. Although well worn, the background of the 2/15th example appears small enough to have been cut from an original diamond shape.

In 21st Brigade, the 2/14th and 2/16th Battalions adopted their new patches very quickly—quite possibly sooner than any other battalion in the AIF—with both unit histories being precise about the date. Thus in Victoria, 'On 9th October the Unit colour patch was changed ... to the

¹³ This is because 26th Brigade was initially allotted the green diamond patches originally intended for the new 19th Brigade; see part 1 of this series, p.14. The chart in vol.I of the *Official History* (Long, op cit, appendix 4) shows 20th Brigade's HQ patch with a half-size red diamond, as does the chart *Colour Patches of the Australian Military Forces—World War II*, Edgcombe Military Publications, Eildon, Victoria, 1988. It is not known on what authority they do so, and why 20th Brigade is the only one treated in this manner. The brigade HQ patches were carried over directly from the first scheme, which did not use half size colours, despite Maj Gen Williams' original proposal that all patches in the AIF be changed to half colours, specifically citing the existing full-colour brigade HQ and 6th Division patches as requiring attention (Minute MGO 36/756/34, 5 September 1940, reproduced in *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, p.181-1). Existing contemporary sources do not indicate such a change, although an authority may have been issued and subsequently lost or destroyed.

¹⁴ For example, a photograph of the 2/13th Bn's CO, Lt Col Burrows, receiving the Polish Cross of Valour at Tobruk on 26 November 1941, shows him wearing a circular patch; Lt G H Fearnside (ed), *Bayonets Abroad*, [2/13th Battalion Association], Sydney, [1953], p.130 and photograph between pages 72 and 73.

¹⁵ The chart in Long, op cit, appendix 4 mistakenly shows full-size colours for the diamond patches of the 2/23rd and 2/24th Battalions of 26th Brigade. Photographic evidence indicates that only half-size colours were worn in these units, and that the full-size versions belonged to AIF members of the 23rd/21st and 24th Battalions CMF respectively (although the brown-over-red diamond had been issued previously to 2/17th Battalion as part of the first scheme; see the chart in part 1 of this series, p.13).

original 14th's colours, a yellow over blue rectangle in miniature on a grey diamond background.¹⁶ While on the other side of the continent on the same day, the 2/16th was also undergoing a change: 'the day before the final ceremonial march through Perth [on 10 October] ... the new colour patches were issued. These were a white rectangle over a blue rectangle on a diamond of grey.'¹⁷ The 2/16th's history adds a touchingly human aspect to this process of change (which, by the way, gives the lie somewhat to the notion that the first scheme of patches met with initial rejection):

Wives and sweethearts had proudly, and prayerfully, sewed on to the uniforms the original colour patches [the purple-over-sky blue diamond of the first scheme] but the new ones had to be attached by less skilful hands. So, on the night before the big parade through Perth, the huts were busy as the men, their sewing kit spread out before them, laboriously sewed on the patches.

A few of the results were reasonably good (bachelors probably); a few were passable, but, in the main, the colour patches hung on precariously and often awry until later the more expert women were able to correct them.¹⁸

This date, 9 October, is remarkable in that it represents just over a month after Maj Gen Williams proposed the new design and, if the *Colour Patch Register* is correct in dating the new scheme, anticipates by anything up to a month of the formal promulgation the scheme as a whole.

Change was not on the agenda of the third battalion of 21st Brigade, the 2/27th, however. The history of the 2/14th notes the alterations in the 2/16th Battalion and another brigade of 7th Division, the 20th, but says that, 'the 2/27th Battalion, whose colours were the same as their original Battalion, kept the chocolate over blue diamond unaltered.'¹⁹ As discussed in part 1, two South Australian battalions, the 2/27th and the 2/43rd, found themselves wearing 2nd AIF versions of their First War patches; but while the 2/43rd changed its patch upon transfer to 9th Division (see below), the 2/27th obviously saw no need to adopt a new pattern when both colour and shape still matched its current circumstances. Photographs show the 2/27th leaving for overseas in its original full-colour diamond patches, with no sign of the half-sized colours coming into use until after it had joined the other battalions of 21st Brigade for the first time in the Middle East at the end of 1940.²⁰ Indeed, given the degree to which the full-colour patch is displayed not only on the unit history itself (to the exclusion of the half-colour version) but also on other printed matter associated with the 2/27th, and was worn alongside the second scheme patch throughout the war, it would appear that the second pattern patch never achieved universal acceptance in the battalion at all, and is yet another case of the scheme failing to take hold within certain levels of the AIF.²¹ Gallantry and sentiment also may have played their part in reinforcing the unit's 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it' approach, because, like the 2/16th and its womenfolk, the 2/27th felt deep gratitude towards the 'committee of local Woodside ladies' for sewing 'about four thousand colour patches on our tunics and greatcoats' when first issued.²² The 2/27th's attitude would prove to be only the first, and least significant, stage in the very

¹⁶ W B Russell, *The Second Fourteenth Battalion*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1948.

¹⁷ Malcolm Uren, *A Thousand Men at War*, Heinemann, London, 1959, p.21.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, p.21.

¹⁹ Russell, *op cit*, p.13.

²⁰ See John Burns, *The Brown and Blue Diamond at War*, 2/27th Battalion Ex-Servicemen's Association, Adelaide, 1960, photographs between pages 32 and 33, and facing page 48.

²¹ This may account for the relative scarcity today of second scheme 2/27th Bn patches compared to the full-colour versions.

²² Burns, *op cit*, p.19.

rapid breakdown of uniformity in the patches of 7th Division; worse was to come, as will be shown.

8th Division

At the time the second scheme was being proposed, 8th Division underwent a change of organisation in time for all of its brigades to receive new patches. Judging by the experience of the 2/19th Battalion, the existing 22nd and 23rd Brigades changed patches on or about 1 December,²³ while the freshly-raised 27th would have received second-pattern patches from the outset.

The contrast between the half-sized colours and shapes and the divisional grey backgrounds is probably nowhere more striking than in 8th Division, where only the 2/40th Battalion's original patch follows the division's oval contours, while the small diamonds or upright rectangles of the other battalions seem to float in a wide sea of grey. But the division had little time to reflect on the aesthetics of its allotted designs, as the rapid course of events in South East Asia would see its entire infantry complement engulfed by the Japanese advance over the next few months. The 8th Division patch would continue life in certain support units left behind in Australia,²⁴ as well as in the 3rd Division CMF and those militia battalions carrying on the oval shape from the First War. The infantry patches, however, would survive only by languishing unissued in ordnance stores, or in the kits of those men lucky enough to have escaped the disaster in Malaya, Singapore and the Indies, and who found themselves wearing different patches in other units.

9th Division

The formation of 9th Division in September 1940 from two brigades already overseas (18th and 25th) plus one (24th Brigade) transferred from 8th Division in Australia, would gradually emerge as a major factor in breaking down the uniformity of the second scheme of patches. Allocating First War colours and shapes within a new divisional background—the circle, following the original AIF precedent for the fourth division raised—sounds simple enough, but proved problematic even before brigades were shifted from one division to another after the scheme's introduction.

As one of 6th Division's 'originals', 18th Brigade (2/9th, 2/10th and 2/12th Battalions) already sported that division's full-colour rectangular patches. Nevertheless—as the accompanying photographs of the 2/10th Battalion patch and of a platoon of reinforcements to the 2/10th who are wearing it demonstrate—circular patches were manufactured and issued, but probably only to men of the 18th Brigade still in Australia in late 1940-early 1941. As in 6th Division, however, there is no evidence that the circle patches were ever accepted by the individual battalions of 18th Brigade, and certainly photographs of its men overseas invariably show the rectangular patches being worn. Resistance to any change was fortuitous under the

²³ *The Grim Glory: The History of the 2/19 Battalion AIF*, 2/19 Battalion Association, Sydney, 1975, p.34. See also the letter P36/756/42 from the Director of Ordnance Services, Southern Command, dated 30 October 1940, written in reply to Southern Command memorandum no. 58322 dated 21 October, promulgating the change of patches; the letter is reproduced in *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, p.18J-1, and makes specific reference to the colours for 2/40th Bn, 23rd Brigade.

²⁴ These units subsequently adopted what were termed 'broken Eighth' patches, made either by sewing a vertical strip of grey down the centre of the patch, or by cutting away a strip of colour from the middle. Patches so treated included those from the Artillery (specifically the 2/14th Field Regiment), the Army Service Corps, the Medical Corps and the Engineers. Doubtless what was originally intended as a protest at being separated from the parent division soon became a sign of mourning for that parent instead.

circumstances, for in February 1941 the brigade was reallocated to 7th Division.²⁵ Even so, it did not take up that division's diamond-shaped patch either, and by about May 1941 even official (or quasi-official) documentation had reverted to depicting 18th Brigade's patches as full-colour grey-backed rectangles.²⁶



Detail of a photograph of a platoon taken in South Australia, with most of the men wearing the second scheme circular patch allocated to 18th Brigade as part of 9th Division. The number and name written on the respirator bag of the man in the centre is SX 9260 F Possingham, who joined the 2/10th Bn in the Middle East on 27 January 1942 from the 18th Brigade Training Battalion, which was formed in Palestine in January 1941 to 'fine tune' reinforcements arriving from Australia. This is the only evidence seen so far by the author of this patch being worn, and it is assumed therefore to have been issued to the various drafts for the battalions of 18th Brigade who were training in Australia during 1941.

Part 1 of this series described how 25th Brigade (2/31st, 2/32nd and 2/33rd Battalions) adopted its own set of patches while forming in England, based on full-colour red circles which had no precedent in the original AIF. These were adhered to throughout the war (with the exception of the 2/32nd which was transferred to 9th Division), and although second scheme patches were made up for the brigade, as in 18th Brigade these were probably only worn by reinforcements in Australia, to be replaced upon joining the brigade overseas.²⁷

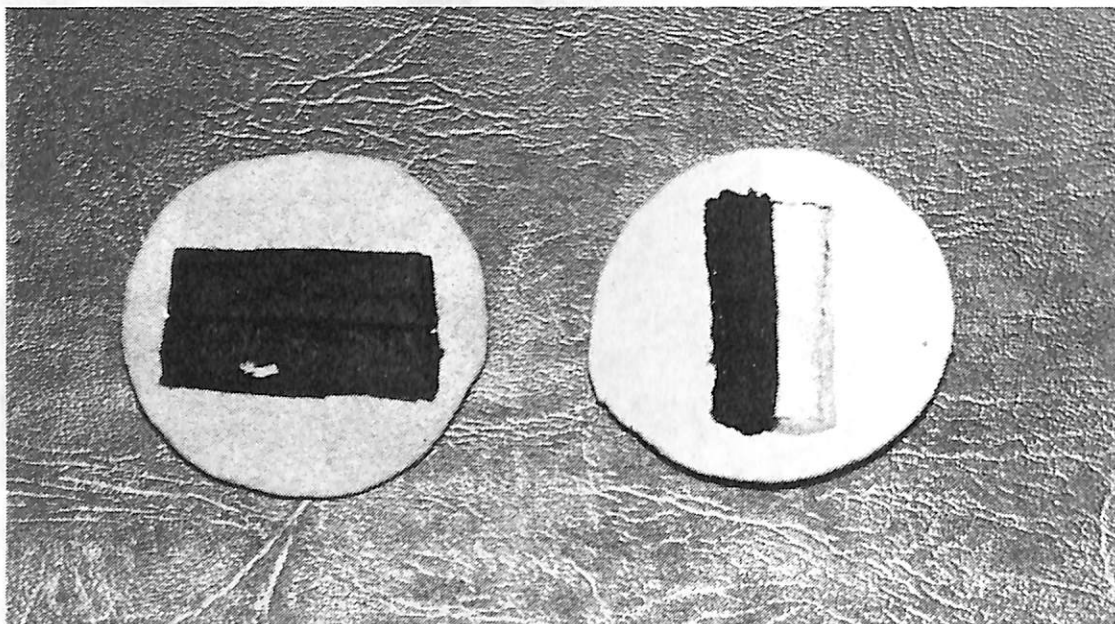
In mid-October 1940, 24th Brigade (2/25th, 2/28th and 2/43rd Battalions) was transferred from the 8th to 9th Division, but, if the 2/43rd Battalion's story is typical, did not receive new patches for about six weeks: 'The last day of November had brought to light the battalion's new 9th Division colour patch, being the colours of the first 43rd AIF, a chocolate-over-blue oval,

²⁵ See McKenzie Smith, *op cit*, pp.7 and 10.

²⁶ See the illustrations in *Colour Patch Register*, part 3, p.20A-1, which are based on the authorities listed above in note 7.

²⁷ Strangely enough, one major source of colour patch designs, published immediately after the war, shows patches for the 2/31st and 2/33rd Battalions in the second scheme of half-size First War colours on grey circles, with no reference to the full-size red circles actually worn; see Australian Army Colour Patches, *The Sun*, Melbourne, [1945-46?], pp.13-14.

superimposed on a grey circle.’²⁸ As in many other units around Australia, ‘a working bee of ladies’ diligently sewed on the new patches in the days between the second issue and the march through Adelaide on 5 December.²⁹ Perhaps the ladies—and even the soldiers themselves—were puzzled as to why the battalion was exchanging one brown-over-blue oval patch for another, for, as we saw in part 1, the 2/43rd had been issued such a patch as part of the first scheme. But unlike the situation in the 2/27th Battalion, the overall shape no longer coincided with that of the new division, and so the change went ahead.



Two patches allocated to 9th Division units but never actually acknowledged by the battalions concerned. Left, 2/10th Bn, purple over dark blue on grey. This is the patch being worn by the reinforcements in the previous photograph. The use of dark blue instead of sky blue for the battalion colours was such a frequent mistake—stretching back to the First World War—that it had become almost an acceptable substitute. Right, 2/31st Bn, brown and yellow on grey. Although these were the ‘official’ 31st colours which the second scheme of patches sought to perpetuate, the 2/31st actually wore a full-colour black-over-red circle as part of 25th Brigade’s unique set of patches.

As far as the brigade headquarters were concerned needless to say the green and sky blue circles proposed for 18th and 25th Brigades respectively were not adopted (at least, not outside Australia). However, 24th Brigade had handed over its sky blue oval to the new 27th Brigade upon leaving 8th Division, and in taking up the red circle patch introduced by the second scheme actually meant that for about four months, 9th Division had two brigades wearing the same headquarters patch, as 25th Brigade also wore a red circle as part of its ‘home-grown’ scheme in England. The situation was remedied somewhat when 25th Brigade went to 7th

²⁸ Gordon Combe, Frank Ligertwood and Tom Gilchrist, *The Second 43rd Australian Infantry Battalion 1940-1946*, Second 43rd Battalion AIF Club, Adelaide, 1972, p.12. The account in an earlier history of the 2/43rd, that ‘In November Eighth Division colour patches were issued ... but on December 1 word was received that the battalion had been transferred to the Ninth Division’ (Geoffrey Boss-Walker, *Desert Sand and Jungle Green*, Oldham Beddome and Meredith, Hobart, 1948, p.1), must be discounted as it neither tallies with events in the more detailed later unit history, nor with the timeframes associated with the issue of first and second scheme patches elsewhere in the 2nd AIF.

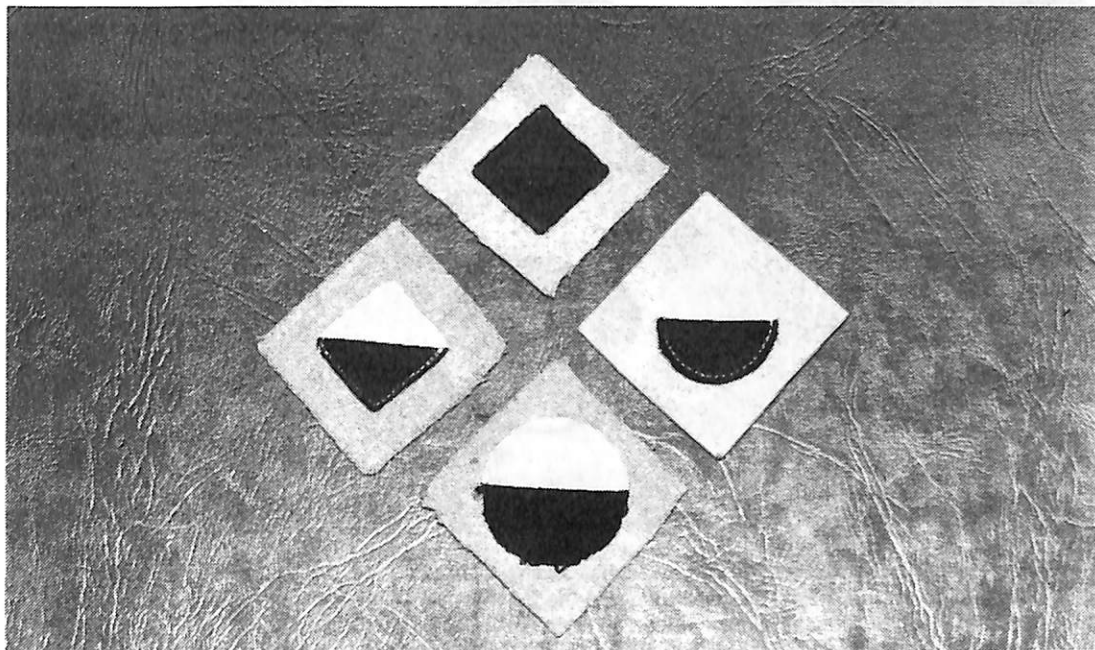
²⁹ Combe, Ligertwood and Gilchrist, op cit, p.12. A photograph of this activity appears in *ibid.* between pages 30 and 31, as do photographs of the march itself.

Division, but the duplication did not cease until 24th Brigade received its red 'T' as part of the complete 9th Division change.

In actual practice, then, 9th Division had only one brigade (24th) wearing the patches designed for it by the second scheme, although at least those of 25th Brigade were circular. The situation in the division was symptomatic of the inadequacy of the new scheme in the face of having to coordinate and administer brigades scattered halfway across the world. Things would only worsen as contingencies forced still further changes on the organisation of divisions and even brigades in the months following the scheme's introduction, followed by the expansion of the war effort through incorporating units of the CMF into the AIF.

The new scheme loses its significance

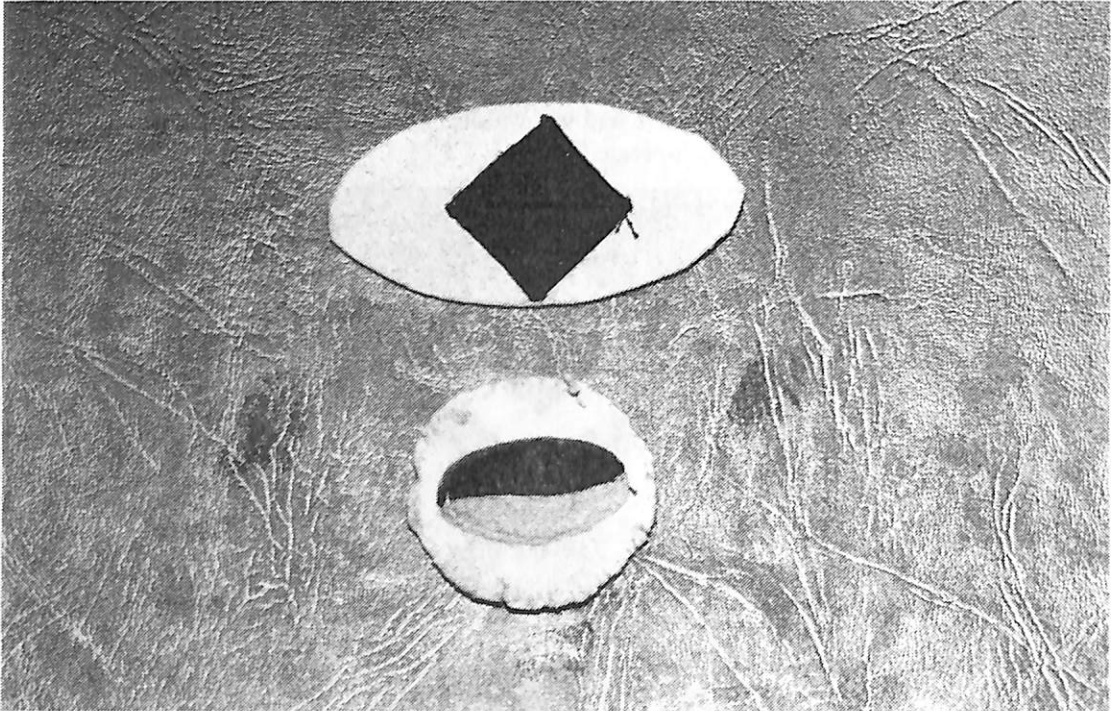
During 1941 and beyond, events would catch up with the second colour patch scheme and virtually nullify its significance as an indicator of the divisional structure of the 2nd AIF. In 6th Division the scheme was ignored or rejected, which did not matter much because the division's organisation did not alter, and all of its units wore rectangular patches anyway. This was fine until 1942, when the growth of the Australian Military Forces saw large numbers of men in CMF units entitled to wear grey-backed patches. To some extent 6th Division paid for its intransigence in clinging to its old scheme, for it soon became impossible to tell members of the 6th from AIF men in militia battalions with rectangular patches. If the half-colour patches had been adopted, 6th Division would have had its own distinctively AIF insignia, which it would not have had to share with the much-derided 'chocos'.



The patches of 26th Brigade: top, 2/23rd Bn, brown over red on grey; middle left, 2/24th Bn, white over red on grey; middle right, 2/48th Bn, white over dark blue on grey; bottom, another 2/48th example, clearly showing that the 'half-size' prescribed for the colours was subject to rather flexible interpretation. Although 26th Brigade belonged to 7th Division for only about six months, it retained its diamond-shaped patches when transferred to 9th Division in February 1941, changing only when the 9th adopted the 'T' patch in December 1942.

The situation in 7th Division became the most chaotic of all. With the substitution of 18th and 25th Brigades for the departed 20th and 26th, each brigade in the division now had a different shaped patch—rectangles, diamonds, and circles—and this lack of uniformity would remain unresolved for the duration of the war. Even 25th Brigade could not escape the confusion, with its unique internal consistency disrupted by the swapping of its 2/32nd Battalion for the 2/25th of 24th Brigade as a final reshuffling of units, before the four original divisions of the 2nd AIF at last settled into some sort of stability.³⁰

Ironically, the one division whose patches were the most faithful to the spirit of the second scheme—the 8th—was soon to be lost in the piecemeal defence of old empires. In the meantime, 9th Division, now comprising 20th, 24th and 26th Brigades (and for a while with 18th Brigade still in tow), was holed up in Tobruk with more pressing issues to consider than the uniformity of its colour patches. Once it had some breathing space in which to address the issue, it did so in a radical way, yet which harked back to early 1940 and the first scheme of divisional patches—for the 9th's 'T' patches really focused on divisional identity first, and only then on the place of the brigade and the battalion within the division.³¹ After all, it was just such a focus that had determined the patch scheme of the original AIF back in 1915 in the first



The second scheme involved some curious melding of shapes. Top, 2/21st Bn, 23rd Bde, 8th Div: black over red on grey. This patch survived the 2/21st's fate in the East Indies because, to judge from the high enlistment number written on the back, it was issued to a man who was posted to the battalion too late to join it there. Bottom, 2/43rd Bn, 24th Bde, 9th Div: brown over sky blue on grey. The 2/43rd adopted this patch even though, coincidentally, it had been allocated a brown-over-sky blue oval as part of the first scheme of patches.

³⁰ See McKenzie Smith, *op cit.* p.10, for the reason behind this move, and that it represented 'The final organization of the infantry battalions of the Second AIF ... throughout the rest of the second world war.'

place, but this seems to have been forgotten in the scramble for maintaining individual battalion identity in the early years of the Second World War.

Conclusion

The reforming zeal of the 9th Division did not catch on, however. For the rest of the AIF, the second scheme was the last attempt to coordinate the patches of the infantry battalions; AIF versions of CMF battalion patches were made with grey backgrounds conforming to the overall shape, with no further bother about trying to predict the higher formations in which they might operate. This plethora of patches, significant as it was at the battalion level (and often lower), no longer properly reflected a modern army's need to look beyond the battalion and even the brigade to the division and the corps as the important tactical elements in warfare. Once this was realised, and the business of winning the war had been settled, the old colour patches, for all their associations with tradition and sentiment, were no longer required—for the time being, anyway.³²

The author would like to thank the following for their assistance in the research and preparation for this article: Col David Chinn (ret'd); Mr Peter Harvey; Mr Malcolm Orchard; Mr Aldo Sbrissa; Mr Val Skrebels; and my wife, Ms Ray Bywaters, for her encouragement and for discovering the photograph of the 2/10th Battalion reinforcements wearing the circular patch.

The author would appreciate comments and any further information arising from both articles in this series; please write care of the South Australian Branch Secretary, or e-mail to p.skrebels@unisa.edu.au

Erratum:

In Part 1 of this article, *Sabretache*, vol.XXXVII, no.3, p.13, line 1: For 'green-over-purple patch' read 'purple-over-green patch'.

³¹ See Sir Leslie Morshead's letter of 25 February 1952 explaining the origin of 9th Division's 'T' patches, in which he mentions also that the change was 'not quite altogether readily ... accepted'; the letter is reproduced in *Colour Patch Register*, part 1, p.4B-1.

³² The last colour patches were abolished in 1949. The revival of interest in their use in the Australian Army in 1987 was the main reason for the compilation of the *Colour Patch Register* itself; see part 1. p.2-1.

Blaming Buckingham Palace: The 13 month delay in the award of the Wheatley Victoria Cross

Anthony Staunton

Mark Adkin's excellent work *The Last Eleven* told the story of the 11 post Second World War Victoria Cross recipients.¹ The book devoted individual chapters to the seven British and four Australian Victoria Cross recipients from Korea through Confrontation and Vietnam to the Falklands. The chapter on Kevin Wheatley, the first Australian Victoria Cross recipient of the Vietnam War, notes that his award was not gazetted until 13 months after the action in which he lost his life, winning the Victoria Cross.² The delay of 13 months between the action being commended and the gazetting of the award is the longest delay for the award of the Victoria Cross to an Australian.³

Although never officially acknowledged, Mark Adkin wrote that there were good reasons to suppose that the hold-up was a political one in London. The Australian Honours system was not introduced until 1975 so all decorations depended on the British Government approving them, before recommending to the Queen that she grant them. He suggests that Wheatley's recommendation was a test case and if it had been rejected Australia would probably have introduced the Australian Honours System ten years earlier. He then goes on to say that some in Australia felt strongly that several acts of gallantry in Korea had merited the Victoria Cross but despite numerous Distinguished Conduct Medals none had been given. The argument of those in the UK opposed to awarding the Victoria Cross was that Australia had committed troops to a foreign war allied with the United States and that Wheatley was an adviser to a South Vietnamese unit serving with the United States Special Forces. The Queen ultimately approved the Victoria Cross 'on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers'.

Some of the points made by Mark Adkin have been raised previously in *The Evolution of the Victoria Cross*.⁴ Mark Adkin dismissed the argument of those in the United Kingdom opposed to awarding the Victoria Cross because Britain was not involved in Vietnam as quite irrelevant. He pointed out that the Royal Warrant clearly made Commonwealth servicemen eligible no matter where they were fighting.⁵

1881 Precedent

The principle that Commonwealth servicemen were eligible for the Victoria Cross, no matter where they were fighting, was only confirmed by the Wheatley award. The precedent had been established in 1881 when Surgeon J F McCrea had been recommended for the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in action against the Basutos, on 14 January 1881 at Tweefontein in South Africa. That recommendation had originated in the Colonial Office. The War Office replied to the Colonial Office that McCrea's act of gallantry was performed by an officer in the Colonial Forces

¹ Mark Adkin, *The Last Eleven: The story of the post war VCs*, Leo Cooper, 1991.

² For another account of the how Kevin Wheatley met his death see Ian McNeill, *The Team: Australian Army Advisers in Vietnam 1962-1972*, UQ Press, 1972 at pp.316-323.

³ Anthony Staunton, 'The Last 1939-45 Victoria Cross Gazetted', *Sabretache*, Vol XXXI No.1, January-March 1990, p.4

⁴ M J Crook, *The Evolution of the Victoria Cross*, Midas Books, 1975, p. 245.

⁵ Adkin, p.128

during hostilities which were not approved by the British Government. The Colonial Officer responded that 'the fact that the policy of the Cape Government which led to the hostilities during which the act of gallantry was performed was not approved by Her Majesty's Government should not prevent Surgeon McCrea's claim being considered on its merits.' The War Office accepted this view. Queen Victoria approved the award on 22 June 1881 and it was promulgated in *The London Gazette* on 28 June 1881.⁶

The award of the Victoria Cross to Wheatley was the 25th operational gallantry award to an Australian in Vietnam, eight of which had been gazetted prior to Wheatley's death. All these awards were preceded by the statement, 'The Queen had been graciously pleased on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Minister to approve ...' There was nothing strange about this wording since it was in common use for the New Year and Queen's Birthday Honours List well before the Vietnam War. The preface was not used in the Second World War but it was still obvious that South West Pacific Area awards originated from Australia. During the Second World War most notices in *The London Gazette* announcing awards were headed 'Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St. James's Palace, SW1'. However, awards for Australians in the South West Pacific Area were headed 'Government House, Canberra'. If there had been an argument in respect to awards for Vietnam, it had been resolved long before the Wheatley recommendation.

Korea War DCMs

The argument that Australians had been upset by the fact that despite numerous Distinguished Conduct Medals awards in Korea no Victoria Cross had been given to an Australian in that conflict does not stand up to scrutiny. In Korea, Australians were awarded four DCM awards plus one bar to the DCM. The Australian ratio of DCMs to VCs in the 1914-18 War was about 30 DCMs to one VC while in the 1939-45 War and Vietnam the ratio in each case was about ten DCMs to one VC. In both world wars the ratio of DCMs to VCs was more generous for the Australians than for the British. In Korea, Canada was awarded seven DCMs plus one bar but no Canadian was awarded the Victoria Cross. The British were awarded twelve DCMs and four Victoria Crosses. However, three of the four awards were to officers and only one NCO, Sergeant Bill Speakman, won the Victoria Cross in Korea. Furthermore, a search of files at the Australian War Memorial does not reveal any Australian who was actually recommended for the Victoria Cross in Korea.⁷

The main point raised by Mark Adkin was that the delay, between the action and the gazettal, was in London. He is not the first to point the finger at London. Two of the last three awards for the 1939-45 War were the two posthumous George Cross awards for the Cowra break-out.⁸ This delay has often been blamed on British authorities.⁹ Although the Cowra breakout took place in August 1944, the original recommendations were not prepared by Australian authorities until 1949. Unfortunately, the recommendations were for posthumous George Medals. As soon as London received the recommendations they pointed out that the Royal Warrant for the George Medal did not permit posthumous awards. They suggested that the King's Commendation for Brave Conduct would be suitable unless the Australian authorities wished to upgrade their recommendation to the George Cross. This was not done until after the

⁶ Crook, p.244-245.

⁷ AWM 88, Governor-General's Honour and Awards Files. Recommendations often show that an individual was recommended for one award but awarded either a higher or lower award. I have yet to find a downgraded recommendation for the Victoria Cross for Korea.

⁸ The last 1939-45 award to an Australian was the Military Medal to QX9078 Private Rae Johnstone. See Anthony Staunton, 'MM awards to Australians - 1939-45', *Sabretache*, Vol XXXV No.3, July/September 1994, pp 11-12.

⁹ A recent example is the article 'Medals for heroes came slowly' at page 9 of the October 1994 edition of *Stand To*, the National newspaper of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

1949 Federal Election. When the new Australian Government submitted amended recommendations in 1950, King George VI immediately approved the George Cross awards.¹⁰

Delay in Gazettal

Of the 96 Victoria Crosses awarded to Australians, 91 were to the Australian Defence Forces and five to British and South African forces. The shortest interval between the action being commended and the gazettal of the Victoria Cross for an Australian Defence Force award is 22 days. Lt Col C G W Anderson, Commanding Officer 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion, was decorated on 12 February 1942 for gallantry in action at the Battle of the Maur River in the Malayan Campaign from 18 to 22 January 1942. Of the 22 quickest awards of the Victoria Cross to Australians, 20 were for the First World War. Other than the award to Anderson, the only other award in the quickest list was the posthumous award to Rawdon Middleton of the Royal Australian Air Force who was flying with No.149 Squadron, RAF. The slowest 22 awards include just three of the 63 First World War awards, two of the five awards for South Africa, all four Vietnam awards and 13 of 19 Second World War awards to Australians. The 13 Second World War awards include all 11 Australian awards for the South West Pacific Area and the two awards for Syria, a campaign in which the Australian Army was the major infantry force.

The delay between the action commended and the gazettal of the 11 Australian awards for the South West Pacific Area varied from three and a half to seven months. The following table shows the delay between the date of action and the date the award was recommended by the Governor General, and the delay between the date the award was recommended by the Governor General and the date the award appeared in *The London Gazette*. The first delay can be regarded as the responsibility of Australia and the second the responsibility of London. It is clear that in all cases the greater delay was in Australia and only in the case of the award to Private Frank Partridge, the last award to an Australian for the 1939-45 War was the delay evenly divided between Australia and London.

Name	Campaign	VC Action	Delay (1)	GG Approved	Delay (2)	London Gazette
French	Papua	4-Sep-42	85	28-Nov-42	47	14-Jan-43
Kingsbury	Papua	29-Aug-42	103	10-Dec-42	61	9-Feb-43
Newton	New Guinea	16-Mar-43	154	17-Aug-43	63	19-Oct-43
Kelliher	New Guinea	13-Sep-43	59	11-Nov-43	49	30-Dec-43
Derrick	New Guinea	24-Nov-43	78	10-Feb-44	42	23-Mar-44
Rathey	Bougainville	22-Mar-45	76	6-Jun-45	50	26-Jul-45
Kenna	New Guinea	15-May-45	71	25-Jul-45	43	6-Sep-45
Chowne	New Guinea	25-Mar-45	122	25-Jul-45	43	6-Sep-45
Starcevich	North Borneo	28-Jun-45	75	11-Sep-45	58	8-Nov-45
Mackey	Tarakan	12-May-45	122	11-Sep-45	58	8-Nov-45
Partridge	Bougainville	24-Jul-45	91	23-Oct-45	91	22-Jan-46

(1) Number of days between VC action and approval by Governor-General.

(2) Number of days between approval by Governor-General and VC Gazettal.

¹⁰ One of the soldiers at the nearby training camp who was moved down to Cowra on the morning following the break-out was Private Ray Simpson who, in 1969, became the third of four Australians to win the Victoria Cross in Vietnam.

The table above clearly show that after recommendations left Australia they were promptly actioned by the authorities in London. This is not surprising since they were sent separately with the maximum of two recommendations at any one time. Other lists of recommendations for the South West Pacific often contained from 400 to 900 names and in one case over 2,300 names. The size of the lists sent were not the problem but there was usually a small number of names queried on technical grounds. On more than one occasion lists of Australian awards were delayed because one or two names out of hundreds were queried. Usually the Australian authorities quickly saw the merit in the query and amended the recommendation. However there was some frustration in Australia that an entire list was delayed until all queries had been resolved.¹¹

Although all Victoria Cross recommendations for the 1939-45 War forwarded by the Governor-General were actioned promptly the fact is that many other lists were delayed. The list containing 2,300 names was the last major list for the Second World War and was not published until March 1947, over 18 months after the end of the war. It is therefore not surprising that when there was a long delay in awarding a Victoria Cross it was assumed that the delay was in London.

Technical Queries

The technical queries raised by London were usually very valid and were usually accepted by Australia. A Vietnam War case illustrates the process. On 4 July 1965 Warrant Officer Class I Stanley Thomas Kent was recommended for a mention in dispatches and Temporary Warrant Officer Class II Robert John Penman was recommended for the British Empire Medal for Gallantry.¹² In Australia, the Adjutant General, Major-General J W Harrison, upgraded the recommendation for Kent to Member of the Order of the British Empire for Gallantry. On 24 September, which was for Kent nearly five months after the action being commended and for Penman over seven months later, the recommendations were forwarded to London. The Office of the Governor-General had received the recommendation from the Prime Minister's Department just two days earlier. On 28 October Sir Arthur Bottomley of the Commonwealth Relations Office wrote to the Governor-General to point out that the recommendations were for non-operational awards and the operational awards, the Distinguished Conduct Medal for Kent and the Military Medal for Penman would be more appropriate. The Governor-General forwarded a copy of the Commonwealth Relations Office letter to the Prime Minister on 3 November. Six weeks later London was advised that Australia had amended the recommendations and the awards were eventually gazetted on 18 March 1966.¹³

I am quite sure that both Warrant Officers would have preferred the awards they received to what was originally recommended. However, the award for Kent took ten months to process and the award for Penman 13 months. In fact the Military Medal award for Penman took three days longer to process than the award for Wheatley. During the 13 month period, the recommendation was the responsibility of Australia for nine months, and responsibility of

¹¹ AWM 88, Items No. AMF O/A 1 to 50 list all periodical recommendations for the Australian Army awards for the South West Pacific Area.

¹² The Order of the British Empire and the British Empire Medal were awards for recognising meritorious service. During the Second World War there was no gallantry award for non-operational bravery between the George Medal and the King's Commendation for Brave Conduct. The practice developed where acts of gallantry which did not reach the standard of George Medal were awarded either an Order of the British Empire or the British Empire Medal depending on the rank of the recipient. From 1957 until 1974 this was formalised by the award of the Emblem of Gallantry which was specifically mentioned in the gazette notice. There was only one such award for Vietnam, the British Empire Medal for Gallantry awarded to RAAF helicopter crewman Corporal Robert Albert Stephens who rescued the badly injured pilot from a burning helicopter which had been shot down. In 1974, with the introduction of the Queen's Gallantry Medal, gallantry awards to the Order of the British Empire and the British Empire Medal ceased.

¹³ Australian Archives (ACT): A2880/1, Item No. 5/5/11.

London for just over four months. When the awards were gazetted on 18 March the full recommendations were printed in *The London Gazette*. The British, who were not involved in Vietnam, saw no problem publishing full details of the awards.¹⁴

The Sydney Morning Herald Editorial

The view that the 13 month delay in the award for Kevin Wheatley was the fault of London was first expressed in the Letter to the Editor column of *The Sydney Morning Herald* in the days following the announcement of the award to Wheatley. It resulted in an editorial by *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 28 December. The editorial, in part, read:

It is true that in many cases, perhaps most, instances the C.R.O. [Commonwealth Relations Office] approval is no more than a formality. But many Australians, outside as well as inside the Services, may reasonably find it a distasteful formality—not to say a time-wasting one. In the case of higher awards, moreover, it is not just a formality. Warrant Officer Wheatley's V.C. for recent instance occasioned a great deal of correspondence—mainly concerned with the wording of the citation—between London and Canberra and consequently a year's delay. This sort of thing appears quite unjustifiable and dismally out of date.¹⁵

The Editorial writer was very well informed. There was correspondence between London and Canberra about the wording of the citation but the writer was misled into concluding that the discussion delayed the approval of the award or put back the publication of the award by more than several weeks. Since 1996 marked the 30th anniversary of the award to Wheatley, the files relating to the award became available for public inspection on 1 January 1997. Those files indicate, in quite a damning manner, that the delay was completely in the hands of the Australian authorities.

Honours and Awards Files

The Governor-General's file relating to the award of the Victoria Cross to Wheatley shows that the Office of Governor-General received the recommendation for Wheatley from the Prime Minister's on 18 October 1966. It was forwarded the same day to London. The Official Secretary, also on 18 October, wrote the following letter to William Leng, Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence:

I have just received from the Prime Minister the papers recommending the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to the late Warrant Officer Class 2 Kevin Arthur Wheatley, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam.

The Prime Minister's letter to the Governor-General is dated 18th October, 1966, and states that 'the Minister for Defence has recommended ...'.

I notice that the form AF-W 3121 Recommendation for Honours and Award signed by Brigadier Jackson, is dated Saigon 31st December, 1965. I am fully aware that these papers relating to Honours must be channelled through Army Headquarters, Defence Department and Prime Minister's Department but, for the life of me, I cannot understand why a recommendation of this nature takes 9½ months to reach this Office. I have complained about delays in Honours recommendations in the past but obviously I have wasted my time. Half the value of Honours is lost to the Services and to the public in inexcusable delays such as has occurred in the case under notice.

¹⁴ *The London Gazette*, 18 March 1966, p.3056.

¹⁵ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Wednesday 28 December 1966 p.2.

I am writing to you, following our recent conversation about protocol and procedures in the hope that you might be able to tell me what to do to speed things up.¹⁶

The following day, Sir Murray Tyrrell sent an almost identically worded letter to Noel Flanagan, Director Establishments and Finance Branch, Prime Minister's Department.

Victoria Cross approved

The Queen approved the award of the Victoria Cross to Wheatley on 15 November 1966. Exactly a month later the award was made public. The Governor-General was immediately advised by telegram of the Queen's approval. Sir Murray Tyrrell received a separate telegram from Sir Martin Charteris, which said, 'I have written to you about posthumous award to Wheatley. Please take no action about gazette until you have seen my letter.'

The letter from Sir Martin Charteris read:

The Queen was very pleased today to approve the award of the Victoria Cross to WO Class II K A Wheatley for his gallantry in Vietnam and was only sad that the award was a posthumous one.

Her Majesty has however told me to raise two particular points with you in connection with the wording of the citation which she considers may lead to misapprehension.

The first point is whether it is wise to mention in the citation that Wheatley discarded his rifle. There were no doubt good reasons for this, but it may be said that he could have carried his companion and his rifle from which a soldier should never be separated.

The second point concerns Wheatley's last observed act; standing with a grenade in either hand awaiting the approach of the enemy then no more than 10 metres distant from him. Should it not be made unmistakably clear that the grenades were used against the enemy and not for the purpose of self-immolation.

In general, Her Majesty whilst not for a moment doubting that Wheatley displayed outstanding valour considers that the citation should leave no doubt in anyone's mind that his action was of the exceptional quality required for a Victoria Cross rather than for a Military Cross: the award made to Fazekas.¹⁷

You will know best how to deal with this question.¹⁸

Two weeks later the Noel Flanagan from the Prime Minister's Department replied to Government House that Defence agreed that there was considerable substance in the two points raised by the Queen. Such a response is not surprising considering the supporting statements which had been attached to the original recommendation clearly indicated that Wheatley and Swanton had been killed by gunfire. Captain Fazekas's statement said that the 'Warrant Officers had been shot through the head several times from a close range'. Vietnamese Private Dinh Do's translated statement read that both Australians were 'shot through the head several times'. The amended citation differed from the original by the deletion of the words 'rifle and' from the

¹⁶ Australian Archives (ACT): A2880/1, Item No. 5/5/21

¹⁷ Captain Felix Fazekas, Australian Staff Corps was Wheatley's commanding Officer. He was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry on 13 November 1965. A full citation for the Military Cross appears in *The London Gazette* five days after Wheatley's award on 20 December 1966 at p.13719.

¹⁸ Australian Archives (ACT): A2880/1, Item No. 5/5/21.

sentence that had read 'he discarded his rifle and radio'. In addition, the following clause was added at the end of paragraph 5, that 'both had died of gunshot wounds'.¹⁹

So Her Majesty The Queen, who spotted a potentially embarrassing ambiguity in the original citation, delayed the process by no more than 14 days but ended up carrying all the blame for the entire 13 month delay!



Warrant Officer Class 2 Kevin Arthur Wheatley,
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam

¹⁹ Ibid., Confidential letter dated 29 November 1966 from Noel Flanagan, Prime Minister's Department to Murray Tyrrell, Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Black Hawk helicopter accident — 12 June 1996

Sir William Deane¹

On the evening of Wednesday, 12 June 1996, at the High Range training area near Townsville a mid-air collision occurred between two Black Hawk helicopters from 5th Aviation Regiment during a training exercise with the Special Air Service Regiment. The exercise was a live fire counter-terrorism approach exercise being conducted under black-out conditions. The pilots were using night-vision equipment. The exercise had been rehearsed that afternoon by everyone involved.

As the aircraft approached Fire Support Base Barbara — on a 2,000 foot high sparsely timbered plateau — four of the aircraft were in line abreast. Two other helicopters, being used as sniper aircraft, were slightly to the front and to either side of the other four helicopters. About 30 seconds from the Landing Zone with SAS men already preparing to fast rope from the helicopters from a height of about 30 metres, the two aircraft on the left-hand side of the line abreast formation collided. Both aircraft caught fire.

With its main rotor damaged, the far left-hand aircraft crashed straight into the ground landing upside down. Of the 15 people on this aircraft, 14 died and one was critically injured. The tail rotor on the other aircraft was destroyed but the pilot, Captain David Burke, managed to land it on its wheels despite the fuselage with no tailplane rotating on its axis. Four SASR soldiers aboard that aircraft were killed.

Safety personnel on the ground to monitor the exercise coordinated the rescue effort. The four other Black Hawk helicopters were used to shuttle some of the dying men and the injured to Townsville General Hospital.

That bare summary masks a national tragedy of great dimensions. Eighteen members of the two regiments were killed. Another 12 were injured. Some of those injured will suffer grave disabilities for the rest of their lives.

The tragedy came only six weeks after that at Port Arthur. Our nation was again plunged into mourning. We all have our own particular memories. For me, those memories include ecumenical services in Townsville, Canberra and Perth and meetings with the injured and the families of those who had died. There is, however, one moment which will always stand out above all others. It was the moment in the ecumenical service under grey skies and in drizzling rain at Lavarack Barracks when the Black Hawk helicopters came flying overhead shortly after the last post had been sounded. It brought home to everyone there, both soldiers and civilians, the enormity of the loss and the plain fact that the victims had died and been injured in the service of Australia. It was a moment of profound sadness. It was also one of real pride in our country and in the members of its Defence Force.

Today, we are all still conscious of the tragic loss of life and injuries sustained on that fateful evening. The loss and the pain which we as a nation share, will again be evident within two weeks' time when we gather to observe the first anniversary of that dreadful accident. This

¹ Address by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on the occasion of an investiture ceremony for the Presentation of Australian Bravery Decorations and service commendations in respect of actions at the site of the Black Hawk helicopter accident on 12 June 1996. Government house, Canberra, Friday, 23 May 1997.

afternoon is, however, more an occasion for pride than for sorrow as we honour those who responded to the alarming situation in which they found themselves with incredible courage, with selfless concern for the welfare of others, and with a ready appreciation of what needed to be done and risked to save the lives of their mates.

Many contributed towards the amelioration of the injuries and suffering. Their actions were exhaustively examined in connection with a formal inquiry into the accident. After that inquiry, some were nominated by the Chief of Army to the Australian Decorations Advisory Committee for consideration for bravery awards. The inquiry had drawn upon the testimony of those whose lives were spared. No-one can ever know the thoughts of those who died, or what actions they may have performed had they been among the survivors. While recognising the actions of those who have been singled out for special honour today, we are all conscious of the dedication and courage of all the brave men who took part in the exercise that night. And we are also conscious of an overall picture in which extraordinary bravery by soldiers, air crew and ground safety personnel to rescue their comrades from the burning wrecks, despite the flames and exploding ammunition, together with the on the-scene medical aid and rapid transport to hospital, prevented much higher casualties.

It is a distinctive feature of the Australian honours system that decorations for gallantry in the face of the enemy are matched at every level by awards for bravery under all other circumstances.

Today's Investiture of awards for bravery will see the award of three Stars of Courage. When I tell you that the Star of Courage is awarded only for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril and that its twin — the Star of Gallantry — is surpassed only by the Victoria Cross, you will appreciate its great national significance.

Similar comments can be made about the bravery medal — awarded only for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances — and the Commendation for Brave Conduct awarded for other acts of bravery which are considered worthy of recognition.

In all, the awards to be made today include three Stars of Courage, three Bravery Medals, two Commendations for Brave Conduct, four Chief of the Defence Force Commendations and two Chief of Army Commendations.

On behalf of Australia and all Australians, I warmly congratulate all the recipients upon their bravery, upon their devotion to their duty and to their comrades, and upon their individual actions. I would add that I anticipate that these Bravery Awards may be augmented at a later date by awards to others involved for their conspicuous and outstanding service at the time of the tragedy.

In retrospect, the Black Hawk tragedy reminds us all of how much Australia demands of the members of its armed forces. The Australian Defence Force must be able to react to widely varying circumstances and tasks in maintaining its ability to defend our nation. To achieve that ability, training has to be uncompromising and as realistic as possible. That means that there will inevitably be occasions when the men and women of our armed services are called upon to face danger, including risk of physical injury and death.

While the Black Hawk tragedy reminds us of how much we ask of our service men and women, it also reminds us of how much they give in response. In particular, by today's ceremony, we honour not only the 14 men whose bravery has been singled out. The honour done to them is also an honour to those with whom they served. And, of course, their bravery, their actions and their awards bring great honour to their Regiments.

Awarded the Star of Courage

Corporal Dominic Boyle

For conspicuous courage at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996.

Corporal Boyle was aboard Black Hawk 2 when it crashed. Although he sustained a fractured left elbow in the crash, he placed the lives and welfare of others above his own safety. He made numerous attempts to save those trapped, to free the bodies of those killed in the wreck of the burning fuselage and to quell the fire with extinguishers. With complete disregard for his own safety, he entered and re-entered the wreckage of Black Hawk 2, despite the added danger of exploding ammunition and devices. When ordered to, he left the wreckage to obtain treatment for his arm and, during the evacuation trip to hospital, performed cardio-pulmonary resuscitation on another injured airman.

Corporal Gregory Kirkham

For conspicuous courage at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996.

Corporal Kirkham was an Aircrewman Loadmaster in Black Hawk 2 which crash landed and rapidly burst into flames. Corporal Kirkham left his aircraft and proceeded to the wreck of Black Hawk 1 which was upside down and burning fiercely. He discovered a badly injured soldier in the doorway of the aircraft and using a pocket knife began to cut him free of his harness. He was soon joined by another member who assisted him in dragging the casualty clear of the burning wreck. Despite the great danger to himself from fire and exploding ordnance, Corporal Kirkham again entered the wreck in search of survivors. This he did on at least four occasions, each time clearing his way by removing bodies and throwing explosives clear. He found another survivor and assisted in moving him to safety. At one stage Corporal Kirkham deliberately placed himself against the fire to shield other rescuers from the heat as they moved through the wreck.

Corporal Gary Proctor

For conspicuous courage at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996

Corporal Proctor was aboard Black Hawk 2 when it crashed. Although suffering from a broken coccyx and shock, he placed the lives and welfare of his fellow soldiers above his own pain. He placed himself in great danger by assisting the pilots and crew of Black Hawk 2 to get clear of the wreckage, before attempting to free others who were injured and remove the bodies of those killed. Corporal Proctor disregarded his own injuries and showed no concern for his personal safety in his numerous attempts to save those trapped and to free the bodies of those killed in the wreck of the burning fuselage, despite the added danger of exploding ammunition and devices.

Awarded the Bravery Medal:

Lance Corporal Brian Morriss

For considerable bravery at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996

Without hesitation, Trooper Morriss placed himself in great danger and showed no concern for his personal safety in his numerous attempts to save those trapped and remove the bodies of those killed in the wreck of the burning fuselage. He entered Black Hawk 1 on numerous occasions disregarding the additional danger of exploding ammunition and devices. At one stage, after being temporarily overcome by heat and burnt on the face, he re-entered the fuselage and pulled at a safety line, freeing a person trapped inside. Trooper Morriss was

directly responsible for the successful rescue of a number of the injured and the freeing of the bodies of those killed.

Captain Jim Ryan

For considerable bravery at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996.

Captain Ryan was one of the first men at the crash site. He showed complete disregard for his personal safety by placing himself in great danger in his numerous attempts to remove those trapped and the bodies of those killed in the wreck of the burning fuselage. The added danger of exploding ammunition and devices did not dissuade him in his endeavours and he was directly responsible for the successful rescue of a number of the injured and the recovery of the bodies of those killed. Despite sustaining burns to his face during these rescue actions, Captain Ryan persisted with his efforts to save lives and free bodies.

Sergeant Mick Williams

For considerable bravery at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996.

Sergeant Williams continually placed himself in great personal danger in his endeavours to save the trapped men. Without regard for his own safety, he entered and re-entered the burning fuselage of Black Hawk 1 to rescue those trapped and recover the bodies of those killed. Disregarding the flames and the exploding ammunition, he continued in his endeavours to reach those who were injured or dead.

Awarded the Commendation for Brave Conduct:

Staff Sergeant Nicholas Coenen

For considerable bravery at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996.

Sergeant Coenen quickly moved to the site of the crashed helicopters and was instrumental in cutting an opening and freeing an aircrew member from the burning wreckage. The wreckage at this stage was in an extremely hazardous state from the fire and exploding ammunition. After this initial act, he was involved with removing the bodies of those killed from the crash site, despite the danger from the continued burning of the crashed aircraft and the exploding ammunition. Ignoring his personal safety and under hazardous circumstances, Sergeant Coenen was again directly involved in the freeing of one of the injured. He then continued to search the fuselage for other survivors, at great risk to himself.

Warrant Officer Robert McCabe

For considerable bravery at the site of the Black Hawk Helicopter accident on 12 June 1996.

Sergeant McCabe² was initially asked to establish a landing point for the evacuation helicopters. He then moved quickly to the site of the crashed helicopters where he proceeded to provide assistance to the injured and to extricate the bodies of those killed. Both helicopters were burning fiercely and there was the added danger of exploding ammunition. Disregarding his personal safety, and under hazardous circumstances, Sergeant McCabe was involved in freeing one of the injured men and assisted in the recovery of the bodies of those killed. At great risk to himself, Sergeant McCabe then continued to search the fuselage for other survivors.

² Recently promoted to Warrant Officer.

Australian Defence Force Commendations

Awarded the Chief of the Defence Force Commendation

Trooper Scott Carnie

Corporal Rob Cousins

Lance Corporal Craig Naumann

Awarded the Chief of Army Commendation:

Corporal Steven Frerk

Corporal Jamie Sharpe



Star of Courage recipients Corporals Gary Proctor and Gregory Kirkham

Colonel Warner Wright Spalding NSW Artillery

Barrett J Carr JP BSc PEng¹

Warner Wright Spalding was, at the very least, a third generation soldier/marine. His father was Richard Carr Spalding and grandfather Warner Reeve Spalding. Starting with his grandfather, Warner Reeve Spalding was born in 1779. He saw service in Holland as a volunteer, under the Duke of York and in 1799 lost an arm at the age of 20. This evidently didn't prevent him serving in the army as he was commissioned an Ensign in the 1st Royal Veteran Battalion in 1807, and in 1810, he was promoted to Lieutenant in the same battalion. Both commissions were obtained without purchase.

He subsequently served in the 6th and the 12th Royal Veteran Battalions and finally retired from the 8th Royal Veteran Battalion, date unknown. He was later appointed Barracks Master at Fort Augustus North Britain, which was the army's way of describing Scotland.

He married in 1813 and had four sons and two daughters. The eldest son was Richard Carr Spalding who was born in 1814. Incidentally his third son was named Warner Reeve, after his grandfather. Richard Carr Spalding was commissioned in the Royal Marines as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1833, at 19 years of age. In November 1840, whilst serving in the *Hastings* as a Lieutenant, he participated in the bombardment and subsequent capture of Acre, being slightly wounded and receiving favourable Mention in Despatches. He was awarded the Naval General Service Medal, bar Syria, and the silver St Jean D'Acre medal.

In 1856 with the rank of Captain, he served in the Crimea as Assistant Provost Marshal at Balaklava and stayed in this appointment until the final evacuation in July of that year. For his service he received the thanks of the Military Commander in Chief. He was promoted Lt Colonel in 1859, and when he retired on full pay in 1861, he received the honorary rank of Colonel. He died in 1874 of disease of the Brain.

His son Warner Wright Spalding, was born at Portsmouth in 1844, where his father was serving as a 1st Lieutenant. Young Spalding was educated at the Royal Naval School, New Cross, and served as a cadet in the Royal Marines at the School of Gunnery ship *Excellent* at Portsmouth in 1860, his father at this time held the rank of Lt Colonel. It is obvious that this would have had some effect on junior as he passed out 1st in all subjects, no doubt to the great satisfaction of his father. He was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Marines in 1862.

In the period 1863 to 1866 he served in the *Conqueror* and the *Euryalus* and during this time was promoted 1st lieutenant in 1865.

¹ This article is a slightly revised edition of a talk on the career of Colonel Warner Wright Spalding given by Barry Carr at the inaugural Conference of the OMRS Australia held in Canberra on the Weekend of 18/19 & 20 July 1997. Barry Carr did his National Service in 1953 with 11 National Service Training Battalion, Wacol, whilst doing a Plumbing, Drainage and Gas Fitters Apprenticeship. Served in the RAAOC (CMF) in Brisbane, as a Sergeant, until joining the RAAF in 1958. Discharged after 6 years he returned to the University of NSW, graduating with a B Sc (Civil Engineering) degree. Rejoined the CMF and was a member of 14 Course OCTU in Sydney, graduated as a Lieutenant in 1972. Posted to 4 Fd Sqn RAE Haberfield. Worked for the Department of Public Works, then transferred to the Housing Commission of NSW, later called the Department of Housing. Retired as Senior Engineer with the Department of Housing in 1995 and now works as a Civil Engineering Consultant. Was a foundation member of the NSW Military Historical Society, past editor of Dispatch (the society's magazine), and contributor to the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Collects medals to Australians and specialises in QSAs to Australians, New Zealanders, Colonial Units and Royal Navy.

In 1863/64 there was trouble in the Straits of Simonoseki, the entrance to the inland Sea of Japan. The Japanese batteries guarding this Strait fired on various European ships as they passed through the Strait. This annoyed both the European powers and the Americans as various crew members were wounded and some were killed. In 1864, as a result of these attacks the allies gathered a fleet together which consisted of British, Dutch, French and USA ships and bombarded the batteries of heavy guns that guarded the Strait. Two hours after the commencement of the bombardment, landing parties from the *Perseus* and *Medusa* went ashore and destroyed the batteries of 14 guns. The following day 1,200 men from the same two ships and the *Amsterdam* again landed, attacked and captured 48 guns. On both occasions Ensigns Kennedy and Spalding carried the colours of the 1st Battalion Royal Marines, both being Honourably Mentioned. Now Spalding was serving in the *Euryalis*, the Flag Ship of Vice Admiral Sir A L Kuper, the Commander-in-Chief, yet no sailors or marines were sent from this ship, so it would appear that Spalding talked his way into joining the two landing parties. Incidentally two Naval Victoria Crosses were awarded for this action although no campaign medal or bar was awarded to the many participants of this miniature war.

In 1867 Spalding qualified for the appointment of Adjutant which in turn qualified him to instruct young officers as well as NCOs and soldiers in their various duties. This without doubt assisted him in his future career in NSW. On the 31 March, 1869, when stationed at the Royal Marine Head Quarters at Woolwich, the Woolwich Division was abolished. The next day Lieutenant Spalding transferred to the Royal Marine Head Quarters at Plymouth and by the end of April was placed on half pay at his own request. A year later on the 7 July 1870, he commuted his half pay. This ended his service in the United Kingdom.

In 1871 the NSW Permanent Military Force was established and the first company of Artillery was raised. This Artillery company was composed of two Captains, two Lieutenants, a Battery Sergeant Major, Battery Quarter Master Sergeant, four Sergeants, four Corporals, four Bombardiers and 82 Gunners. The Battery Commander was Captain G J Airey and the 2nd Captain was Warner Wright Spalding, both ex-Royal Marines and both, according to some sources, were without artillery experience.²

In 1875 Spalding applied for and was appointed, adjutant of the Volunteer Artillery Brigade, much to the objections of Major P L C Shepherd, the Commanding officer of the Volunteer Artillery, and some other officers.³ This was additional to his appointment in the Permanent Artillery (remember he had qualified as an adjutant in the Royal Marines). No doubt the additional salary of £100 per annum was a deciding factor. Another Battery was formed in 1876 which Spalding took permanent command of. He retained the command of this 2nd Battery until 1889, when it became 'A' Battery NSW Artillery. In September 1879 Major Spalding led a detachment of the Regiment, in company with civil police, to Newcastle for the purpose of quelling a threatening situation in the Northern Colliery districts. Fortunately no action was

2 'Testimonial Subsequently Received from Lieutenant-General W R Maxwell Royal Marine Light Infantry.'
"I hereby certify that Captain (then Lieutenant) Spalding served under my command at the Royal Marine Depot, Walmer, in 1862, and subsequently, at Woolwich, when I commanded that Division of the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

I found him a young officer full of zeal for his profession, giving satisfaction to his superiors, and most attentive to his duties, well up to his drill both in Artillery and Light Infantry branches of the services- he having passed through a course of the former at the Battery at Woolwich under my personal notice.

I always considered him an officer and a gentleman."

3 Given under my hand, at 10, Victoria Park, Dover, this 10th day of March, 1876.

Major Shepherd's objections and subsequent concern of the Cabinet as to the protest of Major Shepherd to the action of the Governor and the Executive Council selecting Capt Spalding to the position of Adjutant of the Volunteer Artillery.

required. The interesting aspect was that the troops sailed for Newcastle after only a little more than one hour's notice, which was quite an achievement, even by today's standards.

In 1881, Major Spalding suggested to the NSW Government that the Permanent Field Artillery should be offered for service to the Imperial Government for service in the first Boer War, much to the annoyance of the NSW Premier Henry Parkes who didn't like soldiers in any case. It therefore should come as no surprise that Spalding should want to be involved with the contingent going to the Sudan.

Tuesday 3rd March 1885 was declared a public holiday to farewell the NSW troops embarking on the troopships *Iberian* and *Australasian*. The contingent was commanded by Colonel John Richardson and the second in command and in charge of the Artillery was Lt Colonel Warner Wright Spalding. Originally it was intended to send two batteries under the command of Colonel Charles Roberts, who commanded the Permanent Artillery, however the Imperial authorities requested that only one battery be sent, thus giving Spalding, with the lower rank of Lt Colonel the opportunity to go. If you have a look at Arthur Collingridge's painting *The Departure of the Australian Contingent for the Sudan 1885*, you will see in the foreground Richardson and Spalding talking together, and if you look in the bottom right corner you will see the painter sitting at his easel painting the departure scene, which I think is a very nice touch to advertise yourself.

Spalding, together with the troops and two hundred very fine horses embarked on the troopship *Australasian* for Suakin. He organised and trained, from rather a mixed force of artillerymen and hastily purchased horses, an effective field battery, which received at Haudoub the Commendations of the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Wolseley and the Artillery Commandant, Colonel Nicholson of the Royal Artillery. On leaving the Sudan the horses and stores were handed over to the British, who in turn donated the six 9 pdr artillery pieces they had provided to the NSW Force. Not a bad swap, as the horses, because of quarantine problems could not be returned to Australia.

The contingent was away for approximately 13 weeks, and on its return in the troopship *Arab* the troops were placed in the Quarantine Station. After the finish of the quarantine period the contingent marched through Sydney in a torrential downpour. Not altogether a welcome home coming, due no doubt to the inclement weather and to the fact that no public holiday had been declared, thus reducing the number of spectators. For his service Richardson was given the Brevet rank of Major General and was made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. Spalding was given the Brevet rank of Colonel and was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. This was the first occasion that Australians, serving in a Colonial unit, were awarded a CB & CMG for war service.

In February 1886 the Egypt medal bar Suakin 1885 was presented to the 500 ex-members of the Sudan Contingent who turned up for the ceremony, and three years later the Khedive Star 1884-86 type was distributed.

In 1886, the first course of the newly established School of Artillery started, and Spalding attended the course in 1888, obtaining a 1st Class Certificate with a score of 2,910. This score was only exceeded by three Lieutenants and eight NCOs for the period 1886 to 1890. A certain Lieutenant W T Bridges had the highest score of 3,122 in 1886 and later was killed on Gallipoli as the Australian Commander-in-Chief. The senior artillery officers were ordered to attend the course much to their objection and protestations. One even went so far as to state that he was incapacitated by gout etc from taking any active exercise.

Colonel Spalding's career in the NSW Forces:

1st appointment	Captain	August 1871
	Major	August 1876
	Brevet rank of Lt Colonel	September 1881
	Brevet rank of Colonel	December 1885
	Substantive Colonel	November 1891

On the retirement of Major General Richardson in 1892 Spalding became acting Commandant of the NSW Forces and relinquished this post in 1893 on the arrival in the Colony of Major General Hutton. From 1892 until he retired in 1896 he commanded the NSW Artillery. Upon his retirement he became the first Government appointed Chief Magistrate of Norfolk Island. Colonel Spalding appointed his son Warner Edward Spalding as Clerk of the Court. Colonel Spalding was most unpopular from the start. Petitions complaining of his behaviour and asking for his removal were sent to the authorities in 1898. Mr. G E Brodie, Chief Inspector of Public Accounts, visited the island that year and reported on financial matters. He found that the accounts were badly kept, school fees were in arrears, and certain public money had been misappropriated by Spalding Jr. Colonel Spalding's administration was subject to extensive public enquires and he was eventually removed from his post.⁴ He remained on his farm on Norfolk Island, until at least 1908 and then returned to NSW to live in retirement at Macksville where he died in 1920.

Spalding had three sons and four daughters. Colonel Spalding's son, Warner Edward Spalding, carried on the family military tradition, joining the NSW Artillery (partially paid), and as a sergeant in 'D'Coy 1st NSW Mounted Rifles, served in the Boer War. On discharge he served in 'E' Division of the South African Constabulary. He must have found this rather tame as he obtained his discharge by purchase in 1901 and joined the Bushveldt Carbineers, as a Lieutenant. Later, of course, the Bushveldt Carbineers was renamed the Pietersburg Light Horse.

An interesting point about Colonel Spalding is that when the 1st Artillery Company was formed, Captain G J Airey was the battery commander and Spalding was the 2nd Captain. When the Sudan Contingent went away, Spalding was in command of the NSW Artillery, as a Lt Colonel, and Airey was 2nd in command as a major.

Spalding's group consists of:

- CMG (gold),
- Egypt Medal (undated) bar Suakin 1885, named Lt. Col. W. W. SPALDING, N.S.W. ARTY.,
- Khedive Star 1884-86 type unnamed,
- Mayor of Sydney's Medal (silver),
- medallion commemorating the Departure of the NSW Troops to the Sudan Mar. 3-85 (bronze gilt)

When I purchased the group 30 years ago, the dealer, Harry Larkin, had obtained it from a descendant, W Spalding, who was living at the time in Spalding Crescent Hurstville Grove, Sydney, but that's another story.

Sources:

- Public Records Office, London
- Original and photocopies of the Spalding family Commissions
- History of 'A' Battery by Richmond Cubis
- Miscellaneous books relating to the war in the Sudan

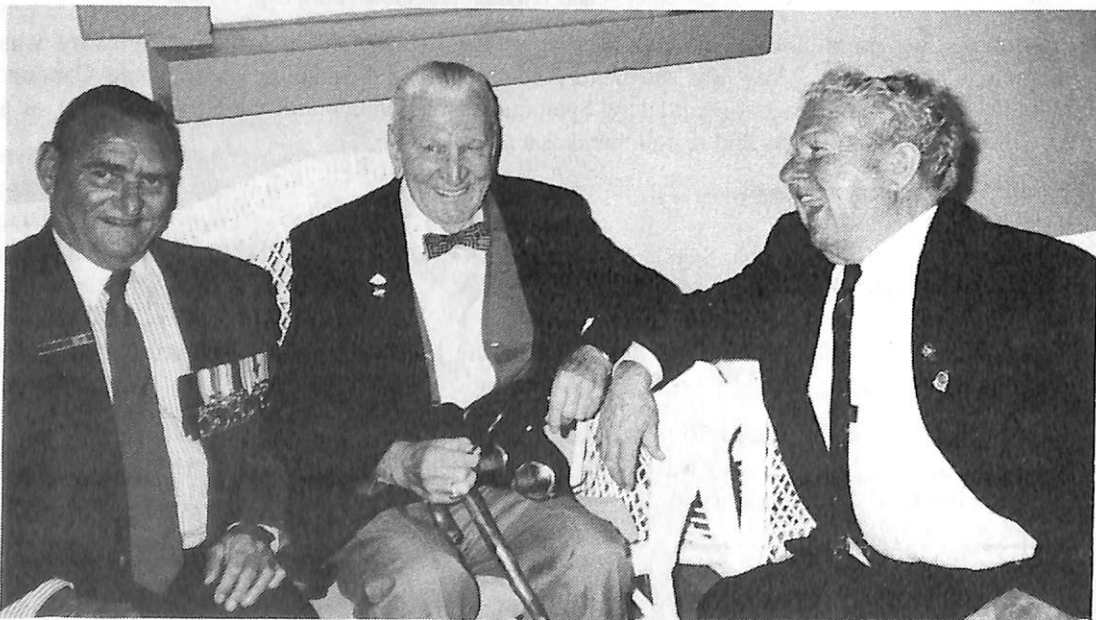
⁴ Letter from Norfolk Island Historical Society dated 30 September 1978.

Death of the last New Zealand VC

Anthony Staunton

The last surviving New Zealand Victoria Cross recipient, Sergeant John Daniel (Jack) Hinton, died on 28 June 1997 at Christchurch, New Zealand, aged 87. He was awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions in the battle at the port of Kalamata, Greece, on the night of 28/29 April 1941.¹ The Germans, with overwhelming tank and air superiority, invaded Yugoslavia and Greece simultaneously on 6 April 1941. The weight of the German attack forced the withdrawal of the Commonwealth forces which had been dispatched to help the Greeks in March. Of the 62,600 Australian, New Zealand and British troops that had landed in Greece, 48,000 were re-embarked by the end of April.

On the night of 28 April, Hinton was among troops waiting to embark when an armoured German reconnaissance column reached the outskirts of Kalamata. Hinton, ignored the order to retreat closer to the port, and rushed forward to attack the nearest gun in the German column. Hinton threw two grenades which wiped out the crew. He then came on with the bayonet and, followed by other New Zealand soldiers, dealt with the German troops who had retreated into two houses. Meanwhile, the rest of his party captured a six-inch German gun which they turned on the rest of the enemy column. However, when the main German force reached the area, the defenders were overwhelmed after desperate fighting and the port was captured. Hinton fought to the end, but was captured after being badly wounded in the stomach. His spirited counter-attack had delayed the German advance, and enabled more troops to be evacuated.



Keith Payne VC, Jack Hinton VC and Ted Kenna VC at Norfolk Island on Anzac Day (photo courtesy Carey McQuillan)

¹ Max Lambert, Bold Soldier Hinton ignored retreat and won VC, *The New Zealand Herald*, Monday, 30 June 1997, p.A9.

Hinton, whose father served as a sergeant in the New Zealand contingent in the South African war of 1899-1902, was born 17 September 1909 at Colac Bay, Southland, New Zealand. On the outbreak of the Second World War, Hinton was a foreman-driver with a public works department on South Island. He enlisted and, though 30 years old and with no military experience, was soon promoted sergeant.

The recommendation for the Victoria Cross was made by Major G H Thomson, the Senior Medical Officer in the British POW Hospital at Kalami through the International Red Cross to the British War Office. A deputation of ten officers had approached Major Thomson and, although the recommendation was irregular, the submission was accepted because no other channel was available. When the award was announced the Germans paraded a special guard of honour for him. After his release he received the Victoria Cross from King George VI at Buckingham Palace on 11 May 1945 in the same investiture as Captain Charles Upham received his first award.

In 1867, the Victoria Cross was extended to include Colonial Militia. A member of the Auckland Militia, Major Charles Heaphy became the first Colonial and first of twenty New Zealand soldiers to win the Victoria Cross. There was one award for the South African War, ten for the 1914-18 War and nine for the 1939-45 War including the award to Hinton and the double award to Charles Upham who died on 22 November 1994.

After the war, Hinton returned to New Zealand and entered the hotel business, managing, leasing and finally owning his own hotel. He was very much at home in the horse world, being an expert in trotting races. Kind and with a great sense of fun, Hinton was also a man of innate wisdom and great courtesy. Hinton's first wife died in 1950. He is survived by his second wife, Molly. There were no children from either marriage.

Surviving Victoria Cross Recipients

Name	Force	Year	Place	Birth date
1939-1945 War				
Agansing Rai	Indian Army	1944	Burma	1920
Ali Haidar	Indian Army	1945	Italy	21 Aug 1913
Annand, Richard W	British Army	1940	France	5 Nov 1914
Bhanbhagta Gurung	Indian Army	1945	Burma	1921
Bhandari Ram	Indian Army	1944	Burma	24 Jul 1919
Chapman, Edward T	British Army	1945	Germany	13 Jan 1920
Cruickshank, John A	Royal Air Force	1944	Nth Atlantic	20 May 1920
Cutler, Sir Roden	Australian Army	1941	Syria	24 May 1916
Fraser, Ian Edward	Royal Navy	1945	Singapore	18 Dec 1920
Gaje Ghale	Indian Army	1943	Burma	Jul 1922
Ganju Lama	Indian Army	1944	Burma	7 Jul 1922
Gardner, Philip John	British Army	1941	Libya	25 Dec 1914
Gould, Thomas W	Royal Navy	1942	Mediterranean	28 Dec 1914
Jamieson, David A	British Army	1944	France	1 Oct 1920
Kenna, Edward	Australian Army	1945	New Guinea	6 Jul 1919
Kenneally, John P	British Army	1943	Tunisia	15 Mar 1921
Lachhiman Gurung	Indian Army	1945	Burma	30 Dec 1917
Merritt, Charles C I	Canadian Army	1942	France	10 Nov 1908
Norton, Gerard Ross	South Africa	1944	Italy	7 Sep 1915
Porteous, Patrick A	British Army	1942	France	1 Jan 1918
Reid, William	Royal Air Force	1943	Germany	21 Dec 1921

Smith, Ernest Alvia	Canadian Army	1944	Italy	3 May 1914
Smythe, Quentin G M	South Africa	1942	Egypt	6 Aug 1916
Tulbahadur Pun	Indian Army	1944	Burma	23 Mar 1923
Umrao Singh	Indian Army	1944	Burma	11 Jul 1920
Watkins, Sir Tasker	British Army	1944	France	18 Nov 1918
Wilson, Eric C T	British Army	1940	Somaliland	2 Oct 1912
Korean War				
Speakman, William	British Army	1951	Korea	21 Sep 1927
Confrontation				
Rambahadur Limbu	British Army	1965	Sarawak	Aug 1939
Vietnam War				
Payne, Keith	Australian Army	1969	Vietnam	30 Aug 1933

The word “Anzac”

Bruce Topperwien¹

Recently, some ex-service organisation leaders have suggested that ‘Anzac’ should always be spelt in upper case characters and to do otherwise is to ignore the origin of the term and so dishonour the soldiers who fought to uphold the name.

While the thrust of such a proposition, at first consideration, is understandable, it overlooks the fact that Anzac is no longer merely an acronym for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, it has passed into history and the English language as a word in its own right, with its own meaning and connotations. It became a word almost immediately that ‘ANZAC’ was coined as an acronym and was used as a word by the Anzacs themselves. It became more than an acronym by the way in which it was used, the manner in which it was defended, and the reputation given to it, by the troops that adopted it as a descriptive and evocative word that they were proud to be associated with. Even those Australians and New Zealanders in their country’s military forces who were not formally part of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps were proud to be known as ‘Anzacs’.

Since the earliest times, ‘Anzac’ has been used as a word. The first official use of Anzac as a word rather than as an acronym was when it became, at the request of General Birdwood, the name used by the British Forces for that piece of land occupied by the Australian, New Zealand, British, and Indian Army forces on the west coast of the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915.² Turkey officially renamed this place Anzac Cove in 1990.

The Anzac Book, which was published in 1916, was written in 1915 by the Anzacs themselves while still at Gallipoli as a Christmas souvenir.³ In their own writings and illustrations the word is frequently spelt as ‘Anzac’ and not ‘ANZAC’. What better evidence could there be as to the appropriate usage of ‘Anzac’? While the soldiers clearly recognised the proper acronym usage, and used it in that way in the relevant circumstances, they also recognised the fact that by their deeds and through their courage, they had brought into the English language a new word that would live forever as a memorial to their accomplishments and sacrifice.

This was recognised not only by the Australian Parliament, but also by the British Parliament shortly after the war. In 1920, the Australian Parliament enacted the *War Precautions Act Repeal Act 1920*, which provided that the Governor-General may make regulations ‘prescribing matters providing for and in relation to ... prohibiting or regulating the use of the word “Anzac” or any word resembling the word “Anzac”.’⁴

The Protection of Word “Anzac” Regulations, made under that Act, provide a scheme of protection and regulation of the use of the word so that it cannot be appropriated for commercial or other purposes without the Minister’s consent.⁵ The Act (in conjunction with the

¹ Bruce Topperwien is a Director in the Legal Services Group of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, which administers the Protection of Word “Anzac” Regulations.

² CEW Bean, *Anzac to Amiens*, Australian War Memorial, 1946, pp.120-121

³ Bean, p.176

⁴ Section 22, *War Precautions Act Repeal Act 1920*

⁵ The word is also protected by provisions of the Corporations Law and Customs Regulations, which also require the Minister’s consent before it can be used in the name of a company or in imported goods.

Crimes Act 1914) provides for fines of up to \$6,000 for an individual or \$30,000 for a corporation for each offence as well as imprisonment for up to 12 months.

The regulations provide as follows:

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Protection of Word "Anzac" Regulations.

1A. In these Regulations, unless the contrary intentions appear—

"Entertainment" includes any exhibition, performance, lecture, amusement, game, sport or social gathering held or conducted for the purpose of raising money.

2.(1) No person shall, without the authority of the Minister, proof whereof shall lie upon the person accused, assume or use the word "Anzac" or any word resembling the word "Anzac" in connexion with any trade, business, calling or profession or in connexion with any entertainment or any lottery or art union or as the name or part of the name of any private residence, boat, vehicle or charitable or other institution, or any building in connexion therewith.

(1A) Sub-regulation (1) does not apply to the assumption or use of the words "Anzac Day" in connection with an entertainment held on 25 April in any year or on consecutive days that include that day where those words are not used to describe or designate single events within an entertainment consisting of 2 or more events.

(2) Without limiting the meaning of sub-regulation (1) a word shall be deemed to be assumed or used by a person in connexion with any trade, business, calling or profession if—

(a) it is applied (whether as a trade mark or otherwise) to any goods manufactured, produced, sold or offered for sale by that person; or

(b) it is used as the name or part of the name of any firm or company registered in Australia.

(3) The Registrar of Trade Marks shall—

(a) refuse to register as a trade mark any word the assumption or use of which in connexion with any trade, business, calling or profession is prohibited under sub-regulation (1) of this regulation; and

(b) unless otherwise directed by the Minister, cancel any existing registration of any such word as a trade mark, and refuse to take any step or further step in connexion with any application for the use of any such word as a trade mark.

(4) The Registrar of Designs shall—

(a) refuse to register as a design any word or mark the assumption or use of which in connexion with any trade, business, calling or profession is prohibited under sub-regulation (1) of this regulation; and

(b) unless otherwise directed by the Minister, cancel any existing registration of any such word or mark as a design, and refuse to take any step or further step in connexion with any application for the use of any such word or mark as a design.

(5) The Registrar-General or other proper officer of a State charged with the registration of firms and companies may—

(a) permit any firm or company which has been registered under a State Act, and in the name of which there is included any word the use of which in connexion with any trade, business, calling or profession is prohibited under sub-regulation (1) of this

regulation, to amend the name of the firm or company by the omission of that word, and, if the firm or company so desires, the substitution of any other word or words; or

- (b) cancel the registration of any firm or company which refuses or fails to apply within a reasonable period for the amendment of its name.

3.(1) A person shall not, without the approval of the Minister, use in naming a street, road or park, the word "Anzac" or any word resembling the word "Anzac" as the name or part of the name of the street, road or park.

(2) The last preceding sub-regulation does not apply to or in relation to—

- (a) the naming of a street, road or park in which, or in the immediate vicinity of which, there is situated a public memorial relating to the war which commenced on the fourth day of August, 1914, or the war which commenced on the third day of September 1939; or
- (b) the naming or re-naming of a street, road or park the name of which at the commencement of this regulation contained the word "Anzac" or any word resembling the word "Anzac".

Over the years there have been many approaches to the relevant Minister seeking approval for the use of the word 'Anzac'. Most have been refused, especially if they have related to commercial enterprises. One particularly imaginative (but unsuccessful) applicant sought permission to call his product, 'Anzac potato harvester—a great Australian Digger'. Another well-known international manufacturer of collectables had manufactured a collector's knife named 'The legendary Anzac knuckle knife', purporting to be a replica of a commando knife used by Anzacs in World War 2. A check with Australian War Memorial curators revealed that a knife of somewhat similar shape (but of considerably smaller dimensions and without the intricate pattern-work of the 'replica') was used for a very brief time by a small number of New Zealanders, but it had never been used by Australian Forces. Not surprisingly, the application was refused by the Minister.

The Minister usually gives permission for the use of 'Anzac' in the name of special memorial rooms in RSL clubs or as in the name of commemorative activities or displays. Recently, there was some concern with the Minister's approval of the Anzac Day Rugby Union Test between Australia and New Zealand. The request to use the word 'Anzac' was put forward with the support of the NSW Returned & Services League. Careful consideration was given to the request and the Minister's approval was given on the proviso that due respect would be shown to the Anzac tradition by conducting an Anzac Day ceremony at the test match. The Minister considered that such an event would help promote the Anzac tradition in the wider community, in particular among those who may have had little knowledge or experience of Anzac Day. The support of the NSW RSL for the request was also an important factor in the decision. The Minister was also constrained to some extent by sub-regulation 2(1A).

In recent years, following a submission from an ex-service organisation and consultation with leaders of veterans' organisations, the Minister, upon application, approved the use of the word 'Anzac' in association with 'Anzac biscuits'. The rationale being that it is such a well known and traditional type of biscuit, mentioned in numerous cookbooks and sold at school fetes, etc, that it would be unrealistic to attempt to eliminate it from Australian society, and to do so

would, perhaps, take away something traditional and recognisably Australian.⁶ The Minister has always made it a condition of his approval that the product is never to be advertised by reference to, or play upon, the traditions or values associated with 'Anzac' or things of a military nature.

In 1995, the Australian Parliament passed the *Anzac Day Act 1995*. This Act, which received bipartisan support, provides as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Anzac Day Act 1995.

Commencement

2. This Act commences on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.⁷

Observance of Anzac Day as the national day of commemoration

3. The national day of commemoration to recognise and commemorate the contribution of all those who have served Australia (including those who died) in time of war and in war-like conflicts is to be known as Anzac Day and observed on 25 April each year.

This Act does not "protect" or require observance of Anzac Day, but is a declaratory statement by Parliament that 25 April each year is to be recognised as the national day of commemoration. Various pieces of State legislation provide for restriction of certain activities on Anzac Day. It is interesting to note that, in legislation, Anzac Day has been written with the word 'Anzac' rather than the acronym.

As mentioned above, not only has the Australian Parliament passed protective legislation, but the British Parliament has also passed legislation protecting the word 'Anzac' or any word resembling 'Anzac', such that it cannot be used in the United Kingdom without approval from either the Australian or New Zealand governments.

To attempt to replace entirely the word 'Anzac' with the acronym ANZAC would be tantamount to telling the world, more than 80 years after its first usage as a word, that we have been writing it wrongly all these years, that the Anzacs themselves did not know what they were doing, and that it is not a word after all but merely an acronym of a particular military unit that has long ceased to exist. The Official War Historian, CEW Bean, used the word 'Anzac' consistently in preference to the acronym when talking of the soldiers themselves rather than the Corps of which they were a part. This usage has been adopted consistently by virtually all other historians. To change the word from Anzac to the acronym ANZAC would be a move that would tend to lessen the importance and reputation of those who were responsible for changing it from being merely an acronym of a military unit into a word that brings with it all the connotations that the Australian and British Parliaments have enacted legislation to protect.

⁶ The original recipe appears to have been Canadian in origin, and first appeared in Australian recipe books in the late 19th century as "cocky's joy". There is certainly no evidence for the legend that it was a biscuit made or eaten at Gallipoli by the Anzacs.

⁷ Assented to on 29 March 1995.

Book reviews

Chris Coulthard-Clark, *McNamara, VC: A Hero's Dilemma*, Air Power Studies Centre, Soft-cover, 128 pages, photos, \$16. Available from Government Information Shops.

Just one of the 63 Victoria Crosses won by the Australian Imperial Forces in the First World War was awarded to the Australian Flying Corps. The award to Flight Lieutenant Frank McNamara was also the only Victoria Cross to an Australian in the Palestine campaign. After the war he served with the RAAF and eventually obtained the rank of Air Vice Marshal. With the only other two Victoria Crosses to the RAAF being posthumous, he remains the only member of the RAAF ever to wear the ribbon of the Victoria Cross on his uniform.

I would hope that most readers are familiar with the writings of Chris Coulthard-Clark. He has written extensively on the Royal Australian Air Forces and has done many biographical studies. With that experience one would expect an outstanding biographical study on an outstanding Australian. I am pleased to say that Chris Coulthard-Clark does not disappoint.

The book opens with the McNamara family in the Bendigo area in post gold rush Victoria. Since my mother's people have been continuously in Bendigo since that time I was particularly attracted to that part of the story. When war broke out, McNamara was a school teacher with the Victoria Education Department and the story moves to his flight training and first operations in the Palestine theatre. Many may think they know the story of how he won the VC because the 1924 painting of the incident by H Septimis Power is so well known. However, the details of the incident, the events leading up to the action and the after effects, including what is right and what is wrong with the painting, are extremely well discussed.

I am delighted to say that over half the book deals with McNamara's subsequent career. He stayed with the RAAF after the war and lived with the fame of being a VC recipient. His service in the Second War World was in England and as Air Officer Commanding Aden an important post although an operational backwater. He was ungraciously retired from the RAAF in 1946 and lived the rest of his life in England.

Do not be fooled by the modest price of this book. It is an extremely fine study, well illustrated and supported by a bibliography and index. It was published by the Air Power Studies Centre as part of its heritage series. I look forward to future publications in this series.
— Anthony Staunton

Peter Stanley, *Tarakan: An Australian Tragedy*, Allen & Unwin, 1997, 274 pages, illus., index, ISBN 1 86448 278 8

By 1945, the Japanese empire was contracting and the main Australian effort was directed at liberating Australian territory. The equivalent of four divisions were allotted for this task. However two other divisions were available and were eventually used in three operations in Borneo. The first operation was the invasion, on 1 May 1945, of Tarakan, an island just north of the equator off the north east coast of Borneo.

Dr Peter Stanley traces the campaign from its origins in Macarthur's headquarters down to the rifle sections on patrol. He has examined both the Australian and American records and

interviewed many participants of the campaign. His study reveals many new insights into the campaign, and his conclusions on quite a number of issues are surprising. It has caused this reviewer to change his views about the campaign.

The overpowering presence in the South West Pacific Area was the always controversial figure of Douglas MacArthur. Dr Stanley handles this difficult character extremely well and argues quite convincingly that the Borneo operations were strategically justifiable although doomed by politics of coalition warfare and bad planning.

Tension was also evident between the Australian Army and the RAAF forces committed to Tarakan. Indeed, one of the last acts of the simmering RAAF problems was played out on Tarakan when the RAAF Commanding Officer, distinguished WWI air ace Arthur Cobby, was relieved of command. However, the soldiers were unaware of this tension and this book tells the soldiers' story in detail. It illustrates the conditions and the stress that continued for weeks and the Australian infantry pushed the Japanese from one defensive position to another.

The Roll of Honour lists the names, units and ages of 240 Australian Army, Navy and Air Force personnel who lost their lives. Their ages range from 19 to 43. It was the first campaign for some while others had served for the entire war. Among the killed was 31 year old Lt Tom Derrick who had won the Distinguished Conduct Medal in Egypt in 1942 and the Victoria Cross in New Guinea in 1943.

This is the first single study of one of the campaigns fought by Australians in 1945. It is hoped that others will be inspired to look at the other campaigns. —Anthony Staunton

Lt Col Neil C Smith AM, *The Red and Black Diamond; The history of the 21st Battalion 1915-1918*, Mostly Unsung, PO Box 20, Gardenvale Vic 3186, (03 9555 5401), ISBN 1 876179 03 1, 1997.

It is very pleasing to see a history of the 21st Battalion has finally been printed. When I wrote the biography of the 21st Battalion Victoria Cross recipient Alfred Lowensen for the Australian Dictionary of Biography, I made contact with the battalion association. I kept in touch and in April 1989 was saddened but privileged to receive a copy of the last edition of the unit's newsletter *The 'Red and Black Diamond'*. When I heard that Neil Smith was writing the unit history I was delighted to be a subscriber and am particularly pleased at the title he chose.

The 21st Battalion was a Victorian battalion that was part of the 6th Brigade, 2nd Division. The battalion was torpedoed on the troopship *Southland* en route to Gallipoli in 1915. After Gallipoli, it saw service in France and Belgium and in September 1918 was part of the forces that captured Mont St Quentin in what has been described as the finest action of the AIF on the Western Front.

The first third of the book is a narrative history of the places and events of the unit's movements and operations. The story is illustrated by the writings of the soldiers who served in the battalion. The stories help explain the circumstances of the action without overwhelming the narrative. The middle part of the book is a transcription of the recommendations for honours and awards. All the honours to the Battalion that could be found have been included. I applaud the author for publishing this material but particularly for not inserting it in the main text. Having all the recommendations together means that there is an assessable reference tool without cluttering the narrative. The final third of the book is a well formatted Nominal Roll. I was particularly pleased that the name of a relative of mine was correctly spelt as Witchell.

Neil Smith is to be congratulated on producing a well balanced and readable unit history.
— Anthony Staunton

New publications noted

First Impact by Dennis Newton, Volume I of the history of Australians in the air war 1939-45, Banner Books, 122 Walker St, Maryborough QLD 4650, ph/fax: 071-230-255, \$40.00 post-free in Australia. Credit card accepted

To indicate the number of Australian airmen already in the UK when war was declared, this volume includes the pre-war system by which Australians joined the RAF direct, or were seconded to the RAF after graduation from RAAF Point Cook. Then, day by day, the events are recounted to the end of 1940. The experiences of those Australians first to be involved provide a human aspect to the calendar of events. Personal detail is taken from letters, logbooks and diaries, as well as official records.

First Impact, as with the rest of the series, is illustrated with many previously unpublished personal photos, maps, and side views of relevant aircraft of many types. As with all volumes in the series, *First Impact* is hard cover, with dust jacket, and large size—248 mm x 170 mm. The end papers show the entry in the flying logbook of Dereck French, for the bombing attack of 9th April 1940, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the first such award to an Australian in the Second World War.

The series will be presented as volumes in a collection, with a standard dust jacket background of dark blue, to commemorate the distinctive RAAF uniform of the era. Jacket illustration for this volume is a painting depicting a battle scene by Australian Battle of Britain veteran, the late Wing Commander Gordon Olive CBE DFC. Future volumes in the series will feature on the dust jacket paintings in the RAAF collection. The end papers will feature logbook pages from Australian airmen.

Jeffrey E Hopkins, *Selected New Zealand War Medal rolls of Entitlements, Rejections, and Applications granted up to 1900*, Published by Jeff Hopkins & Victoria Barracks Historical Society, Brisbane (Qld), 1997. Soft-cover A4, bibliography & index, ISBN 0 646 298992, \$30.00 (postage anywhere within Australia & New Zealand).

This publication contains the most detailed listing of those who were awarded (or tried to obtain) the *New Zealand Medal* granted for service during the New Zealand Wars with emphasis on the Australian content. As the title states, these are selected rolls and only deal with the larger units involved such as:

- The Crew of HMCS *Victoria* (1860-1861)
- Officers and men of the four Waikato Regiments for service in the Imperial Commissariat Transport Corps
- River Transport and Commissariat Transport Corps
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Waikato Regiments
- Taranaki Military Settlers
- Hawke's Bay Military Settlers
- Napier Military Settlers
- Poverty Bay Military Settlers
- Forest Rangers
- Armed Constabulary

Members' Notices

Naming on Australian Medals for World War 2

Medals to Australia with Valuations, Third Edition, author R D Williams lists on page 34 the Service Numbering for medals awarded to the Australian Army, Navy and RAAF for service in World War 2.

The prefix for the service number of two medal groups I have, is not listed, which rather intrigued me. I wrote to the Director of Sailors' Career Management requesting information on the two service numbers. Mr Keith McLackland very kindly replied to my request with the following information.

The two medal groups in question are:

WR24 S N SMYTH

WV5 W H EDGAR

In Williams' book the only W for the navy is for the RANR with port of enlistment being Williamstown, Victoria, so naturally I assumed that the Prefix W referred to enlistment in Williamstown. I was partially correct with this assumption, as WV does refer to Enlistment in Williamstown and the V refers to the RAN Volunteer Reserve, however the WR has no connotation with Williamstown. The prefix WR stands for WRAN, Women's Royal Australian Navy, and Shirley Norma Smyth enlisted in Sydney. Thus with the help of the Sailors' Records Manager I have cleared up a mystery which has perplexed me for years. No doubt ex-navy members would have known the answer to this puzzle.

May I suggest that those who have the Reg Williams book correct page 34 accordingly.

— Barry Carr

Information requested re Lt-Col E P England

The following request appeared in a World War I Internet news group. Dick Flory had posted the following message.

The London Gazette of 12 December 1914 under the heading 'Royal Regiment of Artillery' has the following entry: 'Lt-Col E P England is removed from the Army, The King having no further occasion for his services.' *The London Gazette* of 23 January 1918 states: 'The King has been graciously pleased to approve the reinstatement of Edward Parker England in the rank of Lt-Col, with his previous seniority, in consequence of his devotion to duty and gallantry in the field while in the ranks of the Devonshire Regiment. He is accordingly re-appointed Lt-Col in the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, 30th Dec 1917, with seniority and to count service in that rank towards retirement on retired pay as from 19th May 1913, but without pay or allowances for the period 12th Dec 1914 up to 29th Dec 1917, inclusive.'

It would appear that a very interesting story lies within the period between these two *London Gazette* entries, but to date I have not been able to find out why Lt-Col England was removed from the army nor have I been able to figure out what he did within the ranks of the Devonshire Regiment to gain his reinstatement. About all I have been able to verify is that during the battle of Le Cateau 26 August 1914 he was Officer Commanding the 5th Division Ammunition Column. Neither 'The Royal Regiment of Artillery at Le Cateau' by

A F Becke nor the 'Narrative of the 5th Divisional Artillery, 1914-1918' by A H Hussey say anything negative about his service or the service of the 5th D. A. C.

If anyone has information on the could they write to the Federal Secretary who will arrange for a reply to get to Dick Florey. In the meantime the following response has been received from the Federal President.

While I cannot help Dick Flory directly with his query, I have located an intriguing parallel story in Lyn Macdonald's *1914* (Macmillan, New York, 1988). On about 27 August 1914, Macdonald describes (p.196 et seq) how a British cavalry patrol entering St Quentin, in the path of the German advance from Le Cateau, found the mayor preparing to surrender the town when the Germans arrived and in possession of a surrender document signed by two British officers, Lieutenant-Colonel Ellington of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Mainwaring in command of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Seizing the document, the officer commanding the patrol gathered up the demoralised soldiers of the two units. The two officers were relieved of their commands and charged with shamefully delivering up a garrison to the enemy. In a footnote, Macdonald records:

On 9 September, both officers were court-martialled and cashiered. Soon afterwards, Colonel Mainwaring went back to France, joined the French Foreign Legion under a pseudonym and fought on the French Front. He was quickly promoted to the rank of sergeant and distinguished himself by his bravery and leadership. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and, although badly wounded, survived the war. In the early thirties, in recognition of his outstanding war service, King George V reinstated Colonel Mainwaring and restored his former rank.

— Tan Roberts

Australian Archives Fact Sheets

Fact sheets are designed to provide information about Australian Archives' holdings on particular topics or groups of records, and to provide information about the Archives' facilities and operations. They are a valuable starting point for researchers. Fact sheets currently available are listed below.

Access Policy

- access to records under the Archives Act
- appeals options if access is refused

ACT Administration

Addresses and opening hours (Australian Archives)

Addresses of other Australian archival institutions

Air Force - see RAAF

Archives

- citing archives
- Archives - What are they?
Army - see military

ASIO records -

- access to
- exempt information in
- personal information in
- writers and literary groups, files on

Atrocities, WWII

Australia First Movement

Australian Capital Territory Administration

Australian Overseas Information Service photographs

Banking Policy (Commonwealth government)

Beer and Brewing records in South Australian Office

Births, Deaths and Marriages records in National Office

Boer War Records

Cabinet Records

Canberra - see National Capital

Citing archival records

Civilian Service in World War II

Coastal Fortifications

New South Wales South Australia

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Commonwealth Film Unit

Commonwealth Records Series (CRS) system

Copyright and research

Copyright records

Customs House

Port Adelaide, South Australia South Australia

Customs House, Sydney

Customs shipping records, NSW

Cyclones and the Northern Territory

D Notices

Descriptive work

Electoral rolls in WA Office

Excise control of distilled products in South Australia

- Exempt information in ASIO records
 Family History sources
 National Office South Australian Office
 Film (Commonwealth Film Unit)
 Flag, Australian
 Fremantle Harbour
 Gazettes (Commonwealth of Australia)
 Griffin, Walter Burley
 Indonesia, independence
 Internment (WWI) records
 National Office South Australian Office
 Internment (WWII) records
 National Office New South Wales Office South Australian Office
 Italians, records in New South Wales Office
 Lang, JT and Lang Labor
 Maritime records
 Customs shipping records, NSW, Tasmanian Maritime records
 Merchant Navy see RAN
 Migrant Selection Documents in National Office, Canberra
 Military
 Coastal fortifications, NSW Coastal fortifications, SA
 Military records, Tasmania Military service (sources of information)
 National Capital
 ACT administration
 Design and Development
 Walter Burley Griffin and the design of Canberra
 Naturalisation Records held in the National Office, Canberra
 Navy - see RAN
 Olympic Games, Melbourne, 1956
 Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports
 Parliamentary Papers
 Passenger records
 National Office, Canberra
 New South Wales Office
 Tasmanian Office
 Western Australian Office
 Personal information in ASIO records
 Photographs of the Australian Overseas Information Service
 Post Office Records
 Prime Ministers of Australia, 1901-1971
 RAAF Historical and Archives section, records held by
 RAAF Service Records
 Railways (Tasmanian)
 RAN (Royal Australian Navy)
 • crew and ship's records
 • service records
 Reading room rules
 Record transfers
 Research Agents:
 • National Office
 • NSW Office
 • Queensland Office
 • SA and NT Offices
 • Victorian and Tasmanian Offices
 • WA Office
 Security Intelligence Records
 Shedden, Sir Frederick and the Shedden Collection
 Shipping records - see Maritime
 United Nations, Australia and the
 Veterans' case files
 Wine industry in South Australia
 Writers and Literary groups, ASIO files on

Black over Blue

The 25th Battalion was the first Australian infantry battalion to land in France in 1916. When it was disbanded in October 1918 it had served in nearly every major battle, achieving the unfortunate distinction of suffering more casualties than any other Australian unit. This history, *Black over Blue: the 25th Battalion AIF at War 1915-1918*, published by the University of Southern Queensland Press, has 240 pages, with decorations, casualty roll and embarkation roll. Copies are available from the author for \$29.50 plus \$3.00 p&p. To order, send cheque (made out to B Doneley) to B Doneley, 194 West St, Toowoomba, Qld 4350.

Location of medals

Chris Thomas of 12 Centenary Avenue Hunters Hill, NSW 2110, (ph. (02) 9817 1524) is trying to locate the following medals:

The Order of the Dragon awarded to:

Lieutenant Staunton William Spain, and

Harold Oscar Connor (Hereditary Member), son of Commander E R Connor.

Society Notes

1998 Biennial Society Conference

The Victorian Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia are to be the hosts of the 1998 Biennial Society Conference. As such a specific committee has been set up to organise the various details of the Conference. As we will be arranging the event for your benefit we would love to hear from any member who has any suggestions as to what they would like to see at the Conference in regards to guest speakers, tours, displays or any other items of interest. Please forward your suggestions to myself at the following address.

Anthony McAleer
Secretary
MHSA (VIC BRANCH)
5/18 Slevin St
Lilydale VIC 3140
(03) 9739 6587

WA Branch Program

Wednesday, 15 October

Dr R S Wambeek DFC on Pre/Post WWII British Jet Fighter activities

Wednesday, 19 November

Les Bland Sec BCOF Assn on British Commonwealth Occupation Forces

Wednesday, 17 December

MHSA Members

SA Branch Office Bearers 1997-98

President:	A R (Tony) Rudd
Secretary	A F (Tony) Harris
Treasurer	John Lawrence
Committee	Gail Gunn
	George Newbury
	Don Pedler
Librarian	A R (Tony) Rudd

MHSA Constitution and Rules

The constitution of the Society adopted 1 August 1993 appears in *Sabretache* January-March 1993. The Society's rules adopted on 14 April 1997 appear in *Sabretache* April-June 1997.

Florence (Freda) Laycock

The death of long time member Florence (Freda) Laycock who regularly attended ACT meetings occurred suddenly on 31 July 1997. The Society's sympathies are extended to her husband, Ken, who is also a financial member of the Society.

President's Report and Financial Statements

The Military Historical Society of Australia Federal Council

President's Report to 30 June 1997

Membership of the Society for the year ended 30 June 1997 has continued to hover around 250 ordinary and corresponding members who pay the annual subscription (which was increased to \$30 for the 1996-1997 year). There are a further 17 'free' memberships, made up of the life and honorary members of the Society and a number of societies with whom we exchange journals on a regular basis. In addition, about 30 institutions, mainly libraries, purchase *Sabretache* for the equivalent of an annual membership subscription (as the new Society Rules make clear, only individuals can be full members of the Society). *Sabretache* costs about \$6,200 per year to produce and distribute. Therefore, close to \$23 of each member's annual subscription goes to fund the journal and \$2 of each Branch member's subscription is returned to the Branch if it requests this. The remaining portions of subscriptions fund Federal Council operating expenses and other Society activities. You will see from the annual accounts published in this issue that Federal Council funding of our inaugural Presidents Meeting held in conjunction with a most successful 1996 Society Conference in Adelaide put us into operating deficit in 1995-96. With the assistance of Branches, Council is now considering whether to continue with these meetings and if so how they might be funded. An alternative suggestion about greater Branch involvement in Society management is put forward later in this report.

Branches and individual members have said that they would like to see *Sabretache* contain more short articles, more material of particular interest to collectors and more 'Society news' such as Branch activity reports. Council is trying to meet these needs and we hope to have a trial feature collecting smaller items of interest in the next issue of the journal, as well as making a start on republishing some of the very early articles which were of interest to collectors and inviting current members to comment on or update them. On the other hand, as some Branches and members have been quick — and correct — to point out, *Sabretache* must be out on time if it is to meet members' legitimate expectations! We had particular problems with the January-March issue of 1997. Action has been taken to rectify these and I trust you will have received this issue on time

You are asked to note the request in this issue by the Victorian Branch for ideas and suggestions for the program and conduct of the 1998 Society Conference in Melbourne. Please forward these to the Branch as soon as possible. The ACT Branch has already commenced planning for a Society Conference in Canberra in 2000.

Federal Council is receiving an increasing number of research requests from individuals who are often making their first contact with the Society. Many of these contacts flow from referrals to us by Australian Archives when relatives obtain access to World War I service records and need help with interpreting documentation or obtaining more detail than Archives can supply. A Council member deals with each request and answers as fully as possible, enclosing with each reply an information sheet on the Society giving Branch locations and contact details. These

'first contacts', even though many of them are from persons interested only in genealogical information, have the potential to generate valuable new memberships or at least greater knowledge of the Society. Obviously, they can be more readily and perhaps more productively followed up by personal contact. If any Branches have the resources to deal with research requests and would like to take over those received by Federal Council that fall within their catchment areas, I would be glad to hear from them.

The elected membership of Federal Council and hence the filling of the various Federal offices has for many years depended upon the availability of willing and able Society members in the Canberra area. While the Constitution provides for additional members of Federal Council to be nominated by Branch Committees from their membership, active participation in Council meetings and other activities has in practice been limited to the ACT Branch nominee. There is no reason why this should always be so. Branches might consider whether they would like—and could afford—to have an appointed Federal Councillor from the Branch committee attend each quarterly Federal Council meeting or, say, one quarterly meeting each year. He or she would be warmly welcomed. An alternative which works satisfactorily in some other Societies of similar type to ours is the appointment of Canberra-based Branch proxies who represent the Branch at Federal Council. The only limitation to this arrangement under the Society's Constitution is that the proxy Federal Councillor would have to be an absentee member of his or her Branch committee and would need to be kept fully briefed by the Branch on their views and positions to be put forward to Council. Council would be glad to have Branch views on these or some other form of greater Branch participation in Society management.

May I thank Branch Committees, Federal Councillors and all members of the Society for their interest in and assistance with Society matters over the past year. A particular word of thanks to our Federal Secretary, Peter Sinfield, who will retire at the August 1997 AGM, for his dedicated efforts during his period of office, particularly in relation to development of the database of members.

Tan Roberts
President

**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the year ended 30 June 1997**

Receipts

	1996-97		1995-96	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Subscriptions	8370		8108	
less Capitation	<u>268</u>	8102	<u>207</u>	7901
Interest				
Bank	90		170	
Investment	<u>647</u>	737	<u>386</u>	556
Advertising		40		
Sales				
Sudan Book	74		250	
Sabretache	68		79	
Other	<u>-</u>	142	<u>30</u>	359
Sundry Income		<u>34</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Receipts		<u>9055</u>		<u>8816</u>

Payments

Publication of <i>Sabretache</i>		5200		5150
Postage of <i>Sabretache</i>		928		923
ADFA Prize				200
Meeting of Branch Presidents		175		2545
Federal Council Expenses				
Postage	60		60	
Stationery	78		3	
PO Box	44		40	
Audit Fee	75		75	
Publicity	-		150	
Medallions	160		-	
Sundry Expenses	<u>21</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>425</u>
Total Payments		<u>6741</u>		<u>9243</u>
Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		<u>2314</u>		<u>(427)</u>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 30 June 1997**

Current Assets

	1996-97	1995-96
Cash at Bank	9092	7425
Investment	<u>9841</u>	<u>9194</u>
Total Assets	<u>18933</u>	<u>16619</u>
Net Assets	<u>18933</u>	<u>16619</u>

Accumulated Funds

Balance 1 July	16619	17046
Surplus (Deficit) for year	<u>2314</u>	<u>(427)</u>
	<u>18933</u>	<u>16619</u>

Auditor's Report

I have examined the records of the Military Historical Society of Australia—Federal Council and in my opinion the attached accounts comprising the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Receipts and Payments represent a true and fair view of the Council's operations for the year ended 30 June 1997.

L G Carder FCPA, Auditor
29 July 1997

**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 1997**

1. Interest received has varied as a result of:
 - a reduction in the rate of Bank Interest; and
 - a reduction in the rate of investment interest offset in part this financial year by the receipt of two half yearly payments. A note to last year's accounts explained that amalgamation of the two investment accounts resulted in a new set of interest dates and only one receipt that year.
2. Federal Council expenses include:
 - \$160 to the Queensland Branch for purchase of medallions for use as future presentations; and
 - \$79 for stationery which included costs associated with the revised rules and consideration of incorporation of the Society.
3. The value of stock on hand of the Sudan Book (at cost as at 30 June 1997 was:
 - 1996/97 \$373
 - 1995/96 \$424
 This publication continues to earn a profit.
4. The surplus for this year, in contrast to the deficit last year, is mainly due to the reduction on expenditure on the meeting of Branch Presidents held in June 1996. No further expenditure on that meeting is expected although consideration is being given to future meetings.

N S Foldi, Hon. Treasurer
22 July 1997

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



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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

