

Military Historical Society of Australia  
*Sabretache*



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

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

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

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

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

# SABRETACHE

---

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

Vol XXXVIII

October/December 1997

Number 4

---

**OCTOBER – DECEMBER 1997**  
**VOLUME XXXVIII — NUMBER 4**

---

**CONTENTS**

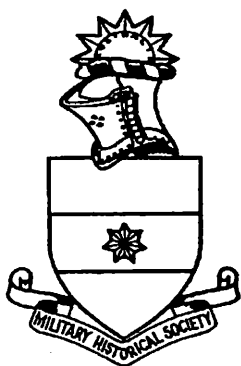
---

3. Trooper Bergin SJ  
*Graham Wilson and Joe Crumlin*
17. Insignia of the South Australian Contingents to South Africa, 1899-1900  
*Anthony F Harris*
20. Encyclopaedia of the Australian Army—1939 to 1945  
*Graham R McKenzie Smith*
31. QSA Medals to the Australian Mounted Pioneers  
*Barrett J Carr*
34. El Alamein Victoria Crosses  
*Anthony Staunton*
36. Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75
37. Book reviews
- *Taken by Storm*
  - *Bomber Boys*
38. New publications noted
- *You live but once*
  - *Sons of John Company*
41. Letters
- Court martialled colonels-1
  - Court martialled colonels-2
  - A Capital Furphy
  - Photographs, diaries and letters from World War 1
42. Members' Notices
- Legion of Frontiersmen
  - Publications available
44. Society Notes
- Australian War Memorial Reading Room
  - Around the Water Cart
  - 1998 Biennial Society Conference

---

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. See the last page for further guidelines.

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



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

**Patron**

Air Marshal I B Gratton,  
AO, AFC (retd)

**Honorary Office Bearers**

**President**

Brig A R Roberts (retd)

**Vice President**

Lt Col T C Sargent (retd)

**Secretary**

Mr B C Clissold  
PO Box 30,  
Garran ACT 2605

**Treasurer**

Mr N Foldi

**Editor**

Elizabeth Topperwien  
PO Box 30,  
Garran ACT 2605

# SABRETACHE

## The Military Historical Society of Australia

The aims of the Society are the encouragement and pursuit of study and research in military history, customs, traditions, dress, arms, equipment and kindred matters; the promotion of public interest and knowledge in these subjects, and the preservation of historical military objects with particular reference to the armed forces of Australia. The annual subscription to the Society is \$30. A membership application is on the back page.

### Organisation

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Queries

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

### Branch Secretaries

ACT — Mr Graham Wilson, 234 Beasley Street, Farrer ACT 2607

Victoria — Mr Anthony McAleer, 5/18 Slevin Street, Lilydale Vic 3140

Geelong — Steve Chilvers, 110 Beacon Point Road, Clifton Springs Vic 3222

Albury-Wodonga — Doug Hunter, 575 Poole Street, Albury NSW 2640

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

South Australia — Mr A F Harris, PO Box 550, Mitcham SA 5062

Western Australia — Mr Peter Epps, 60 Simpson Dr, Padbury WA 6025

## Trooper Bergin SJ<sup>1</sup>

Graham Wilson<sup>2</sup> and Joe Crumlin<sup>3</sup>

If you were to travel east from the Franco/Belgian border towards Ypres on National Route 9, you would eventually come to a sign directing you towards the southeast to the small provincial town of Reninghelst<sup>4</sup> in the Belgian province of West Flanders. On reaching the town, you might stop at the town church, St Vedastuskerk. If you did, you would immediately note the small, neatly kept Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery adjacent to the church yard. If you entered the cemetery and decided to examine the graves systematically you would find that the head stone of the very first grave carries, not the badge of one of the corps or regiments of the British Army, as all the others in the cemetery do, but the “rising sun” badge of the First AIF. The inscription on the stone indicates that you are visiting the grave of the Reverend Michael Bergin, an AIF chaplain who died on 12 October 1917. This bare inscription hides the fact that you are visiting the grave of one of the most remarkable men to serve with that most remarkable army, the First AIF.

Michael Bergin was an Irish born Jesuit priest who served as a Catholic chaplain with the AIF. He holds the distinction of being the only Catholic chaplain, in fact probably the only chaplain, to have enlisted in the Light Horse as a trooper and also probably the only member of the AIF to never set foot in Australia. He is also the only Australian Army, indeed the only Australian armed forces, Catholic chaplain to have been killed in action.<sup>5</sup>

The first part of the article deals exclusively with Michael Bergin’s life prior to the First World War and is heavily weighted towards his training and service as a priest. No apology is made for this as the authors believe that this background is essential for “getting a feel for the man”, as it were.

Michael Bergin was born on 18 August 1879, at Fancroft, a townland near the small city of Roscrea in that most Irish of counties, Tipperary. He was the son of, somewhat confusingly, Michael Bergin and his wife Mary (nee Hill). The younger Michael was born at home in the family’s house at Fancroft, the second son and second child of Michael and Mary.

---

<sup>1</sup> This article is adapted from a talk presented to the ACT Branch of the MHSA on 24 March 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Graham Wilson retired from the Australian Regular Army as a Warrant Officer in September 1996, after almost 26 years service in the infantry and in intelligence. Graham lives in Canberra where he is currently employed by the Department of Defence. He combines a life long interest in military history with a love of writing and has been widely published in historical journals in Australia and overseas.

<sup>3</sup> Joe Crumlin is a retired Merchant Navy officer who lives in Sydney. Starting his working life as a deck boy he eventually qualified for his seagoing Master’s certificate and is a member of the Company of Master Mariners of Australia. In 1965 he gave up the seagoing trade and was employed as a master on large tugs in Sydney. He retired as senior master in 1996 (although he still does occasional relief work as master in Sydney and Botany). Joe also has a life long interest in military history, his special field of interest being the First AIF and he has presented papers on the subject to various bodies, including the Australian War Memorial.

<sup>4</sup> A note on spelling - the Flemish spelling of the town name is “Reningelst”. Similarly, the local spelling of Ypres is “Ieper”. The English spelling for the various Belgian localities, as commonly used during the First World War, are used throughout the article.

<sup>5</sup> Available records indicate that two First AIF chaplains were killed in action, neither one a Catholic (one was an Anglican, the other a Methodist). Similarly, no Catholic chaplain of the Second AIF was killed although several were wounded and at least eleven were taken prisoner, and no Army chaplains have been killed post-Second World War. No chaplain of the RAN or RAAF has been killed. Father Edward Sydes, SJ, an Australian Jesuit who served with the First AIF died in the UK of illness on 15 November 1915. Father Francis Lyons, MSC, a Sacred Heart missionary, who served in Australia as a chaplain in the Second World War, died of illness while still serving as a chaplain in 1946.

Michael's father was, for the time and place, quite well off. The reference to the time and place is made because, although many of the more blatantly discriminatory anti-Catholic laws had been repealed, in the elder Michael Bergin's time it was still not easy for a Catholic Irishman to rise high in the land of his birth. A previous biographer of the younger Michael Bergin, the Jesuit Father Gannon, quite explicitly draws attention to "the good old (Irish) stock" from which Michael sprang while bitterly characterising what he termed "the late ascendancy" as being the result of "conquest, confiscation, treason and apostasy."<sup>6</sup> Michael Bergin was a miller, much of the family's relative prosperity stemming from the operation of the family owned mill located at Fancroft. This had been erected by the younger Michael Bergin's grandfather, John, who had moved to Roscrea from Offaly years before when his business in Offaly had failed. Through hard work and thrift, John had prospered in Roscrea and become a man of some substance.<sup>7</sup>

Although remembered as being somewhat stern and largely humourless, John Bergin was, however, also remembered as a charitable man, giving much to the poor and the church, and was also regarded as a good employer.

A devout and pious Catholic, John Bergin had built a chapel on his lands and such was his influence in the region that the Bishop of Ossory had agreed to consecrate it. Oddly enough, in one of those quirks with which Ireland seems to abound, because the church was consecrated by the Bishop of Ossory rather than the Bishop of Killaloe in whose temporal realm the chapel physically stood, it was part of the Diocese of Ossory rather than the surrounding Diocese of Killaloe. It thus stood as an island in the surrounding ecclesiastical sea. This apparently caused no problems, with the Bishop of Killaloe quite happy to allow a priest from the neighbouring diocese to celebrate mass in the chapel.<sup>8</sup>

John's grandson, the subject of this article, was an extremely pious and devout Catholic himself, not unusual among Irish boys of that time, and apparently decided at a very early age that he had a religious vocation. Like his elder brother and sisters, he was educated by Sacred Heart nuns at the convent school in Roscrea and then in the national or public school in the town. Then, at the age of 14, like his elder brother John, or Jack, he went off as a boarder to the Jesuit college at Mungret in Limerick. It was at Mungret that he apparently firmed in his vocation and decided to become a member of the Society of Jesus.<sup>9</sup>

Not remembered at Mungret as a particularly brilliant scholar, he was still industrious enough to take honours in Latin and English in his matriculation year. The following year, 1896, still at Mungret, he studied for his arts degree under the somewhat peculiar Catholic tertiary education system then in place in Ireland and once again, apparently by dint of much hard work, he took honours in Latin and English, adding French this time.<sup>10</sup>

In the summer of 1897, Michael made his request to be admitted to the Society of Jesus. This application was made to the Provincial of the Order during his visitation of Mungret.<sup>11</sup> The

---

<sup>6</sup> Gannon, Rev P.J., S.J., *A Happy Warrior*, Irish Messenger Office, Dublin, 1934, p. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Sister S.. *A Son of Saint Patrick*, The Talbot Press Limited, Dublin and Cork, 1932, pp. 13-14. ("Sister S" was Sister Sophie, Michael Bergin's beloved younger sister Fanny - her somewhat hagiographic biography of Michael, based to a large extent on his letters to Fanny, is one of the best sources of information on the life of Michael Bergin).

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*, p.15.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*, p.20.

<sup>10</sup> *Curriculum vitae of Brother Michael Bergin, S.J.*, prepared in his own hand on entering the Jesuit Novitiate at Tullabeg, 1897. From a photocopy of the original document provided by Father Stephen Redmond, S.J., Archivist of the Jesuit Province of Ireland.

<sup>11</sup> *ibid.*

application was approved and Michael was accepted as a “scholastic novice”, that is, a novice intended for the priesthood rather than the brotherhood. Oddly enough, it would appear that Michael kept both his ambitions and his application secret from his family, sharing the secret only with his beloved younger sister, Fanny, who was herself to become a nun and was to write a biography of her brother in the 1930s.<sup>12</sup> It has not proved possible to discern with certainty why Michael kept his ambitions secret and it really is of little import for his family accepted his decision on learning of it and wished him well.

Michael spent the first two years of his novitiate at the Jesuit seminary at Tullabeg near Tullamore in County Offaly, taking his first vows and becoming a ‘scholasticus approbatus’, or approved scholastic in 1899.<sup>13</sup> Unfortunately, Michael’s health, which had always been less than robust, had declined at Tullabeg and, in a most humane decision, his superiors decided to transfer him to work in Lebanon, then a part of the Ottoman province of Syria. The decision was made in the hope that the warmer, dryer climate of the Mediterranean would be beneficial to his health. As a result, Michael was attached to the French Jesuit Province of Lyons, the Society’s province responsible for Syria, and arrived in Beirut in the new year of 1900.

In Syria, he first spent a year studying philosophy and teaching English at the Jesuit run University of Beirut and then spent three years studying philosophy and Arabic at the Jesuit college at Ghazir. In 1904, he returned to Beirut where he again was employed at the university as a teacher of English.

In 1906, he returned to Ghazir for a further year of study. While at Ghazir, his work as a catechist resulted in a desire to become a missionary and he applied to his superiors for permission to take on this task. Permission was granted and he was formally transferred to the Province of Lyons. He then embarked on yet another two years of study and teaching at Beirut. Unfortunately, the fond hopes of his Irish superiors that service in the east would be beneficial to Michael’s health were forlorn. To his childhood problems of chronic bronchitis and influenza, he was to add during his time in Syria typhoid, enteric fever and smallpox.

Nevertheless, his letters to his family were always bright and cheery, although those to his sister Fan, now Sister Sophie, revealed his loathing of study. These letters also revealed that while he was enchanted by the east, he longed for the soothing sight of green grass! There cried the forlorn heart of a son of Erin. In 1908, Michael returned to Europe, although not to Ireland. This time he was destined for the seminary at Ore Place near Hastings in England to study theology. En route to England, however, he was permitted to divert to Ireland for a visit to the family he had not seen for eight years. He had been so long in the east that he had almost forgotten how to speak English and when he was startled by someone addressing him unannounced on the platform of the train station in Dublin, he first automatically replied in French, floundered into Latin, then into Arabic, before finally settling on his long unused mother tongue!<sup>14</sup>

He was to remain at Ore Place for four years, being ordained a priest in 1911.<sup>15</sup> His eagerly awaited ordination was to be marred by the death of his father in 1909, made even sadder by

<sup>12</sup> Sister S., op cit., p.27.

<sup>13</sup> At Tullabeg, Michael was a contemporary, although not a classmate, of the famous Willy Doyle, the Jesuit priest who while serving as a British Army chaplain during the Great War was to be twice recommended for the VC.

<sup>14</sup> Sister S., op cit., pp. 92-93

<sup>15</sup> At Ore Place, Michael was a classmate of the famous and controversial Jesuit palaeontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the two being ordained at the same time. Like Michael, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin served in the First World War, in the French Army, as a stretcher bearer (not a chaplain—apparently by his own choice) and was awarded the Medaille Militaire and the Legion d’Honneur for his courage and devotion to duty.

the fact that Michael had received a leave of absence to be by his father's side during his last hours, only to have to return to England while his father still lingered. Sadly, his father died as Michael was on the ferry across the Irish Sea.

On 24 August 1911, Michael Bergin was ordained a priest and following the ceremony was again given leave to return home. On the way, he stopped off to celebrate Mass at his sister's convent in Dublin and then, by special permission, celebrated Mass in his family home, his mother by that time being an invalid and unable to attend church. On the Sunday of his short visit, he also celebrated Mass in the small chapel built by his grandfather.

At the completion of his leave, Michael returned to Ore Place to continue his studies and then spent a year giving retreats and missions in the south of England. Finally, in 1913, after many years of study and preparation, he journeyed back to the Middle East to take up what he believed was to be his life long vocation of missionary work. Prior to departing for Syria, he spent one last leave at home with his family. While there, he did the rounds of his family and friends requesting assistance in obtaining equipment to assist him in both his spiritual and temporal work and was able to procure a portable altar, sacred vessels and vestments and a quantity of medicine and medical equipment. He broke his journey in France to take a course of medical instruction in a Protestant hospital in Lille. Despite the differences in religion, he was treated with great kindness. In fact, when Michael passed his medical examination, one of the doctors presented him with a comprehensively stocked medical chest which he had paid for out of his own pocket. Michael was extremely touched by this gesture, as he was extremely proud of his Red Cross certificate.<sup>16</sup>

Finally, in January 1914, he arrived in Damascus in Syria where he was to commence his work as a missionary. He was one of four Jesuits in Damascus whose responsibilities included supervision of several schools as well as missionary work. Michael's area of responsibility was for the Haurun region to the south-east of Damascus, a vast area which he travelled on horse back.

As an interesting aside, Michael noted that land in Syria was owned by absentee landlords and worked by rent paying tenants. Any improvements made by the tenants automatically resulted in an increase in rent, with a result that the land was largely impoverished and neglected. Those familiar with the hated land rent system in Ireland will immediately recognise the parallels which were not lost on the Irishman, Michael Bergin.<sup>17</sup>

Michael was a faithful correspondent, especially to his sister, the nun Sister Sophie, and wrote regular letters in which he related with much self-deprecating humour the trials and tribulations of a Jesuit missionary in the depths of Ottoman Syria. But, in August 1914, the letters stopped. The world was at war, Turkey and England, and therefore at the time Ireland, were enemies, and Michael's family feared the worst as the months dragged on with no word from him. Then, in January 1915, a letter arrived from Cairo with the happy news that he was alive and well.

At the outbreak of war, Michael and his fellow Jesuits, along with a number of other religious in Damascus—priests, brothers and nuns—who were not Ottoman subjects, were detained by the police and sent to Beirut. Here they originally thought that they were to be expelled from the country but at the last moment the authorities changed their minds. Torn between a desire to be rid of the foreigners and a fear that by expelling them they would be unwittingly releasing

---

<sup>16</sup> Sister S., *op cit.*, p. 100.

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*, p.103.



some spies who would carry valuable military information out of the country, the Ottoman authorities decided to keep Michael and his brothers and sisters in custody. There followed a weary and tense several months as the missionaries were shunted around Syria as the Turks tried to decide what to do with them. Treatment of the missionaries ranged from poor to atrocious and at one stage there appeared a very real chance that some of them might be executed. In the end, and after the personal intervention of the Pope, the missionaries were all returned to Beirut from the various points where they had been held and, on New Year's day 1915, were put aboard ship and expelled to Egypt.<sup>18</sup>

Arriving in Cairo, Michael lost no time in sending a card and then a longer letter to his family. In the latter he described, in his usual self-effacingly humorous manner, the travails and sufferings of the preceding months, taking care to make light of his own privations while drawing attention to that of his fellows. His letters, however, also revealed that he was both bitterly disappointed at having his life's work snatched from him after only a year and very much at a loose end in Cairo.<sup>19</sup>

With the city literally bulging with Catholic priests, brothers and nuns from a variety of Orders who had been expelled from the Ottoman Empire, there was little ecclesiastical work for Michael to do. In the beginning, he was able to busy himself with teaching work as he was appointed Language Master at the College of the Holy Family at Faggala but he yearned for the spiritual fulfilment of his priestly vocation.<sup>20</sup>

Michael's 'salvation' came from a most unexpected quarter, namely, the Australian Imperial Force! At the outbreak of war, Australia had enthusiastically taken up the cause of the 'mother country' and an outpouring of patriotic endeavour had seen the raising of an expeditionary force to fight overseas in the service of King and Empire. Not counting the AN&MEF, the first Australian contingents left for overseas in November 1914.<sup>21</sup> Originally bound for the United Kingdom and France, the first drafts making up the 1st Division and the 1st Light Horse Brigade, were, for various reasons, diverted to Egypt where they went into camp around Mena and Maadi and began to build themselves into an army.

One of the administrative problems of the AIF, one which was to last for the entire war, was a shortage of Catholic chaplains. There were a number of reasons for this shortage but these are beyond the scope of this article.<sup>22</sup> Suffice it to say that when Michael Bergin met the AIF in Cairo, he met a force whose Catholic members were desperately short of spiritual guidance.

The AIF authorities, both temporal and spiritual, recognised this deficiency and tried to do their best to rectify it by using local priests to carry out the duties of chaplains. Unfortunately, English speaking priests were in short supply in Cairo, the most common language being French. Unsatisfactory from everyone's point of view!

<sup>18</sup> *ibid*, p. 118-119.

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*, p. 119-120.

<sup>20</sup> *Catalogus Provinciae Lugdunensis 1915*, Archives Francaises de la Compagnie de Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) was Australia's first overseas expeditionary force of the war. Hastily raised in September 1914 from militia, volunteers and naval reservists, it was specifically formed for the invasion and capture of German New Guinea, a task it carried out with reasonable despatch and efficiency, fighting one short, sharp engagement at Bitapaka in New Britain and eventually forcing the surrender of the colony. The AN&MEF suffered six members killed in action, the first of approximately 60,000 to die in the War. Graham Wilson has a special interest in the AN&MEF as his grandfather, AB H J Wilson, RANR, was a member of the Queensland Division of the Naval Reserve with the Naval Battalion.

<sup>22</sup> For a more detailed look at the problems of the Australian Catholic Church in finding chaplains for the First AIF and the relationship of the Church with the military authorities see Michael McKernan, *Australian Churches at War, 1980*, Catholic Theological Faculty and the Australian War Memorial, pp. 40-43.



Enter Bergin, SJ. It would appear that Michael first met the Australians at the convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. These sisters operated a spiritual and recreational centre for Catholic servicemen and it was here on one of his visits that Michael first encountered members of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

When he learned of the shortage of priests, Michael immediately volunteered his services and he was soon a familiar sight in the Light Horse lines. He would walk out from Cairo on Saturday morning, arriving in time to hear confessions that afternoon then spend the night in camp and say Mass on Sunday morning, walking back to Cairo that night. Several Australians recorded their memories of Michael striding into the camp, a tall figure in a shabby ankle length black cassock and a long flowing beard, legacy of his time in Syria. They also remembered him determinedly marching through the tent lines literally rounding up his flock for confession and Mass!

Michael quickly developed an affection for the Australians, especially the Queenslanders of the 5th Light Horse Regiment, and formally applied for an appointment as a chaplain with the AIF. His letters to his sister at this stage reflect both his happiness in being back at pastoral work and his growing affection and admiration for the Australians. Unfortunately, the wheels of military bureaucracy turn slowly at the best of times and in this instance especially slowly and weeks went by with no word of a response to Michael's application.

The problem was that under the system agreed between the Department of Defence and the Catholic Church authorities in Australia, chaplains were to be nominated by their bishops. Unlike the Protestant denominations, Catholic priests were not permitted to volunteer for a chaplaincy, a reflection of the more rigid hierarchical discipline of the Catholic as opposed to most Protestant churches.<sup>23</sup>

While the AIF was happy to have Michael as a chaplain, they were constrained by the agreement with the Church to seek its approval for Michael's appointment.<sup>24</sup> This approval had to come from Australia and that was where the request was sent. Of course, this only compounded the problem as Michael was an Irishman subordinate to a French Jesuit province and had never been closer to Australia than Cairo. The Church authorities in Australia had therefore never heard of him and would have had to seek advice from the Society of Jesus in Europe as to Michael's bona fides and his fitness to serve as a chaplain. This confirmation had not come through when orders were given in mid-May, 1915, for the 2nd Light Horse Brigade to be dismantled and sent to Gallipoli as reinforcements.

Michael's 'regiment' was now it seemed off to war without him since, as a civilian, there was of course no way that he could have accompanied them. However, as Father Devine, an Australian Catholic chaplain recalled, "a Jesuit might be relied upon to overcome a technicality."<sup>25</sup> Michael overcame his 'technicality' by shaving off his beard and enlisting in the 5th Light Horse Regiment as 818 Trooper Bergin M, on 12 May 1915. While Michael's attestation papers state that he was enlisted as a stretcher bearer, they also state quite clearly that he was to be employed as a chaplain, vice Reverend Tubman, an Anglican. In the end, as the regimental history of the 5th LH Regiment confirms, for whatever reason, Rev Tubman

---

<sup>23</sup> McKernan, *op.cit.*, p. 41.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*, p.40.

<sup>25</sup> Sister S., *op cit.*, p.121.

never made it to Gallipoli and Trooper Michael Bergin, SJ, landed with the regiment on 19/20 May 1915 as its sole chaplain.<sup>26</sup>

On Gallipoli, Michael carried out both his pastoral duties as priest and also worked as a stretcher bearer and medical attendant as his priestly duties allowed. Interestingly, at the time of his service on the Peninsula, another member of the 5th Light Horse was the legendary sniper Billy (The Assassin) Sing.<sup>27</sup> While there is no evidence that the Jesuit priest and the cool, patient, deadly accurate sniper ever met, the size of the unit and the close proximity forced by conditions at Gallipoli make it almost a certainty that they did and it is fascinating to conjecture what the two made of each other.

The longer he served, the deeper his affection for the Australians became. His time on the peninsula, however, while spiritually rewarding and fulfilling, was not without its physical burdens. On 16 June 1915, he was evacuated from Gallipoli suffering from a recurrence of his childhood nemesis, influenza, this time compounded by chronic diarrhoea. A week's rest in the 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Mudros on the island of Lemnos saw him returned to duty on the peninsula. As with many others who fell ill during the campaign, his return to duty was probably before he was ready for it. In a letter to his sister, Michael made light of his illness while bemoaning the loss of his Mass kit which disappeared from store while he was absent at Mudros.

Trooper Bergin's application for a chaplain's commission finally caught up with him at Gallipoli and he was attested as Chaplain to the Forces 4th Class on 12 July 1915, at Anzac Cove. This made him the only chaplain to be attested at Gallipoli and one of the few officers attested on the peninsula.

Michael's sister recorded in her biography that he debated with himself whether or not to accept the commission, feeling that it would perhaps be better if he remained in the ranks. Obviously someone convinced him of the military unsoundness of this option and he of course accepted his commission. Perhaps his decision was encouraged by the return of his Mass kit, complete down to the communion wine, which mysteriously returned to its owner at the time of his commissioning!

The now Captain Bergin remained on the peninsula until September 1915. On the 5th of that month, he was again evacuated from Gallipoli, this time with enteric fever. The records are very terse and unrevealing, but reading between the lines, it appears probable that Michael hid his illness as long as possible with the result that when he was finally evacuated, he was so ill that after a period of treatment aboard a hospital ship off Gallipoli he was sent straight to the UK, again via hospital ship, rather than to Mudros or Cairo.<sup>28</sup> He was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, at Wandsworth, on 10 October 1915. As an aside, 3rd London Gen Hosp was a British military hospital in which Australian officers were treated under an agreement between the British and Australian governments. As part of the agreement, a portion of the staff were Australians.

Michael was obviously a very sick man as he remained in hospital in London for almost three months. During that time the Gallipoli campaign began to wind down. Later in his

---

<sup>26</sup> Wilson, L.C. & Wetherell, H. 1926, *History of the 5th Light Horse Regiment (Australian Imperial Force) from 1914 to October 1917*, The Motor Press of Australia Limited, Sydney, p. 15.

<sup>27</sup> *ibid.*, p. 32. No. 355 Tpr W E Sing, DCM is said to have inflicted 156 Turkish casualties between 15 July and 30 Sep 1915.

<sup>28</sup> Official details of Michael's service have been extracted from his A.I.F. personnel file, a copy of which was obtained from the World War One Personnel Records Section of Australian Archives.

convalescence, he was granted leave to return home to Tipperary and created quite a stir in his home town in his Light Horse uniform, complete with emu feathers in his slouch hat. This was to be his last trip home.

In December 1915, he was posted back to the Middle East. As he was still classified as convalescent, rather than being posted to a field unit, he was transferred from the strength of 3rd London General Hospital to that of 3rd Australian General Hospital at Alexandria, being officially taken on the strength of 3rd AGH on 4 January 1916. His journey to Alexandria had been by way of Mudros where he had stopped for a while and where he had learned the news of the end of the Gallipoli campaign and the withdrawal of "his" regiment. Michael of course wanted to be posted back to the 5th Light Horse but this was not possible as his place had been taken by another Catholic priest, Father Mullins, who was to remain with the regiment for the rest of the war.

For a while, Michael was at something of a loose end, employed as an extra chaplain by the hospital and was at one stage in a state of quiet despair as he pined to return to his military apostolate. Finally, in March 1916, his prayers were answered when he was appointed RC chaplain to the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade, then being raised in the vicinity of the Suez Canal. Michael's appointment as chaplain to the 13th Brigade was dated 24 March 1916 and two days later he was attached, for ration purposes, to the 51st Australian Infantry Battalion.

It would appear that Michael's appointment to the 13th Bde had resulted from a conversation he had with the newly appointed brigade commander, Brigadier-General Glasgow. Glasgow was a former light horseman and he had become friends with Michael on Gallipoli. When the two had met in Alexandria, the Brigadier had asked if Michael would like to be his brigade chaplain and Michael had of course said "yes". He had then put the conversation in the back of his mind as he was actually despairing of achieving an appointment. The brigadier had not forgotten, however, and had obviously pulled some strings as Michael was informed of his appointment at 9:30 at night as he was hearing confessions. Needless to say, he was delighted and rushed off immediately to join his new unit, pausing only to hurriedly officiate at the baptism of a soldier at the hospital!

Michael immediately made his mark on the 13th Brigade, the recollections of various members of the formation, attesting to the admiration of all who crossed his path. It is worth noting that at a time when religious divisions were probably far more marked than they are today, admiration for Father Bergin crossed denominational lines and he was held in as high regard by Protestants as by Catholics. One aspect of his character which was remarked on by all was his willingness to suffer hardship and privation without complaint. For some time after his arrival, for some unknown reason he was without the mount which his position entitled him to. This did not faze him and soon after he joined he happily marched with the troops in their famous, or infamous, three day trek across the burning desert to reach their new camp on the banks of the Suez Canal. The Brigade Major of 13th Brigade, a Protestant, while confessing himself to be perplexed at the Catholic custom of fasting before taking Holy Communion, was nonetheless moved to admiration by Michael's devotion in marching five or six miles across the desert, after fasting from the previous midnight, as he made the rounds of the Brigade's scattered units on Sundays to celebrate Mass.

After forming and training, the 13th Brigade moved to the Western Front, arriving in France on 20 June 1916. Michael was delighted. After so many years in the wilderness, literally, he

was once again surrounded by green grass and trees. His letters to his sister constantly mention his joy at seeing green growing things, obviously a positive balm to his Irish soul.<sup>29</sup>

Michael found life as a chaplain on the Western Front markedly different from that of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The most profound difference was the separation from his flock enforced by military decree. On the peninsula, Michael, in common with his fellow chaplains, had lived and worked with his flock, sharing their lives and their dangers and running exactly the same risks as they did. Things were different in Belgium and France, where the military authorities decreed that chaplains were not to venture into the front lines except on rare occasions and were not to accompany the troops into action under any circumstances. These restrictions were keenly resented by Michael and many other chaplains of all denominations. In particular, Michael chafed at the directive against accompanying the troops into action as he, and other chaplains, believed that this was when the men needed his services most.<sup>30</sup>

By this time, however, Michael was enough of a soldier to obey the orders of higher authority, even if not totally willingly. Nevertheless, he, and other chaplains of every denomination tried to get around the restrictions as far as possible. When the 13th Brigade was going into action, Michael contrived to get as close to the front line as possible and bless the men or just cheer them on as they marched into battle. His great friend Captain Pat Auld of the 50th Battalion, an Anglican who later converted to Catholicism, recalled some years after the war the sight of Father Bergin standing on a small hillock by the side of a French road blessing the brigade as it marched up to the start line for the attack on Mouquet Farm in September 1916. It was generally known in the brigade at that stage that Michael had repeatedly petitioned his superiors to be allowed to accompany the men into action and had been just as repeatedly refused. Knowing this, Captain Auld related that all ranks of the brigade, including the non-Catholics, appreciated Michael's gesture in making his way as far forward as he was permitted and seeing the men of the brigade into action.<sup>31</sup>

Another member of the 50th Battalion, Private Donald Kerr, recalled the sight of Michael Bergin in white vestments celebrating Mass in the midst of enemy shell fire near Albert as the most inspiring sight he ever witnessed during the war.<sup>32</sup>

Despite the restrictions placed on him, Michael did manage to get into the front lines on several occasions and Pat Auld stated that he was the only chaplain that he ever recalled seeing in the forward trenches. Again, this fact was remarked on by the non-Catholics in the unit and left a deep impression on them. His presence was particularly appreciated during the bitter winter of 1916-17 when he would go out of his way to sit and chat with any man who wanted company or a sympathetic ear.<sup>33</sup>

All recollections of Michael remark on his courtesy and his cheerfulness. This cheerfulness hid a longing to return home which he revealed in his letters to his sister. But he did not go home, choosing to remain with his unit as he felt that it was where he was needed. This despite the fact that he was offered the chance of leave on several occasions. The most that he would permit himself was to take some leave in 1916 so that he could take his final vows as a Jesuit

---

<sup>29</sup> Sister S., *op cit.*, p. 140.

<sup>30</sup> McKernan, *op cit.*, p.64.

<sup>31</sup> Freeman, R R 1991, *Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred A Memorial History of the 50th Battalion AIF 1916-1919*, Peacock Publications, Norwood, South Australia, p.120

<sup>32</sup> *ibid.*, p.54.

<sup>33</sup> *ibid.*, p.120.

which he did at Sainte-Foy-les-Lyons on 17 December 1916, the culmination of 19 years of study and devotion.<sup>34</sup>

Throughout 1917, Michael kept up his pastoral duties, ministering to the living, comforting the wounded, giving solace to the dying, burying the dead and always striving to be a better priest. In June 1917, in recognition of his hard work, his devotion to duty and the high regard in which he was universally held, Michael was promoted to Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class, equivalent to Major. Of course, the Army being the Army, the promotion was temporary, acting and without pay. In September, Brigadier General Glasgow recommended Michael for the award of the Military Cross. Unfortunately, while the award was eventually to be gazetted, the wheels of military bureaucracy turned so slowly (again) that Michael never learned of the honour.

On 6 October 1917, Michael wrote to his beloved sister and informed her that he had been granted leave the previous month but had, typically, changed his mind as a result of rumours of a forthcoming battle which had decided him to stay where he felt he was needed most. He informed Fan that he hoped to take leave and see her either later that month or perhaps in the following month. He closed his letter with the words: "I hope to see you soon dearest. Good-bye." It was his last letter.<sup>35</sup>

On 11 October 1917, Michael was visiting the advanced dressing station of the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance in the vicinity of the "Railway Dugouts" adjacent to the Zonnebekke rail line. At the time, the rear areas of the 4th Australian Division were under intermittent harassing German shell fire and one of these shells impacted and exploded near the dressing station. Michael was severely wounded, his medical records laconically advising that he received "s.w. shoulder", that is, "shrapnel wound to the shoulder". Although no further details are given, the wound was obviously extensive as, despite the fact that Michael was only seconds from skilled medical help, little could be done for him.<sup>36</sup>

At some time on 12 October 1917, Michael Bergin, priest of the Roman Catholic church, member of the Society of Jesus, one time trooper of the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment, and Chaplain to the Forces, Australian Imperial Force, died. Normally, the bodies of soldiers who died at an advanced medical facility would be buried quickly on the site. In Michael's case, however, his body was recovered by his friends, including his fellow priest and AIF chaplain Father Cecil Loneragan, to the small Belgian town of Reninghelst where he was known to the cure of the parish and to the parishioners and he was buried in the small British cemetery adjacent to the church.<sup>37</sup> In accordance with the rites and customs of the Roman Catholic Church, a Requiem Mass was celebrated for Michael in St. Vedastuskerk.<sup>38</sup>

Those close to Michael in the AIF were terribly affected by his death. His close friend Pat Auld of the 50th Battalion was shattered. While chaplains in the AIF, of every denomination, were not always held in the highest regard, every record and recollection available on Michael

<sup>34</sup> Sister S., op cit., p. 143.

<sup>35</sup> *ibid.*, pp.150-151.

<sup>36</sup> Bean, C E W 1926, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Vol IV The AIF in France 1917*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, pp.930-931. This footnote reference to his death is the only mention of Michael Bergin in the entire 12 volumes of the official history.

<sup>37</sup> Loneragan, Rev. C. date unk., Report From Chaplain C. Loneragan of service with the AIF covering 30 September 1916 to 25 February 1919. From a photocopy of the original in the authors' possession.

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.* Also, Van Wallegghem, A. 1964, *The War at Dickesbusch and Surrounds*, (translated from the original Flemish), Bruges, p.62. Father Van Waileghem was a parish priest at Dickesbusch near Reninghelst and records in his diary that Michael Bergin was buried with full honours, both military and ecclesiastic, with his Requiem Mass being co-celebrated by eight priests (3 chaplains and 5 civilians) and full military guard, escort and honours.

Bergin indicates that he was universally loved, admired and respected. Much of this was the result of his obvious goodness and devotion and the fact that, while he was a devout and pious Catholic, he held room in his heart for all of the soldiers under his care. It is possibly worth noting that at least two Protestants who had close dealings with Michael Bergin, Major General Legge and Captain Auld, converted to the Catholic faith.

Tributes to Michael came from every quarter of the AIF, from the highest to the lowest rank. His friend Father Devine recalled later that about two weeks after Michael's death, a young Australian private who was a Presbyterian, stopped him as he was about to go on leave and gave him the negatives of some shots of Michael's grave. The soldier had taken the shots with his pocket camera and asked the priest if he would see that they got to Michael's family.<sup>39</sup>

One recollection of his death which I am sure would have appealed to Michael's sense of humour was his obituary in the Jesuit year book. This publication is written in Latin and, struggling with an archaic vocabulary, describes his cause of death as being from "fragments of an iron sphere striking him in the chest!"<sup>40</sup> All of the officers of the battalions of the 13th Brigade recalled Michael in glowing and affectionate terms, as did many of the officers he had worked with. Typical of these comments were those in a letter from W M Fowler, a former member of the 50th Battalion, to Pat Auld which says in part: "His death was a most severe blow to the Brigade, and although I am not of his creed, I say unhesitatingly that I admired him more than any other Chaplain with whom I came in contact."<sup>41</sup>

That is almost the end of the story. Before concluding, however, in keeping with the old stage magician's axiom of always leaving the audience wondering, the reader is presented with a small mystery. As the foregoing has revealed, Michael Bergin was born in Ireland; educated in Ireland, England and Ottoman Syria; carried out his life's work in England, Syria, Egypt, France and Belgium; and, although a member of the Australian Army, never got closer to Australia than the Suez Canal. How then to explain the fact that a pyx dedicated to Michael Bergin is owned by the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart in Mona Vale in Sydney?<sup>42</sup> The pyx at Sacred Heart, Mona Vale is engraved with the legend: "This was the property of Chaplain the Reverend M J Bergin S.J. M.C. killed whilst on duty with AIF at Zonnebeke. October 11th 1917 RIP". How the pyx, which had apparently been part of Michael's mass kit, came to be in the possession of Sacred Heart, Mona Vale, no one knows. Several theories have been developed and explored by researchers interested in the life of this marvellous man, but none of them can be confirmed. One of the best theories is that put forward by Joe Crumlin, one of the authors of this article. Joe is a retired merchant navy officer who lives in Mona Vale and who attends Sacred Heart church. He has put forward the theory that Michael Bergin's batman, who was apparently a bit of a rogue and of whom Michael had uncharacteristically had some less than charitable things to say, was responsible.<sup>43</sup> According to Michael's only known living relative, his niece, in a letter to Joe in 1993, Michael's batman had been absent at the time of Michael's death, collecting altar bread for communion. For this, he would have taken Michael's pyx. Joe theorises that the batman kept the pyx and had it engraved as a way of atoning for the fact that he was absent when Michael was killed. This is the best of the

<sup>39</sup> Sister S., op cit., pp. 152-153.

<sup>40</sup> "... percussis in pectore fragmento globi ferrei." *Litterae Annuae Provinciae Lugdunensis Necrologium 1912-1919*, Archives Francaises de la Compagnie de Jesus, pp. 173-174.

<sup>41</sup> Letter from Capt W M Fowler, MC to Capt P H Auld MC dated 8th October, 1938 from a photocopy in the authors' possession.

<sup>42</sup> For the benefit of non-Catholics, a 'pyx' is a small lidded box or container used for carrying communion bread.

<sup>43</sup> Sister S., op cit., p. 145.



theories so far put forward and there is certainly no way to refute it. Unfortunately, it still does not explain how the pyx came to be at Sacred Heart, Mona Vale!

Michael's story did not end entirely with his death. His award of the Military Cross was still to be gazetted and presumably some arrangement was made to convey the award to his invalid mother. Additionally, the somewhat irregular mode of his enlistment in the AIF was to cause some lingering administrative problems and resulted in some confused exchanges of letters between AIF overseas headquarters and the Defence Department in Melbourne. This continued at least until 1919 as efforts were made to sort out Michael's pension and beneficiary entitlements. As with his convoluted Latin obituary, there is little doubt that these administrative vexations would have appealed to Michael's sense of humour.

Michael Bergin died almost eighty years ago. His family has almost entirely died out and his only memorials are his headstone in Reninghelst, his name on the Roll of Honour in the Australian War Memorial, a brief entry in *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and the somewhat shabby old pyx in the sacristy of Sacred Heart, Mona Vale.<sup>44</sup> While it is fairly certain that this lack of memorials to him would not bother such a self-effacing man, it would be a shame if the memory of this well known and respected, not to say loved, chaplain of the 1st AIF were to fade into oblivion.

One point which needs to be made about Michael Bergin before concluding this article relates to his view of the Australian soldier. Michael had a very real and deep affection for the Australian Digger, but his affection was not the blinkered, purblind adoration of some other commentators. While deeply aware of the many sterling qualities of the Digger, Michael's letters and the recollections of those who knew him show that he was acutely aware of "Biljim's" failings as well. Knowing the bad qualities of his flock as well as the good, Michael still treated them with love and devotion. It was probably this willingness to accept the Digger, warts and all, which made him such a success as a chaplain and such a popular man with all ranks and creeds.<sup>45</sup>

It is fitting to conclude this brief look at the life, work and death of Father Michael Bergin with a couple of quotes. The first is the recommendation for his MC, written by Brigadier General TW Glasgow, GOC 13th Aust Inf Bde, which reads:

"Chaplain Bergin has been Roman Catholic padre during the period 20 July 1915 to 20th Sept 1917. Never absent from duty, always performing his office unostentatiously but with magnificent zeal and courage. In the line or out Padre Bergin is always to be found among his men helping them when in trouble and inspiring them with his noble example and never-failing cheerfulness. These are the characteristics which have endeared him to all and which make him such a valuable asset to the brigade."<sup>46</sup>

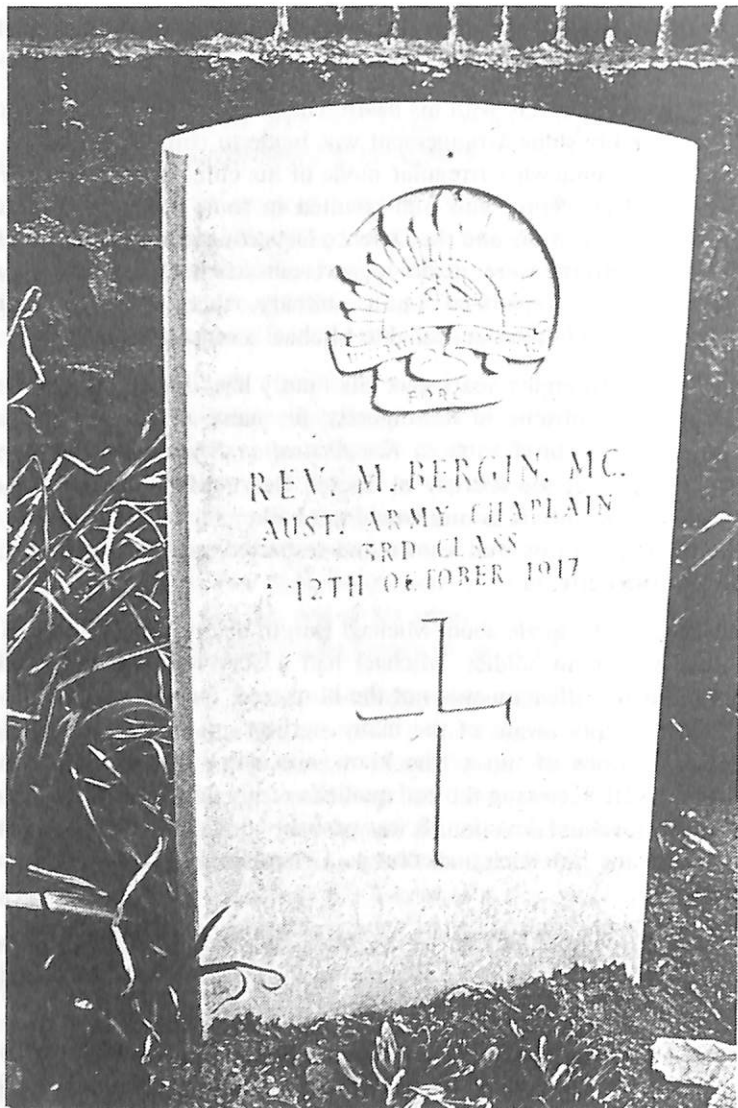
The second quote is from Shakespeare's play Hamlet where (Act One, Scene II) Hamlet says to Horatio:

" 'A was a man, take him for all in all  
I shall not look upon his like again."

<sup>44</sup> Since this talk was given, it has been learned that a small memorial to Father Bergin, in the form of a framed photograph and brief resume, was displayed for many years in St Monica's Catholic Cathedral in Cairns. Cairns became the home of the 51st Bn after the war and, indeed, still is. The photograph now resides in the Officer's Mess of the 51st Bn, Far North Queensland Regiment, in Cairns.

<sup>45</sup> Gannon, op cit., p. 16.

<sup>46</sup> AWM28, 4th Div. 18/9/17 to 23/9/17



### Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance or support of the following: His Lordship Bishop Aloysius Morgan, former Chaplain General of the Australian Army and retired Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, St Christopher's Presbytery, Canberra; Father Stephen Redmond SJ, Archivist, Irish Jesuit Province; Father Robert Bonfils SJ, Archivist, and Father Jean Dravet SJ, French Jesuit Province; M. Conrad Dumoulin, Zillebeke, Belgium; Father John Eddy SJ, Canberra; Dr Roger Freeman, Adelaide; staff of the Research Centre, Australian War Memorial, Canberra; staff of the Australian National Archives, World War One Personnel Records Section, Canberra; the Office of Australian War Graves, Canberra; Major Tom Johnstone, Royal Corps of Signals (Retired), Mt Eliza, Victoria; Ron Hart, Office of the Principal Chaplain—Army, Canberra; and of course, always and forever, our wives.

## Insignia of the South Australian Contingents to South Africa, 1899-1900

Anthony F Harris<sup>1</sup>

Accurate identification of military insignia is ideally based upon official records such as Dress Regulations, General Orders, pattern books, etc. In the absence of such records confirmation can sometimes be achieved by the detail found in contemporary photographs, particularly where the photograph is accompanied by other identifying factors such as a name, regimental identification, dates or similar references.

The badges (Shoulder Titles) referred to in this article appear to have no known official reference. While two of the titles have been identified in photographs, it is believed that no formal identification source exists. Finding the following 'official' (ie, government) references to these shoulder titles was the result of little more than good luck; a diversion found by chance while searching South Australian government records for completely different though related equipment.

In April 1900, the Agent General for South Australia in London, Sir J A Cockburn KCMG, MD, received a letter from the London agents of the Corporation of the City of Capetown, Messrs Davis & Soper, enquiring about 'the badges pertaining to Her Majesty's Imperial and Colonial Forces now serving in South Africa'.<sup>2</sup> It seems that the Mayor of Capetown had proposed erecting a shield in 'the new City Hall Building' displaying the badges of the various regiments and corps passing through the city. Similar letters were obviously sent to numerous other agents, governments or regimental offices. Shortly afterwards the Agent General forwarded on the request to the South Australian Treasurer (at that time the Minister responsible for the Office of the Agent General), suggesting that a duplicate set of badges also be supplied for the use of his office. Apparently the Agent General had been receiving other enquiries about the insignia worn by the South Australian contingents sent to South Africa.<sup>3</sup>

On 13 June 1900 the Treasurer of South Australia, following discussions with the Chief Secretary (the Minister responsible for the local military forces) sent 'a set of the badges worn by the several SA Contingents who have proceeded to South Africa'.<sup>4</sup> A duplicate set for the use of the Agent General's office was prepared about two weeks later.<sup>5</sup>

A further letter to the Agent General from Messrs Davis & Soper, dated 8 August 1900, acknowledged receipt of the set of badges, stating 'These will be of great assistance in preparing the Shield of Honour which is to be placed in the new City Hall, Capetown.'<sup>6</sup>

For identification purposes, the most important document among these is the enclosure that accompanied the Treasurer's letter of 13 June 1900, which reads as follows:

---

<sup>1</sup> Anthony F Harris is a collector and researcher specialising in the military small arms of the Australian colonies, with particular reference to South Australia. Secondary interests include local pre-Federation military insignia, documents and photographs. He is a public servant with the State government having a background in the printing industry.

<sup>2</sup> GRG 55/1/49, Folio 422

<sup>3</sup> *ibid* Folio 421

<sup>4</sup> GRG 45/3 Vol. 19, p.533

<sup>5</sup> *ibid* p.574

<sup>6</sup> GRG 55/1/50, Folio 153

LIST OF BADGES ETC. WORN BY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
CONTINGENTS SENT TO SOUTH AFRICA

First Contingent (Infantry)

Kangaroo's head on headdress  
Shoulder badge: S.A.I.

Second Contingent (Mounted Infantry)

Lion's head on headdress  
Shoulder badge: A.M.R.

Third Contingent (Bushmen)

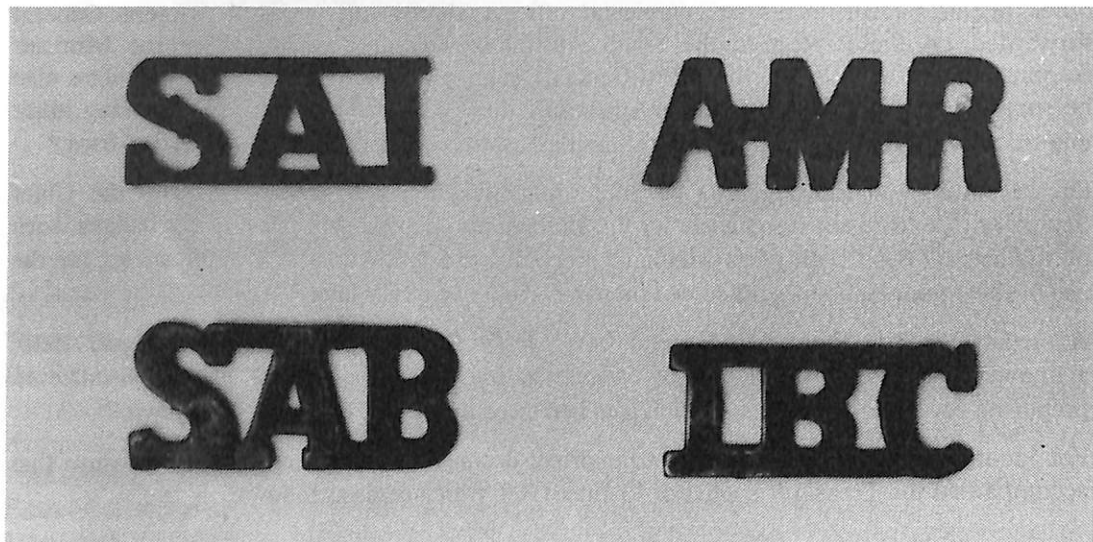
Lion's head on headdress  
Shoulder badge: S.A.B.

Fourth Contingent (Imperial Bushmen)

Lion's head on headdress  
Shoulder badge: I.B.C.

In addition to the above, the buttons and chevrons were the same for each Contingent, and samples are enclosed.<sup>7</sup>

Although the distinctively Australian embellishment, the kangaroo head, is documented here as being worn only by the first contingent, contemporary photographs show that at least some members of both the second and third contingents also wore the kangaroo head. Indeed, it was also worn by various units of the South Australian Military Forces when the slouch hat was adopted during the 1890s.<sup>8</sup>



SAI—1st contingent (South Australian Infantry); AMR—2nd contingent (Adelaide [?] Mounted Rifles);  
SAB: 3rd contingent (South Australian Bushmen); IBC—4th contingent (Imperial Bushmen Contingent)

<sup>7</sup> GRG 45/3 Vol. 19, p.575

<sup>8</sup> Author's research notes

The SAI shoulder title is scarce and has often been thought to be other than of South Australian origin. This error may have been brought about by the fact that, although it was raised as an infantry unit, the first contingent became mounted when in South Africa and the medals awarded to its members are inscribed as SAMR (South Australian Mounted Rifles). Although this series of documents identifies the shoulder title, it is not known to have been noted in contemporary photographs of the contingent members.



Kangaroo head side-hook for the slouch hat.

The shoulder title of the second contingent, AMR, is believed to represent 'Adelaide Mounted Rifles'. No other reference is known but, to the best of this writer's knowledge, the title was not worn by any unit other than the second contingent. The shoulder titles of the second, third and fourth contingents all show traces of being oxidised (blackened finish) while the SAI title appears as natural brass finish. The SAB title is made of copper; all others are brass.

The buttons worn by the contingents were of brass (some may have been oxidised black) and carried the design of the Royal Arms. No attempt has been made to ascertain if the proposed 'Shield of Honour' ever became a reality. If the project was actually completed it would now probably be classed as a unique reference collection of military insignia; arguably one of the most important British/Colonial collections ever assembled due to the specific period and events. However, it is felt that the likelihood of all units that passed through Capetown being represented on the shield is remote. Similarly, it is unlikely that it would have survived nearly 100 years without some degree of loss or theft. Perhaps these few lines will inspire a reader to enquire of the Capetown civic authorities? In the event that the collection does in fact exist, maybe the opportunity to view the shield will be available to the many visitors expected to visit the city during 1999, the centenary of the outbreak of the South African War.

## Encyclopaedia of the Australian Army—1939 to 1945

Graham R McKenzie Smith<sup>1</sup>

During the Second World War the Australian Army included many thousands of individual units and the history of many of these is not known outside the veterans of each unit. Books such as the "Australia's Forgotten Army" series, have set out the framework to understand the organisation and movements of units in the Army but they cannot cover all units. Graham McKenzie Smith has prepared a regular series for *Sabretache* which will give an outline of the wartime service of some of the lesser known units, along with sources for further research for those seeking more details. The AWM reference number is that of the Unit War Diary and these can be viewed at the Research Centre of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

### Part 1 — Machine Gun Battalions

The pre-war militia infantry battalions included a medium machine gun company and this structure was used when the AIF battalions of 6 Inf Div were formed in October 1939. In December these companies were bought together as 2/1 MG Bn. Later 2/2 MG Bn, 2/3 MG Bn and 2/4 MG Bn were formed as Corps Troops to be allocated to individual divisions. The militia battalions retained their MG companies until October 1942 when they were reorganised and the machine gun companies were bought together into 5 MG Bn, 6 MG Bn and 7 MG Bn.

Machine gun regiments were formed as part of the cavalry brigades in the pre-war period by converting light horse regiments based close to the capital cities where suitable horses were becoming scarce and they will be covered in a later article on the light horse units. They all subsequently became motor or armoured regiments except that 19 MG Regt adopted the infantry MG structure in September 1942 and became 19 MG Bn.



#### 2/1 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM 52 - 8/5/1

Formed in December 1939 by bringing together the MG companies that were part of the battalions of 6 Aust Inf Div and they were part of the Third Convoy which was diverted to UK in June 1940. In December they moved to Egypt and trained near Alexandria until 6 April 1941 when they moved to Greece. After a fighting withdrawal they left Kalamata on 26 April and arrived on Crete by destroyer after the *Costa Rica* was sunk by aircraft. Most of the battalion were withdrawn before the German invasion and moved to Deir Sunied in Palestine. From December 1941 they undertook garrison duties in Syria before leaving for Australia in March 1942.

---

<sup>1</sup> Graham McKenzie Smith is a Canberra based forester and member of MHSA. His research interest has been the movements and activities of the many thousands of Australian Army Units serving in Australia in World War 2 and his book series 'Australia's Forgotten Army' provides the strategic framework to understand those movements. Graham's address is 112 Perry Drive, Chapman, ACT 2611. He is able to assist researchers with an interest in any particular unit.

The unit arrived at Adelaide, SA and moved to Ingleburn, NSW on 3 April before moving to Peachester, Qld on 7 July 1942 to join 7 Aust Inf Div. They then moved to Deception Bay, Qld on 22 August to take up beach defensive positions under command of HQ 2 Aust Corps. In October, A Coy moved to Port Moresby, NG and were joined shortly after by B Coy. The rest of the unit stayed at Deception Bay with a company manning machine guns on Moreton Island. They came under command of HQ 3 Aust Inf Div in January 1943 and HQ First Aust Army in February. A Coy had a defensive role at Oro Bay, Wau, Nassau Bay and Morobe while B Coy was at Port Moresby and Milne Bay. On 4 May 1943 the rest of the unit moved to Port Moresby and all companies were brought together at Port Moresby in November 1943.

The unit arrived back from New Guinea arriving at Brisbane on 16 February 1944 and after resting at Tenterfield, NSW moved to Strathpine, Qld on 27 June 1944 to rejoin HQ 7 Aust Inf Div. They moved with the division to Kairi, Qld in September 1944 from where they left in June 1945 for the landing at Balikpapan in Borneo.

Unit history: *Black and Yellow Triangles, 1939 to 1946 — 2/1 MG Bn, Plummer & Atkins,*



### **2/2 Aust Machine Gun Battalion**

Ref: AWM52 - 8/5/2

Formed on 2 May 1940 as Corps Troops to be attached to 7 Aust Inf Div. BHQ and HQ Coy were formed in NSW with two companies from Queensland and one each from WA and Tasmania. In June the WA and Tasmanian companies were transferred to 2/3 Aust MG Bn and A Coy and B Coy were formed in NSW, training at Ingleburn until moving to Cowra in September. The Queenslanders became C Coy and D Coy and trained at Redbank until they sailed for Egypt in December 1940.

The unit arrived at Ismalia, Egypt on 31 January 1941 and moved to Khassa where it trained before moving to Mersa Matruh on 24 April to be attached to 1 South African Div until 16 September when they returned to Gaza. From 24 September they became part of 9 Aust Inf Div and moved with them to the Tripoli Fortress on 17 January 1942. In June they moved to the Egyptian border where companies were attached to the brigades of 9 Aust Inf Div throughout the El Alamein operations. After the breakthrough the unit returned to the Julis on 4 December before leaving for Australia on 21 January 1943 arriving at Sydney on 27 February. After leave they gathered at Kairi Camp by May.

In August 1943 they moved to Milne Bay, NG and supported other units of 9 Aust Inf Div during their landing and attack on Lae before moving to Finschhafen on 8 October. On 25 February 1944 they returned to Australia and reassembled at Ravenshoe, Qld in April. After a frustrating 12 months seeking a new role they moved to Morotai in April 1945 with D Coy accompanying 26 Aust Inf Bde to capture Tarakan while the rest of the battalion landed at Brunei Bay with other units of 9 Aust Inf Div.

The unit was disbanded on 26 February 1946.

Unit history: *Muzzle Blast, Six Years of War with 2/2 Aust Machine Gun Battalion, AIF, Bill Oakes, Sydney, 1980*



### 2/3 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM 52 - 8/5/3

Formed on 17 June 1940 as Corps Troops to be allocated to 8 Aust Inf Div. Companies of the recently formed 2/2 Aust MG Bn at Northam, WA (D Coy) and Brighton, Tas (C Coy) were transferred while BHQ, HQ Coy and A Coy were formed at Oakbank, SA and B Coy was formed at Seymour, Vic. All groups trained in their home states until October when they concentrated at Warradale, SA. In January 1941 they moved to Woodside, SA and then left Sydney, NSW for the Middle East in April after being transferred to 7 Aust Inf Div.

The unit arrived at Gaza in mid May 1941 and in June they participated in the invasion of Syria by 7 Aust Inf Div until the Armistice on 17 July and then as part of the garrison in Syria the detached companies of the unit were concentrated in the town of Fih. In response to the Japanese advance, the unit moved to Palestine in mid January 1942 and left in early February on *Orcades* arriving at Batavia on 17 February. Along with 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn and others the unit was put ashore and formed Blackforce which, after severe fighting, surrendered on 9 March 1942.

On 15 April 1942, orders were given to reform the battalion at Morphettville, SA based on members who had not gone to Java with the main body and they moved to Balcombe, Vic in May before moving to Ingleburn, NSW in July to pick up reinforcements before moving to Cowra, NSW for training. In May 1943 they moved to Brisbane, Qld to replace 2/1 Aust MG Bn at Deception Bay and from early June to 28 July, C Coy was deployed to South Moreton Is while D Coy was deployed to Bribie Island.

From mid June, B Coy was detached to Merauke in Dutch New Guinea as part of 11 Aust Inf Bde Gp and they rejoined the battalion at Wondecla in May 1944 where the main body had moved in August 1943 to come under command of HQ 6 Aust Inf Div. In December 1944 the unit moved to Aitape, NG and participated in the advance to Wewak before being disbanded in October 1945.

Unit history: *From Snow to Jungle, A History of the 2/3 Aust Machine Gun Battalion*, John Bellair, Sydney, 1987



### 2/4 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM52 - 8/5/4

Formed at Northam, WA in October 1940 to replace 2/3 Aust MG Bn attached to 8 Aust Inf Div. In July 1941 they moved to Woodside, SA and then moved in October 1941 to Darwin to man the beach defences in the Lee Point area under command of HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde.

On 31 December 1941 they left Darwin by sea for Singapore, travelling via Port Moresby, Sydney and Fremantle, arriving on 24 January 1942. The unit was involved in heavy fighting after the Japanese landing on Singapore Island on 8 February and became prisoners of war after the island's surrender on 15 February.

Unit history: *2/4th Machine Gun Battalion, AIF on Active Service 1941-1945*, Unit Association, Perth.





### 5 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM 52 - 8/5/5

Formed on 4 September 1942 at Landsborough, Qld from the MMG companies of the disbanding 33 Aust Inf Bn (C Coy), 45 Aust Inf Bn (B Coy), 46 Aust Inf Bn (D Coy), 52 Aust Inf Bn (A Coy) and 59 Aust Inf Bn (HQ Coy). The unit came under command of HQ 2 Aust Corps on 29 September and moved to D'Aguilar, Qld.

In January 1943 they moved to Torres Strait, Qld with A Coy on Thursday Is and B Coy on Goode Is while the rest of the battalion defended Horn Is. On 7 May 1943 the companies rotated with D Coy at Goode Is, B Coy on Thursday Is. In August D Coy moved to Red Island Point on Cape York and were relieved by C Coy in October. From time to time companies also exercised on Prince of Wales Is.

In July 1944 the unit left Torres Strait and moved to Glenfield, NSW where after leave the men were transferred to other units and 5 Aust MG Bn was disbanded in September 1944.

Unit history: *5 Aust MG Bn, (AIF), Torres Strait Force, Reg Ball, Sydney, 1990*



### 6 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM 52 - 8/5/6

Formed in September 1942 at Narellan, NSW from the machine gun companies of battalions of 1 Aust Inf Div and moved to Wallgrove, NSW on 23 September before settling at Dapto, NSW on 20 October. They remained at Dapto until departing for Port Moresby in July 1943 to replace 7 Aust MG Bn who returned to Australia in August 1943.

At Port Moresby they were under command of HQ 3 Aust Inf Div until 26 Oct when they transferred to HQ 7 Aust Inf Div and moved on 11 November 1943 to Gusap in the Ramu Valley to protect the expanding USAAF airbases. They were relieved by 11 Aust Inf Div Carrier Coy in March 1944 and returned to Wallgrove in April where they were disbanded on 8 June 1944.



### New Guinea Force Machine Gun Battalion

#### 7 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM 52 - 8/5/7

Formed at Port Moresby, NG on 2 November 1942 as NG Force MG Bn from the machine gun companies of 3 Aust Inf Bn and 49 Aust Inf Bn (C Coy), 36 Aust Inf Bn (D Coy), 39 Aust Inf Bn (HQ Coy), 53 Aust Inf Bn (A Coy) and 55 Aust Inf Bn (B Coy). From their base near Wards Lookout the unit manned beach defences in the Port Moresby area and on 22 December the unit was renamed as 7 Aust MG Bn.

On 12 January 1943, A Coy moved to Milne Bay where they came under command of 11 Aust Inf Div and then 5 Aust Inf Div with a beach defence role until returning to Port Moresby in August. Also in January 1943, B Coy moved by air to reinforce Kanga Force at Wau and were responsible for the defence of the Wau Airstrip until returning to Port Moresby just prior to leaving NG.

In August 1943, the unit returned to Australia and camped at Kairi, Qld where they came under command of HQ 2 Aust Corps until November when they came under command of the newly arrived HQ 3 Aust Inf Div. In July 1944 the unit was disbanded at Kairi, Qld.

Unit history: *History of the 7th Aust Machine Gun Battalion AIF*, Sgt D McGoldrick, Sydney, 1972



### 19 Light Horse (Machine Gun) Regiment

#### 19 Aust Machine Gun Battalion

Ref: AWM 52 - 8/5/8 & 12

This unit was formed as 19 LH (MG) Regt in 1940 in the Wimmera region of Victoria with A Sqn from Rainbow, Jeparit and Dimboola, B Sqn from Nhill, Goroke and Kaniva, C Sqn from Horsham, Murtoa, Rupanyup and Mamoo while HQ Sqn came from Horsham and Natimuk.

In December 1941 the unit was mobilised at Colac and in January 1942 they departed for Darwin, NT to replace 2/4 Aust MG Bn which was sent to Singapore. Initially they manned the fixed MG posts in the Lee Pt area under command of HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde and in March they changed to a more mobile role at Winnellie under command of HQ 3 Aust Inf Bde. When Gen Herring changed the defensive plan to involve mobile brigade groups on the road south of Darwin, the unit moved to the 51.5 mile peg which was in the Central Brigade area.

In August 1942, E Coy of 48 Aust Inf Bn moved from Sydney to join 19 LH (MG) Regt (3 sqns) and so to convert it to 19 Aust MG Bn (4 coys) and in September they moved to the 30 mile camp to rejoin HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde. In September 1943 they transferred to HQ 2 Aust Inf Bde and moved to the 66 mile camp where they remained until March 1944 when they moved to Watsonia, Vic to be disbanded in April 1944.

Unit history: *Saddle to Boots — A History of the 19th Aust Machine Gun Battalion*, Kathryn M Curkpatrick, Melbourne, 1990.



## Part 2 — Artillery Survey Units

Artillery survey units have a role to support the field and medium artillery regiments by providing survey control and by locating enemy guns and other targets for them to engage. Before the Second World War small militia Artillery Survey Companies were located in Sydney and Melbourne and when the Second AIF was expanded to a Corps in May 1940, 2/1 Survey Regiment RAA was formed as part of the Corps Artillery.

The new regiment had three separate batteries with distinct functions. The role of the Flash Spotting Battery was to locate enemy guns and other target information by observation from surveyed sites. The role of the Sound Ranging Battery was to locate enemy guns by recording the sound waves at a number of surveyed microphone sites while the Survey Battery had the role to provide survey control for facilitating coordination of artillery fire power in the theatre of operations and to link the Flash Spotting and Sound Ranging sites into the same grid as the guns.

After arriving in the Middle East in May 1941 the structure was changed in late September 1941 to form two composite batteries each with a flash spotting, a sound ranging and a survey

troop. Later the militia Artillery Survey Companies adopted the same structure and became Survey Regiments.

With the return of 2/1 Svy Regt to Australia, the three regiments were disbanded in mid August 1942 and separate batteries were formed. Flash spotting batteries were allocated to each Corps while survey batteries were allocated to each infantry division. Sound ranging was reduced to a Cadre at the School of Artillery although a flash spotting battery was converted to sound ranging in June 1945.



### **1 Artillery Survey Company**

#### **1 Survey Regiment RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/3

Formed as part of the pre war militia, 1 Arty Svy Coy was mobilised in December 1941 at Warwick Farm (NSW) and renamed as 1 Svy Regt RAA. The unit was disbanded on 16 August 1942 with the reorganisation of artillery survey functions.



### **2 Artillery Survey Company**

#### **2 Survey Regiment RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/2

Formed as part of the pre war militia, 2 Arty Svy Coy was mobilised in December 1941 at Springvale (Vic) and renamed as 2 Svy Regt RAA. The unit was disbanded on 16 August 1942 with the reorganisation of artillery survey functions.



### **2/1 Survey Regiment RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/1

Raised at Sydney Showground in May 1940 as corps troops for 1 Aust Corps, the regiment had a Flash Spotting Bty (A & B Tp) and a Survey Bty (E & F Tp) while a Sound Ranging Bty (C & D Tp) was raised at Broadmeadows Camp in Melbourne. The NSW portion moved to Greta Camp on 21 June and the whole regiment concentrated at Cowra, NSW on 5 September 1940.

They embarked at Woolloomooloo on 10 April 1941 and arrived in Palestine on 6 May. A composite group containing A Tp (F Sp), C Tp (S Rg) and E Tp (Svy) were attached to 7 Inf Div on the Damour front in the last stages of the Syrian Campaign (5 to 12 July 1941). For the rest of 1941 the regiment was scattered over Syria on a variety of survey roles. In late September 1941 the regiment structure was changed to give two composite batteries. 1 Survey Bty which contained B Tp (F Sp), C Tp (S Rg) and F Tp (Svy) was attached to CRA 6 Aust Inf Div in the Beekaa Valley, while 2 Survey Bty which contained A Tp (F Sp), D Tp (S Rg) and E Tp (Svy) was attached to CRA 7 Aust Inf Div at Tripoli.

The regiment left Port Tewfik on 21 March 1942 arriving at Adelaide on 31 March and were billeted at Nuriootpa in the Barossa Valley. After leave they concentrated at Arakoon, Qld in early May and were disbanded on 16 August 1942 with the reorganisation of artillery survey functions and their role was transferred to 2/1 F Sp Bty, 2/3 Aust F Sp Bty, 2/6 Aust Svy Bty and 2/7 Aust Svy Bty.

Unit history: *Locating The Enemy! Australian Artillery Surveyors at War 1940 - 1945*, 2/1 Aust Survey Assoc, Sydney, 1993



### **2/1 Aust Flash Spotting Battery**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/6/1

Formed at Arakoon, Qld on 16 August 1942 mainly from A Troop of 2/1 Svy Regt for a attachment to CCRA 1 Aust Corps. They remained in South Queensland until February 1945 being used mainly on surveying and labouring jobs with some specialist work in association with the concentration of artillery units in the Brisbane region. The unit passed to BRA First Aust Army when CCRA 1 Aust Corps left South Queensland in early 1943 and on 18 October 1944 they came under command of BRA Second Aust Army when BRA First Aust Army moved to Mareeba, Qld.

In February 1945 they moved to Kairi, Qld and came under command of CRA 3 Aust Inf Div before transferring to CRA 11 Aust Inf Div on 24 April 1945. From June 1945 this remained as the only Flash Spotting Bty on the Order of Battle until VJ Day

Unit history: *Locating The Enemy! Australian Artillery Surveyors at War 1940 - 1945*, 2/1 Aust Survey Assoc, Sydney, 1993



### **2 Aust Flash Spotting Battery**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/6/3

Formed at Warwick Farm, NSW on 16 August 1942 from 1 Svy Regt RAA and attached to CCRA 2 Aust Corps. They moved to Neurum, Qld shortly after and came under command of BRA First Aust Army in January 1943 when CCRA 2 Aust Corps moved to Atherton. They were reorganised as 8 Survey Bty RAA on 17 August 1943 to be attached to CRA 9 Aust Inf Div.



### **2/3 Aust Flash Spotting Battery**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/6/2

Formed at Arakoon, Qld on 16 August 1942 mainly from B Troop of 2/1 Svy Regt for a attachment to CCRA 3 Aust Corps. They arrived at Melville, WA on 19 September 1942 and while based at Melville portions of the unit carried out training, exercises and survey tasks in the Perth and Geraldton areas before they moved to Hope Valley on 20 May 1943. From here they carried out registrations and demonstrations with field regiments at Rockingham and Northam before they moved to Kwinana in late February 1944 and to Guildford in April 1944.

In September 1944 the unit left WA and after leave in NSW and Victoria the main party arrived at Mapee, Qld by the end of October and came under command of CRA 11 Aust Inf Div. In January 1945 they transferred to CCRA 1 Aust Corps but reverted to CRA 11 Aust Inf Div on 24 April.

The potential for the use of sound ranging techniques on Bougainville caused 2/3 F Sp Bty to be combined with 1 Sound Ranging Cadre to form 1 Sound Ranging Bty on 15 June 1945.

Unit history: *Locating The Enemy! Australian Artillery Surveyors at War 1940 - 1945*, 2/1 Aust Survey Assoc, Sydney, 1993.



#### **4 Aust Flash Spotting Battery**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/6/4

Formed at Springvale, Vic on 16 August 1942 from 2 Svy Regt RAA for attachment to BRA Second Aust Army. Probably moved to Sydney, NSW with HQ Second Aust Army later in 1942 as it was at Narellan, NSW in September 1943 before moving to Wallgrove Camp, NSW in January 1944 and the RAA Depot at Greta, NSW in April 1944. The unit was disbanded at Greta in June 1944 and many of the men from 4 F Sp Bty were transferred to 2/1 F Sp Bty as reinforcements.



#### **1 Aust Sound Ranging Cadre**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/7/1

Formed at Arakoon, Qld on 16 August 1942 from C & D Troops of 2/1 Svy Regt for a attachment to School of Artillery at Holsworthy, NSW to keep sound ranging techniques alive and to maintain three sets of equipment in case they were needed at a later stage of the war.

At some stage they moved to WA and were attached to 2/3 F Sp Bty and moved with them to the Atherton Tablelands in late 1944. On 15 June 1945 these two units were combined at Mapee to form 1 Sound Ranging Bty.



#### **1 Aust Sound Ranging Battery**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/7/2

The potential for the use of sound ranging techniques on Bougainville resulted in 2/3 F Sp Bty being combined with 1 Sound Ranging Cadre to form 1 Sound Ranging Bty on 15 June 1945 at Mapee. The war ended before the unit could be used in action.



#### **1 Aust Survey Battery RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/6

Formed at Warwick Farm, NSW on 16 August 1942 from 1 Svy Regt RAA for attachment to CRA 1 Aust Inf Div. They moved to Strathfield in October and after a short stay at Avondale Golf Course in June 1943 they returned to Homebush in July before moving to Narellan on 13 October and to the RAA Depot at Greta, NSW in April 1944. They then moved to Helidon, Qld in June 1944 and were disbanded on 24 October 1944.



#### **2 Aust Survey Battery RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/7

Formed at Springvale, Vic on 16 August 1942 from 2 Svy Regt to be attached to CRA 2 Aust Inf Div. They moved to WA in October and by 3 November they were at Gingin. In early December they moved to Rockingham with one section on Garden Island. In early February 1943 they moved to Greenough near Geraldton and in late May 1943 they spent a period at

Mullewa before returning to Greenough in late August and moving to Northam Camp in late January 1944.

The unit moved out of WA in late March 1944 and after a period of leave by mid May were located at the 48 mile peg on the road south from Darwin, NT where they stayed until early November when they moved close to the Riding Airstrip at 38 mile.

In the review of NT Force OOB dated 18 December 1944, 2 Aust Svy Bty is listed to be absorbed and it appears they left NT in January 1945, probably for the RAA Depot at Greta where they were disbanded on 20 April 1945



### **3 Aust Survey Battery RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/8

Formed at Warwick Farm, NSW on 16 August 1942 from 1 Svy Regt to be attached to CRA 3 Aust Inf Div. They moved to Coolum Beach, Qld in September and then to Eumundi in December 1942. By mid May 1943 they had moved to the Townsville area at Haughton Valley and under command of CCRA 2 Aust Corps which was renamed as CRA 4 Aust Inf Div in July 1943.

In August 1943, 3 Aust Svy Bty moved to Kairi under command of the new CCRA 2 Aust Corps with sections attached to CRA 6 Aust Inf Div, CRA 7 Aust Inf Div and CRA 9 Aust Inf Div. These sections moved to New Guinea with 7 Aust Inf Div and 9 Aust Inf Div almost immediately and Bty HQ moved to Lae in January 1944 leaving 3 Sec at Wondecia with 6 Aust Inf Div. Bty HQ and 1 Sec moved to Dumpu in the Ramu Valley with the advancing 7 Aust Inf Div who were also supported by part of 2/6 Svy Bty and 2 Sec moved with 9 Aust Inf Div to Finschhafen, NG.

By July 1944 3 Aust Svy Bty had returned to Australia at Kairi where they came under command of HQ 11 Aust Inf Div and on 21 August they moved to Mapee. It appears that they moved back to New Guinea in early 1945 to join HQ 3 Inf Div on Bougainville where they saw out the war.



### **4 Aust Survey Battery RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/9

Formed at Springvale, Vic on 16 August 1942 from 2 Svy Regt for attachment to CRA 4 Aust Inf Div and they moved to WA in September 1942. By 11 October 1942 they were at Irwin before moving in November to Moora. After a period of leave in late December at Pinjarra they moved to Dandaragan in early January 1943. On 18 March 1943 they moved to Greenmount and when HQ 4 Aust Inf Div moved to Queensland in April 1943, 4 Aust Svy Bty moved to Jarrahdale and came under command of CCRA 3 Aust Corps. In late July they moved to Northam before moving to Hope Valley on 17 August where they joined 2/3 F Sp Bty. They then moved to Kwinana in late February 1944 before moving to Guildford in April 1944.

In September 1944 the unit left WA and after leave in NSW and Victoria the main party arrived at Mapee, Qld by the end of October and came under command of CRA 11 Aust Inf Div. In January 1945 they transferred to CCRA 1 Aust Corps but reverted to CRA 11 Aust Inf Div on 24 April.

In June 1945 they moved to New Britain with CRA 11 Aust Inf Div and relieved 5 Aust Svy Bty for the campaign against Rabaul where they moved as part of the occupying force in October 1945.



### 5 Aust Survey Battery RAA

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/10

Formed at Warwick Farm, NSW on 16 August 1942 from 1 Svy Regt for attachment to CRA 5 Aust Inf Div. They moved to Townsville to join 5 Aust Inf Div in September 1942 and were located at Cluden with detachments at Cooktown and Portland Roads. The unit came under command of CCRA 2 Aust Corps when CRA 5 Aust Inf Div moved to Milne Bay, NG in January 1943.

The unit appears to have moved to New Guinea in mid May and by September they were at Dobodura before moving to Finschhafen in December and then to various points along the Rai Coast before a long period at Mililat from June 1944 until October when they moved to Alexihaven. This parallels the moves of CRA 5 Aust Inf Div and they moved to New Britain with them in early 1945.

They were replaced on New Britain in June 1945 by 4 Aust Svy Bty who arrived with CRA 11 Aust Inf Div to relieve CRA 5 Aust Inf Div. The rear party of the unit probably camped at Mapee until VJ Day while the troops were on leave until their discharge.



### 2/6 Aust Survey Battery RAA

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/4

Formed at Arakoon, Qld on 16 August 1942 mainly from F Troop of 2/1 Svy Regt and initially called NG Force Svy Bty for an attachment to NG Force but was renamed 2/6 Aust Svy Bty in September for attachment to CRA 6 Aust Inf Div. They moved to Greta, NSW in September and then left for Port Moresby arriving 21 January 1943. Initially they camped at 7 Mile Airstrip before moving to Frakatan Plantation on 5 February to map all tracks into the Port Moresby area and then they moved to the 17 Mile Camp on 8 May.

Portion of the battery moved to Oro Bay on 26 June and then to Tambu Bay on 3 August where they linked with the rest of the battery which had moved to the Wau area in June. Survey tasks covered the whole of the Wau-Salamua Battle Area and after Salamua fell they moved to Lae on 7 October and camped beside the Butibum River. A section joined 7 Aust Inf Div in November and from a base at Dumpu surveyed the advance along the Ramu Valley before returning to Lae on 13 January 1944.

The unit left Lae on 30 January 1944 and after leave reassembled at Warwick, Qld in early April before moving to Wondecla in late June to rejoin CRA 6 Aust Inf Div. They left for Aitape on 3 November 1944 and the unit saw VJ Day at Wewak undertaking many survey tasks.

Unit history: *Locating The Enemy! Australian Artillery Surveyors at War 1940 - 1945*, 2/1 Aust Survey Assoc, Sydney, 1993



### **2/7 Aust Survey Battery RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/5

Formed at Arakoon, Qld on 16 August 1942 mainly from E Troop of 2/1 Svy Regt for a attachment to CRA 7 Aust Inf Div. They moved to Stanley River Dam on 14 September and then left for Port Moresby on 2 November.

Initially they camped at Bomana when they arrived on 10 November and then moved to 6 Mile Valley which was the base for Bty HQ for the next 12 months. After surveys of the coastal defences around Port Moresby No 1 Sec moved in mid December for a similar role at Milne Bay until March 1943. No 2 Sec also moved in mid December 1942 to the Buna area to coordinate the artillery involved in the Beachhead Campaign. The battery remained in Port Moresby until November 1943 when they left for Helidon in South Queensland.

In mid March 1944 they moved to Wongabel under command of CCRA 1 Aust Corps and then to Mapee on 28 June. When 7 Aust Inf Div arrived from Brisbane, 2/7 Aust Svy Bty moved to Kairi in early August and came under command CRA 7 Aust Inf Div on 30 August. They left for the Balikpapan Campaign in May 1945.

Unit history: *Locating The Enemy! Australian Artillery Surveyors at War 1940 - 1945*, 2/1 Aust Survey Assoc, Sydney, 1993.



### **8 Aust Survey Battery RAA**

Ref: AWM 52 - 4/8/11

2 Aust F Sp Bty was reorganised as 8 Svy Bty on 17 August 1943 at Neurum, Qld but they moved to Kairi by mid October 1943 under command of CCRA 1 Aust Corps. They came under command of CRA 3 Aust Inf Div in late November and moved to Wongabel in March 1944 but by the end of May they had been moved to Ravenshoe to come under command of CRA 9 Aust Inf Div and they left for Morotai and the Borneo Campaign with them in March 1945.





## QSA Medals to the Australian Mounted Pioneers

Barrett J Carr JP BSc PEng<sup>1</sup>

In the Oct/Dec 1982 issue of Sabretache Mike Downey wrote an article on a pair of medals to M J Dew of the Australian Mounted Pioneers, these being a 4 bar QSA and a EVII Coronation (bronze) medal. When I acquired this pair years ago, I researched and subsequently wrote an article on my findings on the issue of the medals named to the Australian Mounted Pioneers, and then promptly lost it. Having recently done some clearing up I discovered it amongst some unrelated papers.

My research relates to the actual QSAs named to the Australian Mounted Pioneers as the medal roll for this unit has quite a few names ruled through. On medal roll AG2/M/4054 there are 48 names listed on this Australian Mounted Pioneer roll. For example, on the medal roll for the 2nd Contingent NSWMI 68/Sa/5666, the names J Bennetts, A E Cradick, A K Parrott, H Podmore and J Young are listed and have the notation against their names:

“These five names are included on the Australian Mounted Pioneer Roll and have not yet been issued. It is requested that the Australian Mounted Pioneer Roll be cancelled as far as this State is concerned as the Clasps claimed are not correct.”

A check of the Australian Mounted Pioneer roll shows that these five names are very heavily lined through.

Checking the Pioneer names against the medal rolls of their previous and subsequent units it is not always possible to confirm if the medal was issued from these unit rolls, ie NSWMR, NSWMI, SAMR, VMR, CMR, RE and Rifle Brigade, apart from the above mentioned NSW roll. There it is necessary to rely on the Australian Mounted Pioneers medal roll to ascertain which medals are impressed “AUS:MTD:PNR:CPS.”, and assume that those names not lined out are the only ones so named.

Without any evidence to the contrary, the following list of recipients would appear to be the only ones who received their medal impressed to the Australian Mounted Pioneer Corps. It might be noted that some of the clasps were awarded for service in other units and that their Regimental number of their previous unit was retained, and no Regimental Number was allocated for serving in the Australian Mounted Pioneer Corps.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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. He 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. He rejoined the CMF and was a member of 14 Course OCTU in Sydney. He graduated as a Lieutenant in 1972 and was posted to 4 Fd Sqn RAE Haberfield. He worked for the Department of Public Works, then transferred to the Housing Commission of NSW, later called the Department of Housing. He retired as Senior Engineer with the Department of Housing in 1995 and now works as a Civil Engineering Consultant. Barry 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. He collects medals to Australians and specialises in QSAs to Australians, New Zealanders, Colonial Units and Royal Navy.

**A. Australian**

342	Lt Col T S Parrott Lce Cpl H Carter	Johan: DH: CC: OFS Johan: DH: CC: OFS: SA02	NSW Corps of Engineers Lce Cpl 342 2nd VMR: Pte 603 2nd ACH
173	Pte H Bayley	Johan: DH: CC: OFS: Belfast: SA01	Pte 173 2nd VMR
252	Pte J McNaulty	Johan: DH: CC: OFS: Trans	Lce Cpl 252 2 VMR: Sgt 2242 4th ACH: 629 Scott's Railway Guards
23	Pte J Kennerly	Johan: DH: CC: OFS	Pte 23 2nd WAMI
72	Pte E D O'Brien	Johan: DH: CC: OFS: Trans: SA01	Pte 72 2nd WAMI: Pte 72 5th WAMI
87	Pte M J Dew	Johan: DH: CC: OFS: Trans	Pte 87 1st SAMR
583	Tpr W Sinclair	Johan: DH: CC: OFS	Officers Servant (Lt Col Parrott)

**B. British**

25243	Corpl H McBride	Johan: OFS	12 Coy Royal Engineers
26201	Spr F Webb	Johan: DH: OFS	12 Coy Royal Engineers
29822	Dvr C Camish	Johan: DH: OFS	45 Coy RE, 1 Balloon Sect.
	Dvr Murch	Trans	12 Coy Royal Engineers
132	Pte D C Dalstone	Johan: DH: OFS	Rifle Brigade

**C. Canadian**

300	Pte T Scott (McLeod)	Johan: DH: CC: OFS	Pte 300 1st CMR: Lce Sgt 439 2nd CMR
209	Pte P J More	Johan: DH: CC: OFS: Trans: SA02	Pte 209 1st CMR: Lce Sgt 439 2nd CMR (originally unit NWMP)
221	Pte J McGeachy	Johan: DH: CC: OFS: SA01	Pte 221 1st CMR: Imp Mil Railways (from Edmonton)
222	Pte A McKinley	Johan: DH: CC: OFS	Pte 222 1st CMR: Imp Mil Railways (from Edmonton)

**D. Unknown (Possibly locally engaged)**

	Transport Conductor J De Villiers	Johan: DH: OFS	Conductor & Interpreter
	Pte Schofield	OFS	Officers Servant

Of the total of 48 names on the roll, 20 of these are Australians. Checking through the relevant rolls convinces me that only 19 medals are named "AUS:MTD:PNR:CPS:", and of these only 8 are named to Australians. The breakdown of the named medals are:

**Australian:** Victoria 3; NSW 2; WA 2; SA 1  
**British:** Royal Engineers 4; Rifle Brigade 1  
**Canadian:** Canadian Mounted Rifles 4  
**Unknown:** 2 (possibly locally engaged)

Based on the above I consider that the QSAs named to the Australian Mounted Pioneer Corps to be the lowest issue to an Australian Unit, and consequently the rarest. The only other unit with a low number of recipients is the Machine Gun Section of the 1st Queensland Mounted Infantry. This unit comprised of one officer, Lieutenant Black, and 16 NCOs and men, however the two medals I have to this Section are both named QMR (Lieutenant Black & Gunner Smith), as are the other QMI Contingents, so unlike the 19 Aust Mtd Pnrs, these medals do not indicate the Unit/Section, and thus show how scarce the medals are.

### Officers who served in the Australian Mounted Pioneers with their names ruled through on the medal rolls<sup>2</sup>

	Capt H P R Copeland	Reserve of Officers NSW
	Lieut R G Earle	Royal Engineers
	Lieut C C H Hogg	Royal Engineers
82	Sergt Major H G Grace	1st New South Wales Mounted Infantry
63	Sergt Major E J Camies	1st Canadian Mounted Rifles
48	Qtr Mstr Sergt J Dockrell	2nd South Australian Mounted Rifles
205	Sergt A E Cradick	1st New South Wales Mounted Infantry
386	Corpl A K Parrott	1st New South Wales Mounted Infantry
239	Corpl H B Podmore	1st New South Wales Mounted Infantry
22	Corpl R White	2nd South Australian Mounted Rifles
502	Corpl J A Young	1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles
2412	Corpl W G Wilson	Cornwall's 4th Mounted Infantry*
4936	Corpl E Carter	York's 4th Mounted Infantry†
114, 5	Sapper G Hobley	12th Coy Royal Engineers
29908	Sapper P Sweeney	12th Coy Royal Engineers
27778	Sapper W C Moorfield	12th Coy Royal Engineers
1064	Sapper A Beatson	12th Coy Royal Engineers
223	Pte E H Payne	2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles
339	Pte M C Shaw	2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles
2596	Pte J C Ambridge	York's 4th Mounted Infantry
(2580?)		
2703	Pte W Evans	York's 4th Mounted Infantry†
3084	Pte Stephenson	York's 4th Mounted Infantry†
5227	Pte F Wright	York's 4th Mounted Infantry†
3030	Pte J Darorarcy	Cornwall's 4th Mounted Infantry*
3283	Pte E Woolcock	Cornwall's 4th Mounted Infantry*
4059	Pte W J Bray	Bedford's 6th Mounted Infantry‡
364	Pte J Bennetts	1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles
246	Pte F Pointon	1st Canadian Mounted Rifles
312	Pte J Loder	2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles

\* probably The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Regiment Mounted Infantry

† probably The Yorkshire Regiment Mounted Infantry

‡ probably The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Mounted Infantry

<sup>2</sup> The spelling of the names is as per the parent medal rolls.

## El Alamein Victoria Crosses

Anthony Staunton

On 29 January 1943, British and Australian newspapers announced the posthumous awards of the Victoria Cross to Sergeant William Henry Kibby and Private Percival Eric Gratwick. Kibby was cited for three actions from 23 to 31 October 1942 and Gratwick was cited for bravery during a night attack on 25/26 October 1942. Both were members of the 2/48th Australian Infantry Battalion, 9th Australian Division; one of four infantry divisions of the Eighth Army's XXX Corps, which attacked on the opening night of the battle of El Alamein. In London, *The Times* wrote that the "posthumous awards of the VC to two Australian soldiers for their valour during the successful attack on the Miteiriya Ridge, at the start of the break-through by the Eighth Army at El Alamein last October, head a long list of decorations ...". In Australia, the headline of the *Sydney Morning Herald* was "VC for Two AIF Men: Heroic Deaths at El Alamein". Despite the fact that neither citation mentioned El Alamein by name, newspapers in January 1943 knew that the fight for Miteiriya Ridge in late October 1942 was the opening phase of the Battle of El Alamein. Sadly, in the nearly fifty years that have passed since 1942, this has been forgotten.

In book after book on the Victoria Cross, with one notable exception, the fact that two Australians won the Victoria Cross at El Alamein has been overlooked. The only other Victoria Cross for El Alamein was won by Lieutenant Colonel Victor Buller Turner, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade, for the defence of the Snipe, south of Kidney Ridge on 27 October. In many references, the fact that Lt Col Turner's award was won at El Alamein is also overlooked but in other references he is referred to as the only Victoria Cross recipient for El Alamein. While that claim is not true, what is incredible is the fact that many references state that Kibby and Gratwick won their awards in Libya!

Libya is first mentioned as the place of action where Kibby and Gratwick won their awards in the Ministry of Information publication *Victoria Crosses awarded up until June 1943*. In December 1945, F Gerald Roe's book, *The Bronze Cross*, which attempted to publish photographs of all Victoria Cross recipients for the 1935-45 War, captioned the photographs of both Kibby and Gratwick as Miteiriya Ridge, Libya. Both the 1981 and 1988 editions of *The Register of the Victoria Cross* list Miteiriya Ridge, Libya as the place of action for Gratwick and Kibby. It is understandable that if well known works on the Victoria Cross place Miteiriya Ridge in Libya then it should not be surprising that these awards are not associated with the battle of El Alamein which, of course, took place in Egypt.

In 1962, John Frayn Turner wrote in *VCs of the Army 1939-1951* that in "October 1942, on Miteiriya Ridge, two Australians died winning the VC". He did not identify the awards as being won at El Alamein and then went on to say, "It was still October in the desert, and the El Alamein VC knocked out eight enemy tanks in a twenty-hour fight" implying Lt Col Turner's award was the only Victoria Cross award for El Alamein. In the Winter 1977 edition of *This England Magazine*, Rose Coombs in the English Heroes series refers to Lt Col Turner as the "only VC of the Battle of Alamein". The claim that Lt Col Turner was the only VC of the Battle of Alamein was repeated in the first edition of *The Register of the Victoria Cross* but not in the second edition.

In 1963, Sir John Smyth, himself a recipient of the Victoria Cross published *The Story of the Victoria Cross*. The action in which Lt Col Turner won the Victoria Cross is briefly described in the text as occurring at Kidney Ridge, el Aqqait with no mention of El Alamein. Kibby and Gratwick are not mentioned in the text but with Lt Col Turner, they are listed in the appendix. The information for place and date in the appendix is identical to the information in the official Ministry of Defence *Alphabetical List of Recipients of the Victoria Cross* which merely states their awards were won in the Western Desert.

The only British author of a book essentially dealing with the Victoria Cross who identified that Kibby, Gratwick and Turner all won their awards during the Battle of El Alamein was C E Lucas Phillips. His 1973 book, *Victoria Cross Battles of the Second World War* did not include the Battle of El Alamein within its scope but an appendix listed all 1939-45 War awards of the Victoria Cross and cited El Alamein as the place of action where Kibby, Gratwick and Turner won their awards. Lucas Phillips had the advantage of not only having fought at El Alamein but also of having written in 1962, *Alamein* in which he described how the three El Alamein Victoria Crosses had been won.

Unfortunately, both Kibby's and Gratwick's citations stated that the awards were for Miteiriya Ridge rather than for El Alamein, the name by which the battle has been known ever since. I cannot find a reason why the Ministry of Defence in 1943 thought that Miteiriya Ridge was in Libya but it would seem certain that it was the 2/48th Battalion which was responsible for describing the place of action as Miteiriya Ridge. The War Diary of the 2/48th Battalion is held at the Australian War Memorial and the entry for 23 October 1942 opens with the title 'The Attack on Miteiriya Ridge 23/24 October'. Ironically, the 2/48th Battalion did not attack Miteiriya Ridge which was the objective of the southern flank of XXX Corps whereas the 9th Australian Division was on the northern flank nearest the coast.

In addition to the misleading inclusion of Miteiriya Ridge in both citations and the subsequent wrong conclusion in a number of texts that Miteiriya Ridge was in Libya there is third geographical error that is of interest. Both Kibby and Gratwick were cited for the successful attack on Trig 29 on night of 25/26 October. Trig 29 is usually referred by British writers as Point 29. C E Lucas Phillips in his book, *Alamein* wrote "Point 29 was a key position on the Alamein battlefield. When Rommel shortly returned from Germany, he at once showed that he was particularly sensitive at this spot. It was in fact, this sector, and not Kidney Ridge, as stated by other writers, which was to him 'Hill 28'. Fighting was to rage violently all round the captured ground for the next week as the enemy strove to recover Point 29, but they strove in vain against the tenacious grip of the Aussies."

The Snipe was situated about half way between the location of the 2/48th Battalion and the northernmost tip of Miteiriya Ridge.

## Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75

**O**n 24 September 1997, the Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel, Bronwyn Bishop MP, announced the creation of a new Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) 1945-75. In making the announcement, she said:

“The Government’s decision reaffirms and delivers on its election promise to have a distinctly Australian award for recognition of warlike service between 1945 and 1975 and is further evidence of the Government’s continued commitment to recognise the service and sacrifice of Australia’s defence forces”.

The new medal will be available for veterans who served in the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation. The Government also believes that Vietnam veterans deserve the same recognition and therefore they too will be eligible for the new medal.

Mrs Bishop said that the Government considered it was important that the clear distinction between service in warlike and non-warlike operations be retained through separate awards. As a result, the Government had refined its earlier decision to award the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 in favour of the new medal. In-principle approval for the new medal has been received from Her Majesty the Queen and the formal process for instituting and manufacturing the AASM 1945-75 is expected to be completed in time for the initial medals to be awarded by Anzac Day 1998.

Eligibility for the AASM 1945-75 will be limited to personnel who received, or have an entitlement to the Korea Medal for service in the Korean War 1950-53, a General Service Medal for service in either the Malayan Emergency 1948-60, the Indonesian confrontation 1962-66 or the Vietnam War. Eligibility will also be extended to those who have received the Vietnam Medal or the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal (VLSM). The precise eligibility for the AASM 1945-75 for those recipients of the VLSM will be determined by the Minister but is likely to include current and former Defence Force Personnel and some civilian recipients of this medal.

Since holders of the Vietnam Medal are included in this initiative, bars to the Vietnam Medal will not be awarded to recognise multiple tours of duty. Likewise, the current prohibition which prevents a person who qualifies for the Vietnam Medal also receiving the VLSM will be retained. Veterans who have previously applied for a medal and have been advised that the Government would not be issuing a further medal will, unfortunately, need to re-apply. Fresh application forms are in the process of being sent to Members, Senators and branches of the Returned and Services League of Australia. Veterans who have not yet received a reply to their applications do not need to re-apply.

### MEDALS ISSUING OFFICES

Staff Officer (Medals)  
Director - Naval Personnel Services  
D-3-32,A  
Russell Offices  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
1800 808 073

Australian Army Medals Section  
Soldier Career Management  
Agency  
GPO Box 5108BB  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
1800 065 149  
(03) 9282 6321 (Melbourne Metro)

Medals Section (Air Force)  
Queanbeyan Annex  
Department of Defence  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
1800 623 306

## Book reviews

*Taken by Storm, the true story of HMAS Manoora's experiences in the South West Pacific theatre of war*, Mervyn Eather and Bill Galmes, Port Phillip Press, A4, paperback, 252 pages, \$30 from HMAS Manoora Association, c/o 21 Royalty Avenue, Highett, Vic, 3190 or J Willson, 146 Bay Road, Sandringham, Vic 3191.

Several years ago, I wrote that ship histories had a tendency to be either well done or poorly done and there was very little middle ground. This is an example of a well written and interesting ship history.

Mervyn Eather and Bill Galmes both served in HMAS *Manoora*. Mervyn was an RANR signalman and Bill an AIF sapper (part of the ship's Dock Operating Company). Together they have produced a highly readable and interesting history of *Manoora's* time as a Landing Ship Infantry (LSI) in the Pacific Theatre. The story of the ship is uniquely told by a central fictional figure, one Ordinary Seaman 'Shorty' Blake, whereas all other characters mentioned were actual members of the ship's company.

The ship's history starts with 'Shorty' Blake joining *Manoora* and then follows their fortunes and misfortunes through eight amphibious landings from Tanahmerah Bay (Dutch New Guinea) in April 1944 to Balikpapan (Borneo) in July 1945. *Manoora's* last three assault landings were in Borneo where she landed AIF troops at Tarakan Island in May, Labuan Island in June and Balikpapan in July 1945. When not employed as an LSI, she was used as a troopship conveying Australian and American reinforcements to Dutch New Guinea, the Philippines and Borneo.

This book is well set out, lavishly illustrated and contains a number of appendices detailing those who served in *Manoora*, details of assault landings, honours and awards, and other snippets of information about the ship and those who served in her. One appendix describes in detail *Manoora's* only casualty of the war, the unfortunate sick berth attendant Alec Hill, who went for a joy ride in a RAAF Beaufighter involved in an attack on Japanese positions on Celebes (Netherlands East Indies) in February 1945. The Beaufighter was shot down and Hill became a prisoner of war. He was executed by the Japanese in June 1945.

The book is a recommended purchase for Naval historians and those with an interest in HMAS *Manoora*.—Lt Greg Swinden, ADFA

Howard Jenkinson *Bomber Boys* self published 1997. No. 1 Cumberland Road, Lower King, Albany WA 6330. \$9.95 plus \$1 postage and handling

'Life returned to normal ... prang the Hun again'.

Thus Howard Jenkinson, wartime Royal Australian Air Force pilot, begins his 13th operational flight (or trip number 12a as it was known until its successful completion), a raid on Milan in September 1944.

Howard Jenkinson has just published his wartime experiences in an 80 page soft cover book entitled *Bomber Boys*. *Bomber Boys* is a very readable glimpse of one man's war as an RAAF pilot. Jenkinson served with Royal Air Force bomber squadrons flying twin engined

Wellingtons, and later the huge, US made, four engined Liberators, from bases in Italy and Egypt. His book is not a unit history, nor is it an over formatted, analytical autobiography. Instead it reads like a diary with the brevity and raw immediacy typical of this type of written account. It is rich with the attitudes, beliefs and language of Australia's wartime generation.

The book begins with "What can I do for you son?" This from the Sergeant ... a World War One veteran at the RAAF recruiting centre, as I walked in the door in 1941.' It recounts, in first person narrative, Jenkinson's journey from induction in Perth and initial training at Cunderdin, Western Australia, to crew selection and operational training in Britain. Most of the book is paragraph descriptions of the operational flying Jenkinson undertook in bombers around the Mediterranean and over central Europe.

As well as bombing missions Howard Jenkinson and his crew dropped supplies to Tito's partisans in the Balkans, sowed mines in the Danube, searched for downed fliers in the Mediterranean and transported troops to Athens during the ELAS uprising in Greece. After 43 operations his tour ended and Jenkinson was posted as an instructor to a heavy bomber conversion unit in Egypt. Descriptions of flying are interspersed with anecdotes of life in squadron lines, often in poorly equipped camps in Italy and Egypt.

The author includes a small number of previously unpublished personal photographs. These put faces to the names of his crew members and supplement the word pictures of the crew's billets described in the text.

Published accounts of the war service of RAAF personnel in the Mediterranean theatre after the end of the North African campaign are not common. Howard Jenkinson's Bomber Boys is a useful contribution to the literature on this subject.

This inexpensive book is a worthy addition to the bookshelves of anyone interested in military history, aviation or just a good story well told. It is available by mail order direct from the author at the address at the top of this review.— Brad Manera

## New publications noted

*You live but once, an autobiography by Wing Commander (rtd) R H 'Bobby' Gibbes DSO, DFC and Bar* (Available from the Tremearne Publishing Co. PO Box 531 Narrabeen NSW 2101. \$85.00 (or \$90.00 in Australia including p&p)

On 6 May 1916 a baby was born to grazier parents. He was christened Robert Henry Gibbes, later to become known as Bobby to his friends. Little did his family realise at the time that this baby would become a hero to the Australian public by the time he was 26 years old.

Being a man from the land and having been educated at All Saints College, Bathurst, he grew up with a great love for the Australian bush. At the age of 20 he became a jackaroo on a sheep station in the far west of New South Wales, learning about himself, the land and survival. All these skills he would utilise throughout his exceptional life. Obviously this is not the story of an average Australian. No, this is the story of one of Australia's true heroes. The story of a leader with indomitable courage; the story of an adventurer and the story of a man whose spirit is an inspiration to both current and future generations.



At the outbreak of WWII he was 23 and wanted to become a pilot. Being short in stature, when having his leg-reach measured he edged his backside away from the wall. He just made the minimum height requirement. He was posted to the famous No. 3 Squadron, later to become the Commanding Officer. At the time of his arrival back in Australia, he was the highest decorated pilot in the RAAF. He then served in the war against the Japanese as the wing leader of No. 80 Spitfire Wing.

In 1945, when in Darwin, he married Red Cross Hospital Visitor, Jean Ince. Having almost no money, no real qualifications, but a love of the land and flying, he and his wife started the first 'Flying Stock and Station' agency in NSW based in Coonamble, but his aircraft, despite being tied down, was badly damaged by a high wind. He then flew for Mandated Airlines in New Guinea for a short time.

They started their own air company, Gibbes Sepik Airways in December 1947. After 11 years of successful operations they sold out and started to pursue another great interest – coffee.

Having planted and owned two coffee plantations, built and run a chain of hotels, been a member of the first tourist board in New Guinea and engaged in many other business pursuits, they sold out just before New Guinea became independent. In 1972 he had a 42 foot catamaran built in England which he sailed to the Mediterranean so that he could fulfil a long held ambition - to see it his way rather than through the eyes of war! After sailing half way around the world, mainly single handed, he finally brought his catamaran Billabong home. Not content with leading a quiet retired life, his next project was to build 8 French designed twin-engined aerobetic aircraft in the upstairs lounge-room. After a long argument with the C.A.A. the aircraft was finally given a Certificate of Airworthiness.

He has been flying for over 56 years and continues to live life to the maximum. His story is that of an extraordinary Australian, and I should know – he is my Dad. — Robyn Gibbes Apps

*Sons of John Company: The Indian and Pakistan Armies 1903-1991*, Parapress Ltd, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells Kent TN3 ONX

The Honourable East India Company was granted a charter to trade to the East Indies in 1600. The Company, John Company to its employees and customers, ran India increasingly from its small beginnings, driving out trade rivals from France and Portugal. However, the Great Mutiny of the Bengal Army in 1857 brought home to Queen Victoria that there was another empire large enough to challenge the extent of her own. The Crown assumed responsibility for India and began the task of tidying up the three armies and the numerous other military bodies which had been raised over the past two centuries. This was not finally accomplished until after the turn of the century when Kitchener created one unified Indian Army.

The Great War brought problems when it became apparent that the existing system of recruitment and reinforcement were no longer able to cope with the demands of warfare in Europe and its vastly increased casualty figures. The subsequent reforms which always follow a major war created an army which not only fought the Second World War but was handed over to India and Pakistan on Partition in 1947.

Those two armies are still today much the same as the British left them—the same regiments, the same titles, the same uniforms to an extent. The same traditions are observed and similar bugle-calls ring out above the old cantonments.

Sadly, the two armies are in conflict and face each other from behind ramparts of ever-more expensive stockpiles of imported weaponry. Despite this, the same jawans remain in the ranks, still proud of their military calling and still in their old battalions, bearing in some cases still the names of the British officers who raised them a century ago. This book endeavours to show how the Indian Army was created and what happened to it after Partition until the present day.

The Author, John Gaylor first went to India with The Royal West African Frontier Force and served there and in Burma with the 82nd (West African) Division. He subsequently served with the London Scottish and the Special Air Service. He is the Secretary of The Military Historical Society and lives in retirement in Kent.



## Letters

### Court martialled colonels—1

Further to Members' Notices in July/September *Sabretache*, there is a book, *Dishonoured—the Colonel's Surrender' at St Quentin, the Retreat from Mons, August 1914* by Peter T Scott SB 90 pages. The author covers the story of the surrender by Lt Col J F Elkington (1st R Warwickshire) and Lt Col A E Mainwaring (2nd R Dublin Fusiliers) on 27 August 1914. He covers in fine detail the battalion's retreat from Mons and the Colonels' subsequent General Court Martial on 12 September 1914. Normal price is £12.95, special £5.99 at Ray Westlake Military Books, 53 Claremont, Malpas, Newport, Gwent NP96PL.

Brian Ellis, Wagga Wagga NSW

### Court martialled colonels—2

In the September 1997 edition of *Sabretache* at page 41, the Federal President quoted the following footnote from Lyn Macdonald's 1914:

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.

It was not Colonel Mainwaring but Lt-Col Elkington who joined the French Foreign Legion. He was restored to his former rank in 1916 and on 28 October 1916 *The London Gazette* announced that he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Anthony Staunton

### A Capital Furphy

The following is an extract from The Royal Military College Duntroon which appeared in *Sabretache*, No 5, July 1959, which I browsed through recently:

The second settlement in the area was made in 1825 at Pialligo, later known as Duntroon, by James Ainslie, who was employed by Robert Campbell, a leading merchant in Sydney at the end of the 18th century. Ainslie was an ex-trooper of the Scots Greys and had been wounded at Waterloo, Mt Ainslie, to the north of the present-day Duntroon, is named after him.

I have long accepted this story at face value although dubious about the account of Ainslie riding headlong down the mountain on nights of the full moon, once more taking part in the charge of the Union Brigade. On this occasion, however, I checked the published Waterloo Medal Roll for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal North British, Dragoons and found no mention of Ainslie.

Is the story of Ainslie a Capital Furphy or can some other member of the Society produce evidence to support it?

Clem Sargent

## Photographs, diaries and letters from World War 1

I am a Melbourne-based author presently working on a book about the experiences of AIF troops at Gallipoli and the Western Front. The book, taglined 'The Private War', aims to bring to light previously unpublished photographs, diaries and letters recorded by Australian soldiers during World War 1. It will be a kind of sequel to my first effort *Lost Anzacs: The Story of Two Brothers*, based on the experiences of my grandfather and his brother at Gallipoli, and published by Oxford University Press in April 1997.

Although the concept of life in the trenches is not new, I feel strongly that there are some compelling photos and diaries— both in private hands and institutions such as the Australian War Memorial—still waiting to see the light of day.

I have discussed the project with Anthony McAleer, of the Military Historical Society of Australia, and he suggested that you may be able to assist me by running a few paragraphs of editorial in a forthcoming edition of Sabretache.

I am hoping to strike a chord with private collectors and or descendants of WW I servicemen or those who have access to material through deceased estates. As well as standing as an important document in our history, The Private War gives descendants the opportunity of recording their family heritage for posterity.

As I have no funding for my research, I am not able to offer any financial recompense for material selected for publication. I will acknowledge the owners of memorabilia loaned to the project, and return the material intact complete with a copy negative of images selected for publication.

I thank you for your consideration. If you are able to help in any way I would be extremely grateful.

Greg Kerr

15 Bell Street, Hawthorn 3122; phone (03) 9819 9589; fax (03) 9819 2525

Address for The Private War research material: PO Box 4077, Auburn South 3122

## Members' Notices

### Legion of Frontiersmen

Wanted: books, copies of articles, medals, badges on Legion of Frontiersmen.

Contact: Rex Foster

11 Scarborough Drive  
Rosanna Vic 3084

Phone: (03) 9459 4629

### Publications available

The following books by Paul Rozenzweig are still available from the Historical Society of the Northern Territory, PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811, or fax, (08) 8999 6920:

- *Government House Darwin; the House of Seven Gables* (B5, 248 pages), \$28.50 plus \$3 postage.
- *For Service; Awards of the Order of Australia for service to the Northern Territory 1974-1994* (B5, 228 pages, with Foreword by Sir Zelman Cowen), \$26 plus \$3 postage.



***Victoria Cross Locator***

2nd edition (1997)

Dennis Pillinger and Anthony Staunton

The 2nd edition has been revised and updated.

Available at \$15 plus postage from:

K R White Military Books  
PO 1767  
Tuggeranong ACT 2901

or

John Burrige Military Antiques  
91 Shenton Ave  
Swanborne WA 6010



**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

***The Nominal Roll of***

***Vietnam Veterans***

August 1997

The second edition of the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans dated August 1997 is now available. The first edition published in June 1996 quickly sold out. In response to the first edition's request for notification of omissions and corrections, sufficient replies were received to justify updating the original listings. In addition to adding 102 names, all Australian Defence Force entries are now in one alphabetical list rather than three service lists. A review was made of civilians listed and it was decided to include all civilians who had been awarded or who were eligible to receive the Vietnam Logistics Service Medal. This added 537 names, mainly Qantas aircrew who flew troops to Vietnam and Foreign Affairs personnel. Copies of the second edition are now available at \$18 each from:

**Over the Counter:** Government Info Shops in all capital cities plus Parramatta and Townsville

**Mail Order Sales:** Australian Government Publishing Service  
GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601

AGPS Teleservices 132 447  
Fax an order (06) 295 4888 (credit card orders)

Copies also available from:

K R White Military Books  
PO 1767  
Tuggeranong ACT 2901

or

John Burrige Military Antiques  
91 Shenton Ave  
Swanborne WA 6010

## Society Notes

### **Australian War Memorial Reading Room**

The Australian War Memorial has embarked on a program of renewal of its galleries and facilities over the next decade. As part of this process, the Memorial's Research Centre will undergo refurbishment. In future, it will be possible to enter the Research Centre from the Memorial's galleries, so that more visitors will be encouraged to discover for themselves the riches of the Memorial's research collections. Regular researchers will find that Reading Room services have been enhanced.

In order to complete the necessary work, the current Research Centre Reading Room will be closed from February 1998 for a number of months. Some of the services currently offered by the Research Centre will continue in some form during that time. Full details will be available soon. Watch for forthcoming notices like this one.

The result of the refurbishment will be an improved, more readily accessible Research Centre offering a higher standard of service. If you have any special needs for specific material during the period of closure, please contact either: Ms Margaret Thomson, Gallery Development Section, or Ms Elizabeth Dracoulis, Manager, Research Centre Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345 Canberra, ACT 2601

You can also e-mail comments and questions to the Memorial on: [info@awm.gov.au](mailto:info@awm.gov.au)

### **1998 Memorial Gallipoli and Western Front Battlefield Tour**

The Australian War Memorial Western Front Battlefield Tour for 1998 offers Australians the chance to retrace the footsteps of the Australian Imperial Force through France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom; to visit such places as Pozieres, Bullecourt, Amiens, Fromelles, Ypres, and Peronne.

This specially designed battlefield tour, which has been operating since 1993, caters for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Australia's involvement in the war. The Western Front tour, (27 April - 8 May) is run in conjunction with a Gallipoli tour. You can join the group in Paris, or combine the two tours. Travel concludes in London where the group will visit Horseferry Road, where AIF Headquarters was located, and the Imperial War Museum. The Gallipoli tour commences at Istanbul and includes attendance at the Anzac Day dawn service at Anzac Cove.

Each tour is conducted over 12 days. Your tour leader is Peter Burness, a member of the Society, who has been a Curator at the Memorial for more than 20 years and has an intimate knowledge of the battlefields, gained through visits over the past decade. A detailed itinerary, and all other necessary information is available on request. Approximate costs, twin share per person are both tours \$7900, Gallipoli only \$5650 and Western Front and UK only \$6600. Priority will be given to individuals booking the full tour but the AWM will try to accommodate those wishing to do one component only.

For further information contact the tours Co-ordinator, Australian War Memorial at (02) 6243 4392 or Sally Cartwright direct at Ansett travel, on (02) 6282 8050

## Around the Water Cart

by "Joe Furphy"

Each month, the Society receives a mass of material ranging from the minutes of Branch meetings, Branch newsletters, the journals or newsletters of other societies which subscribe to Sabretache or with which MHSa exchanges publications and unsolicited material of various kinds. Noting the requests of Branches and individual members that Sabretache should contain more short items and more Branch and general Society news, Federal Council has arranged with "Joe Furphy" to extract from these various sources any items that may be of general interest to Society members. The resulting miscellany is published below. This is an experiment. If feedback from our readers is favourable, we will continue it as a regular item. Naturally, what is selected is only "Joe Furphy's" best guess at what may interest you! Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities to provide copies of the original material nor to answer correspondence about it. The source of each item is given and/or a suggested contact. You are encouraged to seek out the publication mentioned or deal directly with the contact.

- The new Army Museum of South Australia was officially opened on 27 April 1977 at the Defence Centre Adelaide. A large cabinet has been provided for the use of the SA Branch of IMSA and mounts a display coordinated by Graham Tweeddale of the Branch. (SA Branch minutes).
- The story of the 2/3rd Commando Company, *Nothing is Forever* by Ron Garland, will be published shortly. Formed in 1941 as 2/3rd Independent Company, 2/3rd Commando suffered over 60% battle casualties in constant fighting from Wau to Salamaua under command of George Warfe and later participated in the invasion and capture of Balikpapan. A large size hardback of 420 pages with 220 photographs and 14 maps, it will be available from Ron Garland at 109 Bilga Crescent, Malabar Heights 2036. Payment of \$45 plus \$5 p and p with orders. (Information from author). Ron won the first of his two MCs with 2/3rd Commando.
- Members who attended the 1996 Society conference in Adelaide will recall the very interesting visit to Fort Glanville. A new gun carriage for one of the ten-inch guns at the fort is now on site. (SA Branch Minutes) (An article on the building of the carriage by SA Branch member Frank Garie will appear shortly in *Sabretache*: Ed ).
- Wild & Woolley, a member of Publish Australia, established 'Fast Books' in 1991 to service and support independent writers. They are expert publishers serving Australia's growing number of writers who choose to publish their own books. In the last six years, they have produced over 1200 different books in print runs as low as 10 and as high as 10,000. Contact them for a free information brochure at P.O. Box 41 Glebe NSW 2037 or visit their Web site at <http://www.fastbooks.com.au> (Advertising material received).
- Information is sought on the significance or meaning of the word "Scaramouche" as used during the Second World War. Apparently a place or an operation in which Australians were involved? (Victorian Branch Newsletter, *Despatches* 1 June 1997).
- *The Rest of My Life with 50 Squadron* by Flying Officer Paddy Rowling (compiled by Noella Lang) will be published in October 1997. Diary entries of a young Australian airman who took part in bombing raids over Germany in 1942. Cost \$30 plus \$5 p and p. (Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter July 1997). Order forms from C&D HS telephone 02-62488401.

- SA Branch has produced a promotional 'flyer' designed to promote the Branch (and Society's) expertise in assisting with research on military history. It is intended for selective distribution to State historical societies, family history groups etc. (SA Branch Minutes)
- Clever Book Collector is a software package which helps those with a reference library to organise their collections. Available from Clever Solutions phone 02-97191753. Cost \$245 plus \$20 postage. (Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter July 1997).
- The book *50 Years of Silence* by Jan Ruff-A'Herne, the keynote speaker at the 1996 Society conference in Adelaide is now available on cassette tape (SA Branch Minutes). (See Sabretache October-December 1996 p 37: Ed).
- Australian Archives has introduced "finding aids" called Fact Sheets to provide researchers with information on its services and operations and its holdings. A Fact Sheet provides introductory information about a topic and records related to that topic held by Archives, summarised on a double-sided A4 sheet. More than 70 have been issued and are available on request from any Australian Archives State Office. Examples likely to be of interest to Society members include No 63 "Sources of Military Information", No 36 "Military Records in the Tasmanian Office" and No 31 "RAN Crew and Ships Records", in *Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists*, June 1997).
- Question? Were grenades used in the Boer War? (Albury/Wodonga Branch Newsletter 2/97). Information to Doug Hunter 060-212835.
- Origins of parachuting in the Australian Army Brigadier J F White, OBE (ret'd) has a brief article in the 3RAR Association Journal July 1997 on the formation of a parachute training unit in 1942. Colonel Ralph Sutton, Editor of *Despatch*, the journal of the NSW Military Historical Society has an article in the May/June 1997 edition of his journal on the raising and training of the 1st Australian Parachute Battalion in 1943. He was the Mortar Platoon Commander.
- The Australian War Memorial's Gallery Redevelopment Project will upgrade the galleries to reflect modern museum practice as well as making it easier for visitors to find their way around and repairing general wear and tear. The alterations will also include construction of a main stairway and a large lift to link the ground and lower ground floors within a new Central Information Space(CIS). The CIS, which will span both floors of the memorial is part of a new visitor orientation and information system which will make it easier for visitors to find their way around as well as giving them information. A new Orientation Gallery will link the commemorative areas and the galleries and enable visitors to tour the galleries in a series of loops which will offer access to other facilities, including the Research Centre. The new Research Centre will provide a tiered approach to information, with Tier One located adjacent to the entrance and providing visitors with a range of information through on-line services. Tiers Two and Three will cater for visitors and long-term researchers who want to use both original and non-original material. Access to the new Research Centre will be from within the galleries. It is expected that the Post-1945 Conflicts and Peacekeeping galleries will close in February 1998 to allow for relocation of the exhibitions to the lower ground floor. (*AWM Gallery Redevelopment News* Nos 1 and 2).
- Korean War. Olwyn Green, widow of Lt Col Charles Green, KIA while CO of 3 RAR in Korea, is researching the experience of Australian soldiers in the Korean War, particularly those aspects not already adequately dealt with or perhaps misrepresented. Members with personal experience or information, particularly on material already published or written



giving a soldier's perspective of the war may wish to contact Mrs Green at 19 Bay St Drummoyne NSW. (*Old Faithful*, Journal of 3 RAR Association, July 1997).

Questions from recent research requests to the Society (any information to Anthony Staunton c/- Federal Secretary):

- Anything known about the use of the phrase "Lord Devonport" in World War One in the sense of a voluntary treasurer of a group of soldiers, who on their behalf approached nearby farms etc to buy fruit and vegetables to enhance their diet. "I am called Lord Devonport, the food controller" in a letter home by a soldier?
- Anything known about "Crawling Jenny/Jennie" as an appropriate name given to an allied tank in World War One?

Please let us have your feedback on this experiment by letter to the Editor or e-mail to [bruce.topperwien@dva.gov.au](mailto:bruce.topperwien@dva.gov.au).



## 1998 Biennial Society Conference

The Victorian Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia is to be the host 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

## 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 a 3.5' 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.

Authors of published articles retain copyright of their articles, but once an article is published in *Sabretache*, the Society, as well as the author, each have the independent right to republish (electronically or in print), or licence the use of the article.

Elizabeth Topperwien  
Editor



## Application for Membership

I/\*We .....  
(Name/Rank etc.)

of (Address) .....

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

..... Branch

My main interests are .....

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

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

