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SABRETACHE

JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

(FOUNDED IN MELBOURNE IN 1957)



SEPTEMBER, 1971

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Founded in Melbourne in 1957)

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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(FOUNDED IN MELBOURNE IN 1957)

EDITED BY

B. J. VIDEON, A.A.S.A.



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CONTENTS

	Page
EDITOR'S NOTES By B. J. Videon	32
A STUDY OF AUSTRALIA AT WAR, 1899-1902 By W.M. Chamberlain	32
FLYING BADGES OF THE A.F.C. AND THE R.A.A.F. By B.J. Videon	46
ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION BAND By Lt. Col. P.V. Vernon	54
FEDERAL SECRETARY'S NOTES	56
THREE ITEMS OF INTEREST	57
DESPATCHES	59
MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS	62
DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS	i



EDITOR'S NOTES

I wish to advise that the publication dates of the Journal will be September, December, March and June in each financial year, commencing with this issue - September, 1971.

In the current Volume (Volume XIV) there will be 5 issues - July, 1971; September, 1971; December, 1971; March, 1972 and June, 1972.

Volume XV will commence with the September, 1972 issue.

The effect of this change will be to remove the present annual heavy cost to the financial members of the Society in printing and mailing the July issue to unfinancial members who do not intend to renew their membership.

The June issue will be the last issue sent for each financial year. In order to ensure the receipt of a September issue, each member will have about 2 months in which to ensure that he is recorded as "financial" with the Federal Treasurer.

B. J. VIDEON.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

A STUDY OF AUSTRALIA AT WAR, 1899-1902

W. M. Chamberlain

- SYNOPSIS: 1. The causes and effects of Australian participation in the South African War are not clearly analysed in the history books.
- 2. The background to the war and Australian attitudes are outlined in brief.
- 3. An examination of the contemporary press reveals the two extreme points of view pro-Imperial and pro-Boer and the validity of subjective arguments is now difficult to assess, but an attempt is made to support or refute criticisms of the official position in the radical press.
- 4. A similar study of the attitudes of the people is then made against a background of events in Australia.
- 5. Some objective analysis of the motives of the Governments and people, and the economic implications of the participation, is derived from statistical sources.
- 6. Despite few significant short-run effects the more important long-run implications are set out, together with the relationship to recent wars, and the contrast to the national solidarity of the World Wars, which possibly distracted earlier historians from the existence of precedents making for serious internal disunity within Australia.

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INTRODUCTION

There is no complete, objective history dealing with the Australian participation in the South African War, and its effects on the Governments, people and economies of the six Colonies, and later, the Commonwealth. There are many puzzling questions posed by this intrusion into Imperial affairs that are difficult, at this distance, to answer completely. Why was it that the Governments and people were eager to participate in external military adventures within a few years of serious, internal economic crisis? The rise of a Utopian nationalism in the 1890s, the struggles of the unions, the emergence of a political Labour Party, and the movement towards Federation, make more incomprehensible the chauvinism as exhibited by Colonial loyalty to the Empire at this time.

Partly the answer lies in the growth of tendencies away from Colonial Federation, towards a stronger Imperial Federation, following the Sino-Japanese War of 1894. Isolationism was replaced with concern for the effect on national security of a militaristic Japan. On the other hand the mutual sacrifice on the battlefield served to unite the Colonials as only shared suffering unites, and yet, ironically, those most antagonistic to the war, and thus its welding influence, were amongst those most eager for Federation of the Colonies. This mingling of motives in the mass of emotional jingoistic or pro-Boer writing makes difficult the extraction of a coherent history of the causes and effects of this experience.

Many general historians refer briefly to the participation in sketchy impressions of growing Colonial maturity. The details are usually limited to the facts that (1) about 16,500 men were despatched during the war, part Colonial, part Commonwealth; (2) the despatch of contingents followed spontaneous volunteering as early as 3 months before hostilities began, despite a vocal anti-Imperial faction and a reluctant acceptance by the War Office; and (3) the achievements of the small, scattered units were generally regarded as negligible but an outward expression of Empire loyalty.

Omission from the works by Coghlan, Shann and Fitzpatrick of any economic implications of the war leave an impression that it made no impact. But an examination of the contemporary press, particularly journals critical of the participation, like the Sydney "Bulletin", reveals conflicts in attitude closely resembling those of the 1970s. To attempt to refute or support logically these emotional criticisms gives, perhaps, a better picture than a chronological record from the dailies. The long-run contributions to the military and economic aspects appear to be more worthy of consideration than the history books imply, as there are continuing threads of Government policy directly traceable to precedents created at this time.

BACKGROUND S

The extremes of attitudes were reflected in, or derived from, the partisan press:- "The British inhabitants of the Transvaal...are a majority oppressed by a minority. They are denied both political rights and civil justice ... In the Cape ... the Englishman treats the Dutchman as his political equal; in the Transvaal the Dutchman treats the Englishman as his political serf ... " Rohodes's Capitalist clique ... control the Kimberley district, in which the working classes are degraded by long hours. low wages, and political disfranchisement."3 The "Bulletin" commented:-"... In countries where there is no great gold field to be annexed, the right of the local Briton to have a share in the Government isn't considered worth mentioning."4

Political trouble had been threatening and flaring in South Africa for generations, but the trigger for this war seems to have involved economic Dissatisfaction with the rule of the British following seizure of the Cape in the Napoleonic Wars, led to the great trek of the Boers in 1836 to settle the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Several times the British annexed Boer territory to protect the Boers and themselves from external

T.A. Coghlan: "Labour and Industry in Australia", Oxford University Press, 1.

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^{4.}

attack - in 1877 by the Zulus. Following removal of this threat the Boers claimed restoration of independence, and when this was delayed they attacked the British in 1880-81, inflicting humiliating defeats which culminated in the battle of Majuba Hill.

The independence of the Boers was now recognised and under the leadership of Paul Kruger they sought to live according to their own beliefs. But following the Rand gold discovery in 1886, the Uitlanders rushed to the Transvaal and appeared likely to swamp the little republic if granted political privileges. In 1895, the Union of Uitlanders supported by the Cape Premier, Cecil Rhodes, attempted to overthrow the Boer Government in the Jameson Raid, the failure of which left Kruger in a strong position with sympathies on the Continent and even within Britain. He stock-piled arms and in 1899 issued an ultimatum which led to war. On October 12, Boer forces crossed the borders of Cape Colony and Natal, besieging Mafeking and Kimberley in the West and Ladysmith in the East, and thrusting deep into the Central Cape.

The Australian Colonies had watched closely the train of events. Many Uitlanders were Australians who had crossed the Indian Ocean attracted by gold or an escape from the depression, and relatives and friends affirmed their sympathy. The Australian people were predominantly of British extraction or birth and in matters of tradition and loyalty were brought up in the belief of the supremacy of the British Empire. "There was little discussion of the rights and wrongs of war ... The Empire must act as one ... there was a feeling that the new Cormonwealth was being successfully blooded on the far away veldt ... there was a contagious elan that Kipling's new gospel of Empire evoked; there was the thrill of war itself, the desire of a people militarily untried to match itself against others on the world stage."5 It seems probable that the spontaneous actions of the Colonists in 1899 owed much to this inbred love of such abstractions.

It was thought that the war would be soon over. After all, as the "Bulletin" said, the greatest Empire in the world was tackling an enemy with the population - men, women and children - of Adelaide. And as Henry Lawson and others stated, there was as much reason for Australians to fight each other as to fight Boers. In "Westralia" we had the exact situation as in South Africa - an influx to the gold fields of men from the eastern Colonies providing 2/3 of the population and paying over 2/3 of the taxes but having only 1/15 of the parliamentary representation. The arguments had little effect in delaying the Government decisions to despatch contingents in all haste, as though fearful the war would end before they arrived.

^{5.} Vance Palmer: "The Legend of the Nineties", Melbourne University Press, 1954, p.165.

^{6.} The "Bulletin", 4 Nov. 1899.

^{7.} Ibid, 21 Oct. 1899.

^{8.} Ibid, 16 Dec. 1899.

However, the initial advantage was with the Boers - rural adaptability and mobility in familiar terrain giving them striking successes in actions against the small British garrisons. They hoped for intervention on their behalf by strong European powers. The local British forces were unable to dislodge the besiegers, and in Black Week - mid-December 1899 - were badly beaten at Stormberg, Magersfontein and Colenso. The belief in a short war passed. Men were sought from Britain, India and the Colonies and Lords Roberts and Kitchener were given the columns necessary to advance to the relief of the besieged towns and the capture of the Boer Capitals. By mid-1900 the republics were annexed and thought to be subjugated, but the Boers now organised their still formidable armies into mobile commandos and waged a bitter guerilla war involving blockhouse lines, internment camps for Boer families, scorched earth, and counter-guerilla tactics, spearheaded largely by Colonials.

In both the regular and the guerilla phase Australia, New Zealand and Canada contributed men and material, and far from making a negligible contribution, Colonials eventually provided the bulk of the British mounted force of some 40,000 men. The Boer forces are thought not to have exceeded 45,000 men. Ten times this number of British served in the war, but the term of service was one year and many infantry were required for garrison duties. Further, the Commandos became adept at annihilating smaller British forces in raids and ambushes. In terms of Australian lives lost this war is still larger than Korea or Vietnam, and in terms of attrition it tested several waves of the toughest Australians, who grew to respect the courage and chivalry of their opponents. Not until 1902 were the Boers forced into submission.

* * * * * * * * * *

ATTITUDES OF THE GOVERNMENTS

Why were the Australian Governments prepared to fight at this time? Was it simply loyalty or, perhaps, political self-aggrandizement, inter-Colonial rivalry or conscious desire that the Colonies prove themselves on the eve of Federation? Was official realisation of the need for strong allies the spur? Or were there economic reasons? Did the politicians want to ease internal pressures at home by augmenting the export of unemployment? Were there vested interests concerned with South African gold or wool? Were there hopes of stimulating local production in the supplying of foodstuffs and materials to the British Army in the field? Could participation enhance Colonial borrowing powers? Most of these reasons are suggested in the press but for some the degree of importance is now difficult to assess.

Each Colony was at a different stage of development. Some had suffered more than others in the depression and had taken longer to recover, but by 1899 unemployment was scarcely a sufficient reason to go to war to divert the people from an internal problem. Since 1895 the Colonies had been hit by drought, but wages were recovering to 1890 levels, and the combination of rigid economy, curtailing of imports and mobility of workforce had brought them out of the worst economic crisis in their history. No evidence of Australian vested interests in South Africa is apparent and apart from the attraction of War Office contracts no other tangible advantage appears to have been deliberately sought by Governments, but the defence aspect, the investment needs, inter-Colonial

rivalry and the personal prestige associated with proving themselves worthy allies, were almost implicit in the appeal to Empire loyalty.

The "Bulletin" records that "the attempt to pump up enthusiasm in Australia over the Transvaal contingents business has been a poor affair at the best. There was no popular demand for a military show in South Africa to begin with. The movement was not started by the people but by the politicians — by the men ... who hope to become "Sir" William or "Sir" John ... Britain is tackling an enemy so small ... it can't be pretended that she requires assistance, so the only feasible excuse is that when war actually comes this way, it will be valuable to have a force which has been seasoned by active service. Without constitutional compulsion, without the sentimental excuse of necessity, we are sending troops to aid Britain in an unjust war ..."9

Some politicians were prepared to state their opinions openly in the early months of the war. H.B. Higgins, later President of the Commonwealth Arbitration court, had lost an election by his public condemnation of Britain's moral position. 10 W.A. Holman, the future N.S.W. Premier, declared in the House that because he believed the Empire to which he belonged was wrong he hoped it would get "licked". 11 Sympathisers with the Boers were found in all political parties but were most numerous in the ranks of the Labour Party. 12 But a Caucus meeting decided not to prejudice a member's chance of re-election by opposing the despatch of troops.

During the war the Governments of the Colonies and the Commonwealth despatched upwards of fifty individual contingents, first at their own expense, then financed largely by public subscription, then at full or partial Imperial expense. Queensland had offered a contingent on July 10, In September, N.S.W. and S.A. had made offers and Victoria had mobilized - calling applications for enrolment for the defence forces, and inviting other ministries to send their Commandants to Melbourne for a conference on the subject of sending Australian contingents. a cable inquiring about the troops required, a telegram received on October 5 from the Secretary of State for War and the C-in-C, stated that "units should consist of ... 125 men each ... infantry ... most serviceable ..."13 This was regarded as a scarcely enthusiastic acceptance of a token force which would in no way impede the British Army in its march through the Transvaal. The six Commandants had recommended an Australian force, including mounted troops, but individual colonial units probably stimulated recruiting. The historic decisions were carried with varying degrees of oppostion, but by the end of October the contingents were a reality and six small armies vied to be first at the front.

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^{9.} The "Bulletin", 21 Oct. 1899, 4 Nov. 1899.

^{10.} Nettie Palmer: "H.B. Higgins - A Memoir", p.161.

^{11.} The "Bulletin", 4 Nov. 1899.

^{12.} Coghlan, op. cit., p.1960.

^{13.} G.B. Barton (Ed.): "The Story of South Africa" Vol. 11, World Publishing Co., C 1900, p.8.

ATTITUDES OF THE PEOPLE

Why were the Australian people prepared to come forward on this issue? Was it loyal sentiment, or as the Challis Professor of History at Sydney University, G.A. Wood, said, "the love of adventure and a desire to escape the monotony of the bush." Did the economic motives of drought, employment opportunities or the prospect of a better wage play a part? Volunteers for the First Contingents came forward from Regular and Militia units in each Colony, were enrolled, examined, equippped and embarked in less than a month, requiring no rudimentary training as did later volunteers. Transports were chartered, and the men farewelled with addresses and patriotic fervour.

The "Bulletin" commented, "A good many men are willing to go — for excitement, for change of scene, for the pleasure of a fight, for the sake of getting any kind of job at decent wages, many in the hope that they may find good billets in South Africa, and thereby get away gratis from a distressed country which they can't leave on their own account for want of the needful passage money ... the public has not risen ... on a large scale ... (although) a few newspapers have tried to lash the public into fury. Victoria ... is the only province where there is any sign of the war fever having spread among the mass of the people." The lack of enthusiasm in N.S.W. was attributed to into the Soudan campaign in 1885. However within a fortnight crowds lined the streets of Sydney to watch the passing of N.S.W. soldiers on their way to South Africa. "There were flags and cheers and music of military bands, as through the pouring rain the men marched for embarkation."

each Colony raised five or six contingents With minor variations during the war, before formation of the Commonwealth contingents, and each of these seems to have responded to a different stimulus. Alfred Deakin records that "The first contingent was the effect of an outburst of patriotic spirit on the part of the people" exasperated by intrigues of the Boers abetted by The men were not expected to see much fighting. Foreign Powers. to prove our loyalty and affection for the flag and that was all." By the time of the Second Contingents "... it was clear that ... there was real fighting before those we despatched ... " Following the dark days of defeat there was no slackening of military enthusiasm. "For the third and fourth the rush was greater than ever ... " The fifth (and sixth) including returned men who had volunteered for further service "are not now specially moved by patriotic feeling ... the men we are now sending go mainly because they are fond of fighting ..."

^{14. &}quot;Manchester Guardian", quoted in "Daily Telegraph" 29 May 1902.

^{15.} The "Bulletin" 21 Oct, 1899

^{16.} Ibid 21 Oct, 1899

^{17.} Ibid 4 Nov, 1899

^{18.} Alfred Deakin: "Federated Australia", Selections from letters to the "Morning Post" 1900-1910, Ed. J.A. La Nauze. M.U.P. 1968, p.25-26.

The sobering news of Black Week and the casualties suffered by the First contingents led to the realization of the need for more than token assistance. The Second Contingents were enrolled with a preference for mounted men. Volunteering appears to have been considered more seriously now, but by early February, 1900 the Second Contingents had embarked.

The "Bulletin" had argued that "... the bushmen have no voice.

Overgrown Sydney decides, and Sydney newspapers." However in late 1899,
a N.S.W. movement, attributed to Major A. Randal Carey, Managing Director
of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, suggested a corps of Bushmen be offered for
service. An appeal for public subscriptions enabled the force to be
raised, and men travelled in from all parts of the country to be trained at
Randwick Camp. Station owners offered horses and the British Government
provided transport. Other Colonies acted similarly, rejecting an invitation to form an Australian force. Men and money poured in, the Governments
offered E for E, and camps were set up to instruct the raw recruits, before
embarkation in March 1900.

In February 1900 a request had been received for 2000 men similar to the Bushmen, Her Majesty's Government to defray expenses of arming and equipping, mounting and transporting, and these men were also enrolled, all embarking by mid-May 1900. The main impulse for these Third and Fourth Contingents was in the response of rural districts to a genuine need for hardy men able to combat the Boer on his own terms. A.B. ("Banjo") Paterson said "... The Australians are the material for the best mounted infantry soldiers in the world." Certainly this war in a Southern Hemisphere rural terrain closely resembled what the Bushmen might have experienced defending their own land.

By October 1900, the First Contingents were under orders for home and replacements were sought. The Premiers agreed and the Fifth Contingents were raised, volunteering being generally so enthusiastic as to warrant creation of a Sixth Contingent, and these were despatched by April 1901, to less enthusiastic farewells.

Deakin said "no sooner was the intention (to recruit the 5th) made public than four or five times the number of men volunteered for service. The fact is ... astonishing even now to those who were aware of the many openings for adventurous young men afforded in our vast domains, and of the relatively high rates of pay which they obtain. The story of the Australian Volunteers, when it comes to be written, should explain that the events there chronicled were as much a revelation to ourselves as to anyone."22 The Argus commented, "Perhaps the chief reason for this awakening of Military enthusiasm at a time when the South African campaign has lost the zest of novelty is, of course, the new status won by the colonial soldier ... Troops welcomed as at the best tolerable auxiliaries, have proved themselves fit comrades for the Imperial regulars - able indeed

^{19.} The "Bulletin", 4 Nov. 1899.

^{20.} G.B. Barton: op. cit. p.211.

^{21.} Ibid, p. 421.

^{22.} Alfred Deakin: Op. cit., P.24.

to render service for which the past training of the British regulars more or less disqualified them. 123

The Victorian era passed into the Edwardian almost as neatly as the 19th Century-Colonies became the 20th Century-Commonwealth, with the death of the Queen within 3 weeks of Federation. It is possible that recruiting was stirred by the ceremonial attendant upon occasions expressive of Imperial sentiment.

The guerilla war flared spasmodically and with the return of the Bushmen in mid-1901 it was thought that no more contingents would be sent. But at the end of the year Mr. Barton, Prime Minister, received a request for 1,000 men, and the first Commonwealth force assembled for overseas service was organized and despatched during February 1902, administration centring in the Melbourne H.Q. of the Defence Department. This request was followed by others. Deakin said, "The contingent now forming finds volunteers crowding in as freely as they did two years ago. Hundreds are being rejected in every state." Eight Commonwealth Battalions had been despatched by the time peace was declared on June 1, 1902.

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ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Because the service was thus performed by successive waves of Australians, the average number of men serving outside the Colonies was of the order of 4,000, with a maximum of about 6,500 between June - December 1900. Men of military age (20-40 years) in Australia at the Census of 1901 totalled 644,500, so that the loss of workforce in total was slight. This is especially so if it is considered that, had there been no war, this number or greater would probably have departed for South Africa in any case. For instance, the excess of departures over arrivals of passenger traffic between Victoria and South Africa had been 7,285 in the period 1895-1902. Most of the troops returned, few being induced to take up properties offered in Rhodesia and elsewhere, mainly on grounds of distance from markets. The migratory movement seems to have been rather in response to the attraction of the gold fields, as was the more important movement within Australia, from the eastern Colonies to W.A.

It is probable, then, that the war had little effect on the unemployment situation, but individual localities and fields of employment seem to have experienced some reduction in available labour supply. The "Bulletin" states that "the Second Contingent in N.S.W. attracted only about 1000. If medical, shooting and riding standards had been fully maintained not 300 would have passed muster ... Yet every possible pressure was brought to bear on the Militiary, and

^{23.} The "Argus", 11 Jan. 1901.

^{24.} Alfred Deakin: Op. cit. p.102.

^{25.} Extracted from P.L. Murray: Official Records of the Australian Contingents to the War in South Africa Dept. of Defence, 1911.

^{26.} Victorian Year Book, 1902, p. 36.

^{27.} The "Bulletin", 10 May, 1902.

the Police Force was temporarily crippled so that the promised number should be made up."28

It appears that the prospect of higher pay was some inducement. "The men who go go chiefly for the fun and the change. As they are paid 4s 6d. a day they are not volunteers but mercenaries."29 As Deakin implied, the movement in average wages in the years 1895-1902 in 17 enumerated trades had been a rise from £1.18.4 to £2.6.5 per week for males aged 20 and over. 30 Certainly skilled tradesmen were better paid, a carpenter in Sydney receiving 9/6 per day in 1902 and in Melbourne 9/- per day. 31 Unskilled rural workers would probably have found the military pay attractive, but the contingents included men from professions and trades for whom the monetary rewards were not a motive - Doctors, Veterinary-Surgeons, Lawyers gave up practices to serve, and even Farriers, Shoeing-Smiths and Saddlers would receive little, if any, margin above their civilian wage. But to a British trooper paid 1/- per day, the Colonials certainly appeared to be mercenaries, although it seems an unlikely motive for many.

In a prediction early in the war, the "Bulletin" gave other motives for the Governments' determination to despatch troops. "We are sending them as carpet-baggers. They are merely the latest style of Australian Commercial Travellers ... loyalty to the Empire just now means fat orders for Australian produce for the invading Army in South Africa. There is going to be a boom in tinned meats, chilled beef and mutton, fodder, flour, bacon and many other things that men and horses eat and drink. We can afford to spend a few thousand sovs. to get those fat orders and the splendid advertisement and lay broad and deep the foundation of a permanent market ..."32

It is difficult to accept that this was not a thought in the minds of politicians and businessmen. There is evidence to suggest that some took the opportunity to enrich themselves by extortionate pricing of consignments of war material. The demands for Army remounts led to the export to South Africa from Australasia of 24,995 horses, valued at £320,152 in 1901, and 11,491, valued at £159,040 in 1902. Officers would travel through country districts to buy horses and Sir Ernest Scott has recorded that the "crude exploitation ... was a standing joke among country folk for many years after the South African War."34

Other commodities likewise expanded the export trade to South Africa. In Victoria's exports, for example, South Africa's share rose from 7% of total exports in 1899 to 21% during the next two years, then fell to 6%.35 Commodities that helped swell the years 1900 and 1901 were

^{28.} The "Bulletin", 23 Dec., 1899.

^{29.} Ibid.

^{30.} T.A. Coghlan: "The Seven Colonies of Australasia 1903-4", p.505.

^{31.} Ibid, p.490.

^{32.} The "Bulletin", 4 Nov. 1899

^{33.} T.A. Coghlan: "The Seven Colonies etc., 1903-4", p.419.

^{34.} Sir Ernest Scott: "Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, Vol. XI, p.542.

^{35.} Victorian Year Book, 1903, p.245.

butter, and hay and chaff. However it was in the export of meat that the largest single intrusion into the War Office Market was made. Total exports of frozen and chilled meat and canned and preserved meat show significant increases about 1900 and 1901 mostly on account of the South African demand.

MEAT	EXPORTS	_	٥.	N.S.W.	VTC.	1898 -	190336
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Year	Frozen or Chilled Meat 1000 cwt			Preserved Meat M. 1bs.				
	Q	N	V	Q	N	V		
1898	522.6	539.5	7.7	13.2	13.9	2.9		
9	683.5	459.6	76.4	25.1	11.5	4.8		
1900	705.7	540.4	82.3	25.3	12.0	4.8		
1	694.4	510.1	89.0	13.3	12.4	3.9		
2	810.3	221.1	123.9	12.8	10.9	2.2		
3	554.7	143.9	131.6	4.3	4.7	3.0		

Over half the export of beef from Queensland went to South Africa, where previously it had gone to Britain. "Existing contracts with South Africa and Manila will keep the meat works in operation for some considerable time, and with the return of good seasons it is hoped that much of the British trade will be recovered."37

"The trade of the Argentine Republic with Great Britain in chilled and frozen beef has increased ... partly due ... to the falling off in Australian exports." In the year 1902 sheep numbers in Australia fell from 72 million to 54 million and cattle from 8.5 million to 7.1 million. 39 "Queensland cattle growers reacted to improved prices by heavy selling ... competition between Argentina and Queensland glutted the market. High profits from the South African trade had come to a speedy end."40

It seems as though the Australian producers responded to the price mechanism by exporting to South Africa over shorter cheaper shipping lanes, at the expense of the British market. In the Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers 1901-2 appears correspondence with the Imperial Authorities relating to the supply of meat, Australian foodstuffs and horses to South Africa. Mr. Barton wrote to the Governor General complaining of the indifference shown

^{36.} T.A. Coghlan: "The Seven Colonies etc. 1903-4" p.429-431.

^{37.} Ibid, p.428-9.

^{38.} Ibid, p.432.

^{39.} E.A. Beever: A History of the Australian Meat Export Trade 1865-1939. Unpub. Ph.D. Thesis, Melbourne University, p.154.

^{40.} Ibid, p.158, 160.

by the War Office to the interests of Australian producers, "Large profits were said to have been made by business trading firms in South Africa in connexion with supply of Australian frozen meat. If business had been carried on direct between Australian producers and the War Office much more economic terms could have been arranged."41

The Government concern appears to indicate that the "Bulletin" may have been right in its prediction about "fat" profits. There appears to have been some shortsightedness on the part of Australian meat producers, both in not recognizing the Argentine threat and in disregarding future supply by selling off, but the latter is rational behaviour if the drought would have diminished herds unprofitably, in any event. Also the "Bulletin" and other papers had predicted a short war and entrepreneurs obviously seized the opportunity of a trade too lucrative for rational long-run plans to sound a warning.

Other production was stimulated by the needs of the Australian contingents themselves but this was comparatively minor. Tenders were called for clothing, waggons, horse furniture and other goods. Existing facilities like Racecourses and Showgrounds were utilized for training purposes, and transport was mainly provided by Imperial authorities. In the main, therefore, no large economic benefit appears to have resulted directly from the participation.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

CONCLUSIONS

The end of the War was announced in the press of 3 June, 1902. Organisations like the Sydney Anti-War League and the Peace, Humanity and Arbitration Society expressed gratification that the British Government had at last seen eye to eye with them and not insisted on unconditional surrender. The political leaders received the recognition of a grateful Empire and a Norman Lindsay cartoon showed a dead trooper surrounded by jackals, while cloudy images of Chamberlain, Barton and others gaze on a star inscribed "Imperial Favour". The comment reads "Who wears the star - who bore the cross"43

The "Bulletin" was still critical, "Australia, already distracted by its employment problem, will get back some thousands of men to add to the trouble - men, only too many of whom have lost the habit of honest industry while looting homes and burning farms."44 Many of its criticisms seem justified but this decries their many brilliant achievements in action, which helped deter foreign intervention and rescue the British Army from its lethargy before the trials of 1914-18.

^{41.} Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers 1901-2, Vol. 2, p. 171-3.

^{42.} The "Age", 14 June, 1902.

^{43.} The "Bulletin", 14 June, 1902.

^{44.} Ibid, 7 June, 1902.

Scandals had marred the record, Courts-Martial for alleged mutiny and atrocities leading to death sentences, and public resentment at British high-handedness, that ultimately struck this penalty from Australian Military Law.45 Also, "the lack of an historian, pay-books and medical records evidently taught the powers..."46 of their value. Dr. C.E.W. Bean records that "except for patriotic funds there was little public effort to rehabilitate them and a proportion found it difficult to settle down in civil life."⁴⁷ The remedying of these deficiencies later resulted in such development as the Repatriation Department. The Report of the Defence Department in 1903 stressed the desirability of recording the history of the war before it was too late to assemble the data.⁴⁸ The Australian War Memorial, the South African Soldiers Associations and leading libraries throughout Australia know of no such history having been produced.⁴⁹

In summary, the event is surrounded by emotion and generalisations. The Governments' main justification for involving the Colonies in the war seems to be Imperial loyalty in the face of foreign antagonism, reinforced by awareness of Australia's vulnerability to external attack. The diverse reasons that moved an unmilitaristic citizenry to discover a flair for soldiering include adventure, reward, and obedience to Government policy, but probably inbred patriotism again played the largest part. In the short-run the economies gained little in permanent stimulation due to the war, but there were long-run effects in the establishing of facilities for provision of munitions and equipment, and in the acquisition of an experienced nucleus for the new Commonwealth Defence Forces and, later, the A.I.F.

But the sociological effects of this not universally popular war differ from those arising from the national solidarity of the World Wars. There is a closer relationship to recent events in (1) the belief in a threat from foreign ideologies; (2) the progressive escalation of forces from initial acceptance of token offers to constant requests for more men which guerilla operations demand; and (3) the protest movements rejecting participation in an "unjust" war, although due to stronger sense of duty, wage attraction or other motive, no compulsion was then necessary to fill the ranks. The Governments' realization of Australia's economic and strategic dependence on stronger powers, has led in the 20th century, to external policies requiring participation in Imperial or United States alliances with mutual tariff, investment and technological benefits, but with some cost in internal disunity and unequal sacrifice, that first appeared on a national level during 1899-1902.

^{45.} F.M. Cutlack: "Breaker' Morant", Ure Smith Pty. Ltd., 1962, p.22.

^{46.} A.E. Young: Hon. Secretary, "South African Soldiers' Association of Victoria", (private correspondence).

^{47.} Dr. C.E.W. Bean: "Anzac to Amiens", Australian War Memorial, p.12.

^{48.} Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers 1901-2, Vol. 2, "2nd Annual Report of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Λustralia", by Major General Sir Edward Hutton K.C.M.G., C.B., P.18.

^{49.} Private correspondence with authorities concerned.

FLYING BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS AND ITS SUCCESSOR, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

By B.J. Videon
(In the Golden Jubilee Year of the RAAF)

THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

Military Order No. 801 of 1915 laid down that 'Qualified pilots will wear a flying badge consisting of outspread wings with the letters "AMF" surmounted by a crown. Observers who qualify at any course at the Flying School subsequent to 1st January 1916, and are in possession of a certificate as such, will wear a badge consisting of outspread wings with the letter "O" without the crown. The badge will be worn on the left breast above the medal ribbons'.

Military Order No. 85 of 1916 then appeared ... 'A new pattern pilot's badge has been provided for future manufacture. The new pattern differs from the old (see MO 801/1915) in that the crown is omitted'. (This Order showed the prices of flying badges for both Pilots and Observers as three shillings each).

Samples of these badges are extremely rare, a situation not unexpected when one take into account the small size of the A.F.C. in comparison with the RFC. In addition, quite a lot of Australians qualified in the RFC for their flying badges, and so wore the "RFC" wings instead of Australian types. The only specimen of the original "AMF" pilot badge at present known to be in existence is at the R.A.A.F. Museum, Point Cook, where it appears to be of an orange colour on a dark cloth background. It and its successor are shown in a number of photos of pilots, and both patterns appear to be identical except for the crown, as mentioned in MO 85/1916.

Military Order No. 68 of 1918 then appeared saying 'With reference to MO 801/1915 and 85/1916, a new pattern of badge, flying, pilot, has been approved, Sealed Patterns of which will be issued shortly. The new pattern differs from the old in that the letters "AFC" surmounted by a crown are to be used in lieu of the letters "AMF".

These Pilot badges were thus the forerunners of those used by the R.A.A.F. They were obviously and naturally adaptations of those in use in the British Royal Flying Corps, which was initially a Corps in the British Army in exactly the same way that the A.F.C. was, by imitation, a part of the Australian Army.

There are a few "A.F.C." wings in existence, and one can see various photos of them, and from the differences in almost all of these, one must form the conclusion that the original sealed patterns were not available to all manufacturers. Shapes of the wings, letters and wreaths

all varied, and the colours of the wreaths ranged from pale yellow to russet. The writer has one type in which the wreath comprises a white stem with blue leaves, but this is thought to be a post-AFC production, perhaps for wear by an ex-AFC pilot who subsequently joined the R.A.A.F., as the wing shape is definitely that of the R.A.A.F. and not of the A.F.C.

Also at the R.A.A.F. Museum, Point Cook, there is a brass metal pilot badge on display for the A.F.C. It is a cast badge, with the letters "AFC" inscribed in the wreath, and is rather rough in manufacture. The lugs at the back indicate that it was intended for wear on uniform of some sort, and the probable explanation is that it was a Middle East manufacture intended to take the place of cloth wings which would not survive the rigours of laundering if affixed to summer-weight tunics.

Only one sample of the Observer wing is known to be in existence, and it is owned by the writer. It is white in colour, with a blue 'O" in the wreath. As the double-winged "O" for Observers was not used by the Royal Flying Corps, it is presumed that the A.F.C. one was based on that of the Royal Naval Air Service, which had a small gilt metal double-winged "O" without a wreath (very similar to the Operational Tour badges adopted by the Royal Canadian Air Force during or after the Second World War).

The Australian Flying Corps was disbanded in 1919, and although the Central Flying School continued in existence, military flying practically ceased for a while in Australia. In 1920 the Australian Air Corps was formed, still as a part of the Army, but in 1921 "The Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" of 31st March (No.28) promulgated the formation of the Australian Air Force.

No further changes to Australian Flying Corps flying badges would have been either desired or possible in the circumstances between the Armistice and the formation of the R.A.A.F.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

Although formed as the Australian Air Force (as mentioned above), the new service became the Royal Australian Air Force within three months, and it is probable that no wings were made bearing the letters "AAF" in the centre.

An illustration of Wing Commander R. Williams, DSO, OBE, in 1922 shows him wearing pilot wings of the Royal Australian Air Force, the general shape being similar to those of the "AFC" (i.e. with a rather flattish bottom line to the actual wings), and the letters "RAAF" appear to be partly intertwined. The writer has a specimen that appears to be the same as this badge, and it features decorative points on the letters "R" and "F", and on the tops of the "A"'s. (ie. as in the airman's cap badge).

Some time later, probably during the late 20's or early thirties, some simplification was effected in the lettering, which now appeared as two central "A"'s of exaggerated length with long curving outer 'legs' and flat tops, into the lefthand one of which the letter "R" was intertwined with a long 'tail', and on the righthand side of which is located a small sized "F". The wing shape was slightly shortened, with a decided downwards sweep on the top edges. This type

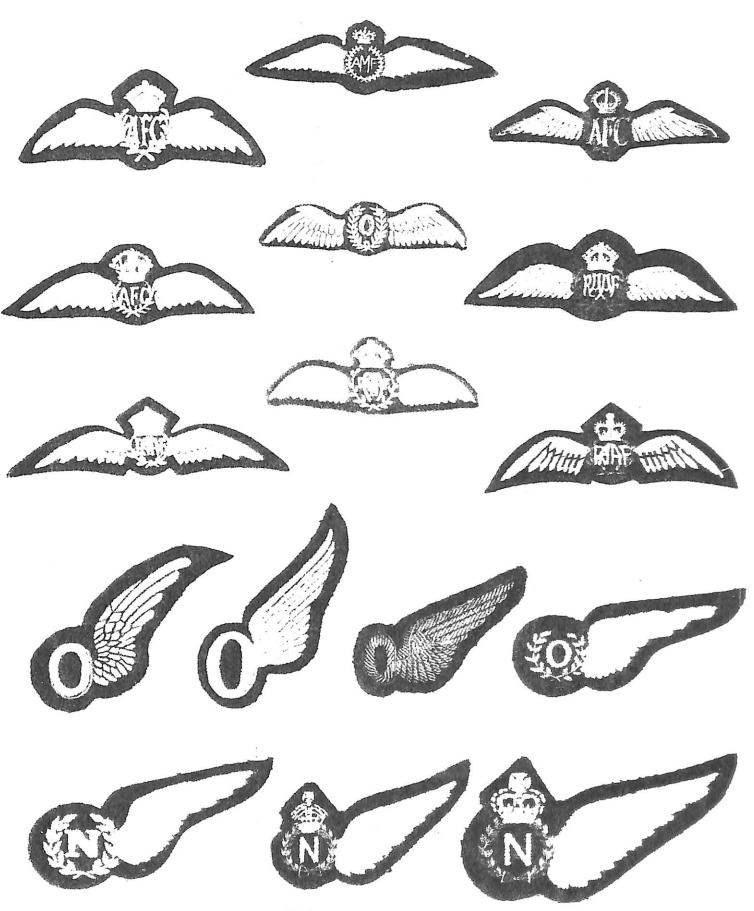


PLATE 1



was made also in gold wire for wear on "best" uniforms, and for the later fulldress uniform worn with busby.

In the R.A.A.F. era, the wreaths to all aircrew wings made of either silk or cotton were blue in colour. In the gold wire wings mentioned above, the wreath was in gold, but it is believed that a silver wreath was later approved for those who had qualified both as Pilots and Observers, and the writer has a sample of such a pre-WW2 wing. All post-war gold wire pilot wings have a silver wreath.

A photograph of Squadron Leader (Sir) Charles Kingsford Smith about 1930 shows him wearing gold wire wings in which the wing shape was the first type, but the letters "RAAF" are in normal printed formation, ie, sharp pointed tops to the "A"'s and the letters "R" and "F" slightly smaller but unornamented. It is clear, therefore, that manufacturers of embroidered insignia then (as now) interpreted their patterns in the way that best suited either their own aesthetic taste or manufacturing expediency (or both).

When the Empire Air Training Scheme came into being, the stocks of pilot badges required had to be increased greatly above the previous requirements and insignia were produced by many makers. This explains the wide number of differences in colours of backings and wreaths, the variations from off-white silk to stark white cotton, and the variety of stitching techniques seen in the making of the wings and crowns.

The general shape of the wings at this stage was that the top edges curved downwards in an unbroken sweep, and the lower edges had a shallow curve more or less matching this.

In Canada, where a great number of R.A.A.F. aircrew qualified, flying badges, unlike all previous R.A.A.F. wings, were made padded, and these although following quite faithfully the R.A.A.F. patterns in other ways, generally seemed to have been rather better made than the Australian ones.

Summarising, then the use of gold wire and of silk or cotton flying badges was as follows:

- (a) The first uniforms of the R.A.A.F., which seem to have been khaki up to about 1923, carried the silk embroidered wings mentioned as worn by W/C Williams.
- (b) At some time after 1922 there was introduced a gold wire wings badge for wear on blue uniforms, while the silk embroidered ones were worn on summer khaki tunics.
- (c) Gold wire wings were certainly used on the full-dress uniform with busby, used briefly from about 1938.

- (d) From about 1941 the use of gold badges was discontinued completely for the duration of the War, and silk or cotton embroidered wings were used for all types of uniforms, including shirts in tropical areas. In many cases pilots contrived to have the cloth wings fitted to a locally-made metal brooch, so that they could be removed easily when the shirts were being washed.
- (e) In some overseas countries, at least, locally made wings to Australian designs were produced for issue to aircrews qualifying in the Empire Air Training Scheme.

After the War, there were so many silk or cotton Pilot badges left on hand that these continued to be issued for many years afterwards (even well past the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II when the crown design for all badges was changed in 1955 from the Imperial to St. Edward's crown). So, although after 1955 we should find that St. Edward-crowned Pilot wings were starting to be taken into use by the R.A.A.F., it was probably up to six years before the bulk of the old stocks had been disposed of and the new patterns starting to appear in quantity.

With the introduction of gilt buttons and badges on uniforms, from about 1953 onwards, the Air Board in a Minute of 1st October 1953 proposed the re-introduction of gold wire badges for aircrews, and this was approved in 27 November 1953, an initial free issue of one of each being approved to Pilots, Navigators, Signallers, Gunners and Engineers, the crown to be St. Edward's. The first order was placed for the supply of these badges in January 1954, with the Commonwealth Government Clothing Factory, where very highly skilled embroiderers are employed, some being of European extraction and experience.

Some of the latest specimens of the silk embroidered wings for pilots are seen with red caps of maintenance in the St. Edward's crown, but these do not appear to be official issue, and probably are sold by a few civilian military outfitters.

Postwar, the wings are worn as follows:-

- (a) Gold wire on blue tunics,
- (b) Silk embroidery on "battledress" blouses, and
- (c) Silver metal on summer shirts.

With the imminent introduction of a new colour of uniform (at present under-going user trials) there will probably be a change in the background colour, which at present is dark blue or black, has been in the past the lighter blue of the early R.A.A.F. tunic material, and will now probably be the bluish-grey colour which is somewhere between the colours of the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.F.

OBSERVER

The first Observers serving in the new R.A.A.F. do not seem to have been provided officially with their own Observer wing and it seems probable that any qualified Observers may have worn either the old A.F.C. one which they gained prior

to joining the R.A.A.F., or else that of the R.F.C., if they qualified in the R.F.C. A photo of about 1927 shows a group of R.A.A.F Officers including an Observer, who is wearing a single-winged "O" badge with what appear to be the miniature letters "RAAF" inside the "O", The writer has not managed to authenticate this badge, and the grain of the picture makes it difficult to be sure that the interpretation is correct.

A single-winged "O" badge was introduced, however, for those who qualified in No.1 Observers Course which commenced in July 1936 and finished in March 1937. This wing was the large "O" joined to an upswept wing without the benefit of a wreath, and was based on that of the RAF, although dissimilar in shape. Details of design and the rules for wear of the Observers Badge were still being discussed in official correspondence from June 1938 to March 1939, in the course of which the design of the R.A.F. Observer's badge was obtained from the U.K. for consideration. This design was used for the manufacture of the gold wire Observer Badge for wear on blue uniforms and, surprisingly, in the same size for Mess Dress (mess dress is dealt with elsewhere). Silk or cotton wings were used on khaki uniforms. War-time conditions required that gold wings be discontinued and silk or cotton worn on all patterns of dress during the war.

The Observer received a new wing about 1940, when uniformity of the designs of halfwings determined that the "O" would be reduced in size, and enclosed in a blue wreath as used in the Air Gunner's Badge. In 1945, Observers officially became Navigators, and the "O" wing was superseded by the "N" wing.

AIR GUNNERS

The first badges for Air Gunners were not wing badges worn on the left breast, but were in the form of a winged bullet, point upper-most, with small wings at either side, and they were worn on the right sleeve initially, and from 1931 on both sleeves.

These badges were in brass metal, with three lugs through which split pins were pushed to hold them in place, and a shaped and pierced brass plate was provided to fit inside the sleeve, to hold the badge firmly against the cloth of the uniform. The badges were worn on the upper arm(s), and where chevrons were worn, above them.

This badge was superseded for Air Gunners when the badge comprising the letters "AG" in a wreath, with a wing protruding from the right side was approved in November 1940. The old winged bullet badges were supposed to have been returned to store, but as late as May 1942 they appeared in lists of "Badges of Qualification" under the designation "Air Gunner (part time) - winged bullet in brass."* (The asterisk referred to a footnote reading "until further orders these badges will be black moulded material or copper oxidised). In fact only the latter appear to have been made, as no moulded material badges are known by the writer. Unlike the Royal Air Force, which used a similar badge in both brass and cloth, the R.A.A.F. did not wear this winged bullet badge in cloth.

The winged bullet badge was discontinued about 1942 and Air Gunners wore henceforth the "AG" wing.

Wireless Operator/Air Gunners were authorised to wear the "AG" wing and, on the sleeves (above chevrons where appropriate) the badge for Wireless Operators, which comprised a hand holding a bunch of thunderbolts, a badge long used by Wireless Operators of the R.A.F.

The Wireless Operator badge, therefore, while not strictly a flying badge, must be included in that category for this reason. It was made initially in brass metal, then in oxidized bronze, then in painted black metal, all fitted with two lugs for split pins, and held firm by an oval metal plate worn inside the sleeves with two slots for the lugs to go through. A cloth embroidered version was also introduced, and this was worn in blue on blue uniforms, and in khaki on summer uniforms.

In 1948 a new specification was issued for all aircrew wings to be used thereafter, and the postwar wing for Gunners (no longer Air Gunners) had the letter "G" in the wreath, surmounted by the Imperial Crown. From 1955 St. Edward's crown took its place. Like all postwar half-wings, it is worn in the same colours as for Pilot wings, in the various orders of dress.

Gold wire wings with the letters "AG" and no crown are clearly those which were gained by Air gunners prior to the end of the Second World War, and could have been worn either briefly on the pre-war messdress, or else by postwar members who had been Air Gunners, on the reintroduction of postwar gold wire badges.

NAVIGATORS

As mentioned earlier, 1945 saw the end of the Observer, his place being taken by the Navigator. The Navigator as such, however, was starting to appear in the Empire Air Training Scheme (along with some other newly-required specialities) about 1943-1944, and the terms "Navigator", "Navigator/Bomber" and "Navigator/Wireless" were in use during the writer's service at that time.

The wing for Navigators was the same as for Air Gunners, but with the letter "N" in place of "AG".

After the War, it became surmounted by the Imperial and St. Edward Crowns in that order, and was worn in colours as for Pilot badges.

Wartime Navigator Badges are seen with the letter "N" either quite large and with points, or quite small and unadorned, due to manufacturers' whims. The writer has an official publication mentioning a special badge for Navigator Wireless, but this does not appear to have been made for the R.A.A.F., although used by some other Dominion air forces. It was to have the letter "W" instead of "N".

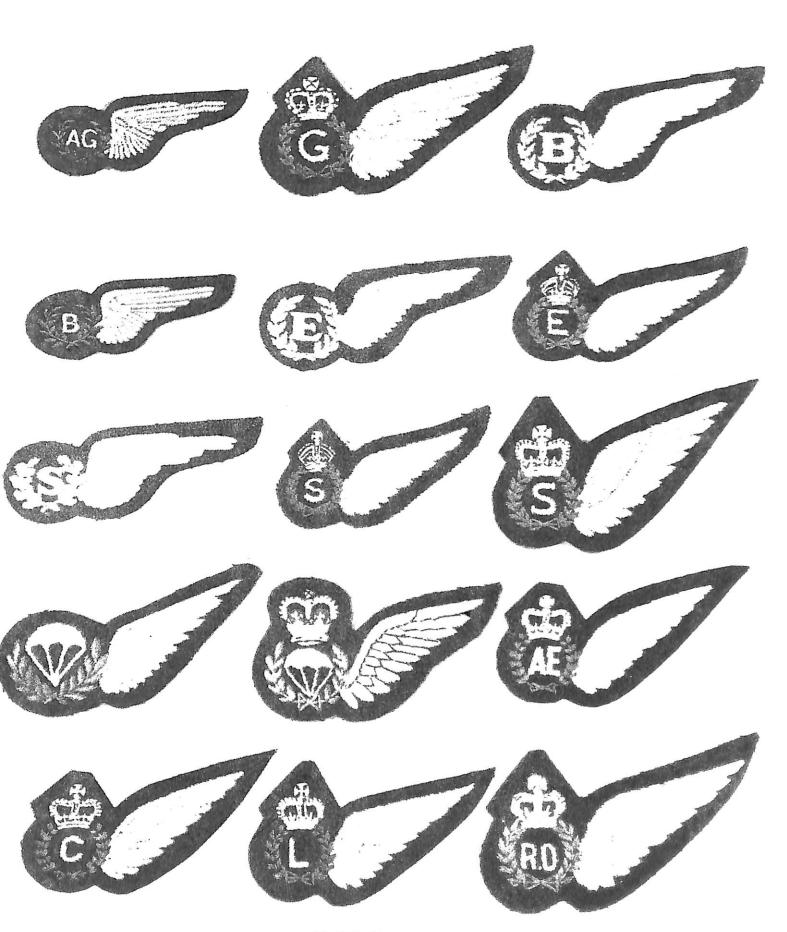


PLATE 2



BOMBERS

The badge for Navigator/Bomber or for Air Bomber was one of those that came out of the Empire Air Training Scheme. It had the letter "B" in a wreath and, like Navigators, the letter was either large with points or small without, depending on the maker.

After the War, this trade died out, and no Bomber badges appeared with a crown above the wreath.

SIGNALLERS

One of the last two aircrew trades to be given a wing in the Second World War was the Signaller, who had graduated up the scale from being a Wireless Operator. The badge was as for Navigator, but with the letter "S" in the wreath (large or small as for the others).

After the War the badge was issued with both the Imperial and the St. Edward crowns, and is still in use in colours as for pilots.

ENGINEERS

Flight Engineers became necessary as the aircraft grew bigger, and one of the last badges introduced during the War was for this category. The badge was as for Navigator, with the letter "E" in the wreath, either large or small, as for the others.

After the War, the badge was issued with both the Imperial and the St. Edward crown, and it is still in use in colours as for pilots.

PATHFINDER BADGE

Although not strictly a Flying Badge, this badge, comprising a gilt eagle worn on the left pocket flap, was worn by members of the R.A.A.F. who flew with the R.A.F.'s Pathfinder Force, and must therefore be considered when wartime flying badges are dealt with.

PARACHUTE TRAINING INSTRUCTOR AND PARACHUTIST

One of the first of the new flying trade badges approved after the War was for Parachute Training Instructors. The conditions for issue were later altered to include Qualified Parachutists, and this badge can be worn also by Australian Army personnel who qualify for it. The original badge was similar to the wartime half-wings, that is, it comprised a wreath with a half-wing, but instead of a letter, it had a picture of a parachute in It appeared in silk embroidery and in this version was much larger than any of the other half-wing badges. A silver version was made, but this was scaled to the size of other silver flying badges worn at the it is not known whether any gold wire versions of this badge appeared, as soon after its emergence, the crown of St. Edward was added (in 1955) and the badge then became similar in all respects (except for letters) to the other half-wings in use in the R.A.A.F. The version with crown was made in gold wire also. Some versions of the silk badge have a red cap of maintenance.

LOADMASTER

The emergence of larger transport aircraft after the War (the Hercules in particular) required the training and use of skilled personnel to organise the loading etc. of the aircraft. The trade became known as Loadmaster, and the first Loadmasters wore a Duty Armlet (or brassard) in red with the word "LOADMASTER" embroidered upon it.

Their flying status was recognised, however, by the subsequent issue of a Loadmaster Badge comprising a half wing and the letter "L" in a wreath, surmounted by the St. Edward Crown. It, and all subsequently-described badges appear in silk, gold wire and in silver metal, for wear in the same way as for pilots.

CREWMEN

This badge, comprising a half-wing with the letter "CW"in a wreath, surmounted by a St. Edward Crown, is for aircrew members not covered by other aircrew badges.

AIR ELECTRONICS OFFICER

This badge, comprising a half-wing with the letters "AE" in a wreath surmounted by a St. Edward Crown was instituted for officers who qualify in the profession denoted by the badge name.

RADAR OPERATOR

This badge, comprising a half-wing with the letters "RO" in a wreath surmounted by a St. Edward Crown, does not appear to have been authorised by the R.A.A.F. although there were press comments about the emergence of a trade of this name some few years ago. The badge was certainly made in accordance with R.A.A.F. standards, and the writer has one, but it seems possible that the badge makers "jumped the gun" with it, and were anticipating a badge that was never to be adopted.

FLYING BADGES FOR MESS DRESS

In mess dress, before the War, it seems very probable that full-sized flying badges were worn for some time, in gold wire embroidery as for the blue tunics. In 1937, 250 miniature-sized pilot badges were required in gold wire for wear in December 1937 with the "new pattern" mess kit being adopted. The first 48 were eventually supplied in April 1938 by one manufacturer who had difficulty in obtaining the correct gold thread. The backing was "blue venetian cloth" and by May 1939 the balance of the order, consisting of 202 badges, had been supplied by the Commonwealth Government Clothing Factory! As mess kit was not used much after the outbreak of the Second World War four months later, it is possible that the majority of these pilot badges were never issued, and may have been dumped.

As previously mentioned, the Observer badge was worn in full-size in mess dress, even though consideration had been given to having it made in miniature. It is probable that, as it would fit on the lapel of the mess

jacket in full size (whereas the Pilot Badge would not), it was decided to avoid the expense of making the additional size.

When Mess Dress was reintroduced after the War, miniature-sized flying badges of all approved categories were required. Files show that the decision to re-introduce mess dress again was taken in 1948.

In August 1950 orders were placed for 9 miniature Pilots, 3 miniature Navigators, 9 miniature Signallers, and 3 miniature Gunners badges for the use of No. 1 Squadron in tropical mess kit, so that these may have been the first of the miniature flying badges to have been made post-war.

FLYING GEAR

It is understood that the American practice of wearing flying badges on various forms of flying gear is being adopted in some areas by R.A.A.F. members, but no officially-approved badges seem to be available for this purpose.

UNOFFICIAL BADGES

Inevitably there are to be found frequent examples of badges which are not officially approved types. Such flying badges include some made during the Second World War with silver thread taking the place of white silk or cotton - although often beautifully made, these were strictly privately produced.

In Canada, during the same War, some "halfwings" were produced with the letters "RAAF" beneath the wreath (RCAF fashion). The badges also were strictly unauthorised and were not supposed to have been worn.

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ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION BAND

Submitted by Lt. Col. P.V. Vernon, O.B.E.,

We are indebted to Major J. Crosby-Browne, E.D., for some facts concerning a unique component of the Anzac Mounted Division in Palestine in 1917-1918.

Reinforcements which arrived in Egypt for the Light Horse late in 1916, about the end of the Sinai operations, included some twenty musicians from Sydney. These had brought some instruments with them. While they were in the base camp at Moascar, where Lieutenant-Colonel J.M. Arnott was commandant, they were given to indulging in a bit of music. By chance, Lieutenant Crosby-Browne, 5th Light Horse Regiment, was staging there after a bout of malaria and Colonel Arnott, knowing he was a professional conductor with military band experience in the British Army, asked him to take charge of the group and to try to make a band of it.

This he did. Early problems included obtaining more band instruments and band music. Some of the regiments had brought bands with them from Australia, but during the Gallipoli campaign the instruments had been stored and, when the force returned to Egypt, they could not be traced. It was practically impossible to procure band music locally.

However, good progress was made in the training of the band and after a few weeks, when General Chauvel visited the Moascar camp, he inspected the band and was so impressed by it that he seconded Lieutenant Crosby-Browne and the mucisians to Anzac Mounted Divisional Headquarters and ordered it, the band, to the front. Thus the band was henceforth Anzac Mounted Division Band. Funds were supplied by Division, and more instruments and music were obtained from London.

Its first assignment was at a boxing tournament organised in 2nd Light Horse Brigade (Brigadier-General Ryrie) which was resting and training in a camp south of Jaffa on the coast. The Brigade had been in the field for months, mostly under arduous conditions, with virtually no amenities and certainly no culture such as band music. The Band, therefore, made a profound impact on the gathering, which went almost mad with joy. From then on, except for occasional assignments in Egypt, the Band remained with the Division, in the field, throughout the remainder of the campaign, providing some recreation for all ranks when they were not engaged in actual fighting.

Major M.F. Bruxner, 6th Light Horse Regiment (later Lieut-Colonel the Hon. Sir Michael Bruxner, K.B.E., D.S.O.), who was D.A.A.G. on Divisional Head-quarters, and also the G.S.O.1. of the Division, Lieutenant-Colonel C.G.Powles, were most helpful to the Bandmaster in overcoming some of the major problems which arose.

The Band was eventually organised as a self-contained unit, with its own cook and its own transport (G.S. waggons); this enabled the Band to be sent where required at any time. But one of the earliest matters which had to be resolved was means of transport for the personnel. The demands of the campaign on horseflesh were such that horses could not be spared for bandsmen; indeed, the need for economy in the use of horses, had led, to the great indignation of the lighthorsemen, to the Regiments being issued with a number of white donkeys for use by cooks and batmen. Major Bruxner now called upon the Regiments to send a quota of donkeys to Headquarters for a selection to be made by the Band. The Regiments needed no second telling and the Band was able to choose a promising looking bunch of these white Soudanese doneys which were big and strong animals; they carried the men equally as well as the horses did, especially on the sand, and responded well to good grooming and regular feeding. It was quickly found by the Band, after the donkeys' arrival, however, that they were lousy - an indication of neglect while they were in the Regiments' lines - and the Bandmaster had to arrange for fumigation and a dip in the sea, which treatment was repeated before the effect was considered passable.

From a musical point of view they became quite a problem when Brigadier-General Cox, 1st Light Horse Brigade, suggested a mounted band. A donkey-mounted band was a novel idea, but he insisted on it being tried. Although,

by this time, the donkeys had become quite accustomed to the music, when they stood and listened, it became a different matter when the men mounted them and wanted them to walk, and walk in formation, while the band played. The first attempt was nearly diastrous; they certainly walked, but to all points of the compass instead of in formation, and, of course, the music 'collapsed'. The difficulty was eventually overcome by simply tying the four leading donkeys' heads together with their headropes and putting the drummers, who were on foot anyway, in front to lead them; the remainder followed automatically. A unique unit, indeed!

As well as playing for the men of the Division as much as possible, the Band was sometimes made available to British units and it often played dance music for village dances, particularly at Richon which was a favourite resting camp. Many of the inhabitants at that time were Jews who had emigrated from Europe and who showed great interest in the Band and its music. Also, on occasions the Band was sent to play for the wounded in hospital at Port Said, and it was in attendance at a presentation of decorations, in Egypt, by the Duke of Connaught. Generally, however, it accompanied the Division, and this idea was a complete success.

Before the final stage of the campaign the Band was ordered to take over General Chauvel's headquarters at Talat de Dumm when the General moved out in readiness for the intended advance to Damascus. At that time great pains were being taken to deceive the enemy as to troop locations and movements, so the task of the Band was to keep the headquarters lighted at night and thus induce the enemy to think it was still occupied normally.

After the Armistice in October, 1918, the Band carried on as a unit for some months during the process of repatriation of the men of the Division. In course of time the bandsmen returned to their respective parent units for embarkation and return to Australia. And on the transport bringing home the 5th Light Horse Regiment, who better than the former Bandmaster, Lieutenant Crosby-Browne, to organise a concert party?

Major Crosby-Browne is a former Professor of Music, Conservatorium of Music, Sydney. He served with: 21st Lancers, 1901-1904; 2nd Life Guards, 1904-1911; 5th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F., 1916-1919, from which seconded as Bandmaster, A.M.D. Band; R.A.A., 1919-1920; N.S.W. Police, as Bandmaster, 1926-1941; 2nd Military District Headquarters Band, as Bandmaster, 1934-1941; Eastern Command and 2nd Australian Army, 1941-1943; 4th Australian Armoured Brigade, A.I.F. as Bandmaster, 1944-1945.

FEDERAL SECRETARY'S NOTES

At a Federal Council Meeting held on 24th September, 1971 it was decided, with regret, that due to the rising costs of printing and postage, the Annual Subscription be increased to \$5.00 and Junior Membership be abolished as from 1st July, 1972.

Four copies of the July 1971 issue of "Sabretache" have been returned by the postal authorities. If any member knows the whereabouts of:

Mr. J. G. P. Hung, formerley of, 38 Charnwood Road, ST. KILDA, VIC. 3182. Rev. J.A. Cameron, " " 9 Luhrs Road, PAYNEHAM SOUTH, S.A. 5070.

Mr. P. Richardson, " 4 Tout Avenue, MARION, S.A. 5043.

Mr. N.G. Shring, " 175 Barry Parade, FORTITUDE VALLEY, Q. 4006.

would they advise me and I will send the magazines to their new address.

* * * *

A new Membership Directory is being planned. If any Member has changed his interests, or would like to have a different style inserted, would he contact me without delay.

* * * *

Will any financial member who has NOT received a current membership card please contact the Federal Secretary. S.A.E. would oblige.

* * * *

Society Lapel Badges are now available from Branch Secretaries or myself for 70 cents each (including postage).

J. E. PRICE

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THREE ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. VICTORIAN NAVAL FORCES, 1887 (From a Report of the Council of Defence dated 1887)

VESSEL		GUNS	MACHINE GUNS
H.M.V.S. Nelson Cerberus Victoria Albert Gannet Batman Fawkner		22 4 4 4 1 1 1	2 4 2 2 1 1 1
	Total	37	13

TORPEDO BOATS

			HOTCHKISS	GUNS	WHITEHEAD	TORPS.	SPAR	TORPS.
H.M.V.S.	Childers		2		4		~	•
	Nepean				2		2	
	Lonsdale				2		2	
	Commissioner				2		2	
	Customs No. 1			•	2		2	
	Gordon		-		_2			•
		Total	. 2		14		8	

Total Ships 7
Total Torpedo Boats 6

OFFICERS AND MEN: Permanent 193

Naval Brigade 374

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2. CORPORAL E.A. COREY MM and THREE BARS (Submitted by Rex Clark)

Upon reading the excellent article on Corporal Corey, published in the Army Newspaper no doubt the first thought would be why wasn't he awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)? The answer can best be given by his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel P.W. Woods, DSO and bar, MC, himself a distinguished soldier who commenced the war as a Private in the 3rd Battalion. In the magazine "Reveille" dated 31 March, 1931, Lt. Col. Woods states;

"After Corey received his Military Medal his work continued to call for very high commendation, and, on <u>SIX</u> separate occasions he had been recommended for the DCM, three of the recommendations not being acted upon, while in the other three instances he had been awarded Bars to his MM. The Battalion, was that there seemed to be an objection to giving a DCM for stretcher-bearing work, although instances were known of other stretcher-invariably while out stretcher-bearing, he wore white shorts, carried his his patient under one of his strong arms, and walk back with him, still spirit, and worked almost up to the enemy wire, rescuing the wounded-foe

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3. PRIVATE J. L. WILLIAMS CMG (Submitted by Rex Clark)

Many strange stories relate to the First AIF and one such story is the private soldier with the post nominal letters CMG, (Companion of The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George). This decoration was normally awarded to Colonel and higher rank not to an ordinary private soldier. How could a private soldier be entitled to a CMG? The explanation is simple, as prior to joining the A.I.F. J. L. Williams was made a CMG whilst he was Under Secretary of the New South Wales Justice Department. J.L. Williams finished the war as a Captain and was later decorated with the MBE.

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DESPATCHES.

(Letters, queries and comments from readers)

from LT.COL. P.V. VERNON.

THE BRITISH REGIMENTS IN AUSTRALIA

The list of British units stationed in Australia given in "Sabretache", XIV, 1 (July 1971) states in reference to the New South Wales Corps that it was "raised locally in N.S.W. from 1791 to take the place of the Marines". Actually, according to Short History of the Military Forces in N.S.W., 1788 to 1953, only one of the four companies was raised locally. Some, if not all, of the other three were raised earlier than 1791.

The list of units includes also 73rd (Royal Highland) Regiment. "Royal" appears to be incorrect; the Army List shows 73rd (Highland) Regiment of Foot, which title appears in the List annually 1808 to 1814, beyond which point I have not checked.

However, a contributor to the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, August 1957, claims that early in 1809 the Regiment was reorganised and was converted from a Highland Regiment of Foot to a normal Regiment of Foot, and that the title was changed to 73rd Regiment of Foot. He gives, as his sources, respectively.

Perhaps some reader may be able to clear up this apparent controversy by reference to a regimental history or other good source.

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From Mr. J. E. Price.

Australia'. Sabretache, July 1971. It states N.S.W. Corps (raised locally 102nd Regiment)". In actual fact the Corps was raised in Britain. I quote from the following references:-

"Encyclopedia of Australia" published by Fredk. Warne & Co. Ltd., LONDON, states, 'New South Wales Corps. An infantry regiment specially recruited for garrison duties in N.S.W., the first detachment arriving with the Second Fleet in 1790 under Capt. Nicholas Nepean, and the second in 1792 under Francis Grose. The Corps returned to England in 1810

"The Story of Port Dalrymple", L.S. Bethell, published by L.G. Shea, Government Printer, Tasmania, states in the footnote on page 101. 'The Marines were succeeded by the New South Wales Corps, specially enlisted and promised land grants to induce them to serve so far from home. they became the 102nd Regiment. In 1810 they left Sydney for England via Cape Horn and so became the only British Regiment to circumnavigate the In 1812 they were in Guernsey and were knocked into shape by They were in Bermuda from June, 1812, to 1818, when they Charles Napier. The hundred men who remained in N.S.W. and V.D.L. conwere disbanded. stituted an invalid or veteran company. They disbanded in 1823. not generally known that the 102nd came back to Australia. In 1825 the men disbanded in Burmuda were called upon to reconstitute the regiment. In 1829 they arrived at Sydney, 157 strong, and two detachments came to Van Diemen's Land. They were finally disbanded on April 1, 1833.

This I hope will put the record straight.

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From Mr. J. E. Price.

In Mr. Robert Gray's letter (Despatches, 'Sabretache' July, 1971) he disagrees with your Editorial comment that we need a better magazine to encourage interested persons to join our ranks. He quotes that a British Society has a membership of over 400 and has a modest newsletter and a low subscription.

This to me is a staggering statement. That a country with a 50 million plus population, a vast number of these being ex-service personnel, can only scrape up less than half a thousand interested persons is a sad state of affairs. It would be interesting to know just how many of these members are living overseas.

It is gratifying to realise that our Society has a tremendous membership, per capita of population. So, therefore, we need a better magazine. Regrettably our cost of living is higher than that of the United Kingdom, hence our Subscription rates are higher, but we do get value for money.

I sympathise with his complaint that certain members lack the common courtesy to reply to his letters. For I too have experienced the same feeling of frustration. But, this fault is not limited to our Society. I, too, belong to the same overseas organisations as he does, and I would like to remind him to peruse their journals. For there can be found this complaint in many issues. It seems to be a common fault amongst militaria enthusiasts. This, of course, does not excuse any member of our Society who may have neglected to answer Mr. Gray's, or, for that matter, any other member's letter. So I ask readers, if you do receive a letter from a fellow-enthusiast, please answer it, even if it is only an acknowledgement.

From Bernhard Helmbrecht and Johnn Reischl, of 8 Munchen 90, Saebener Strasse 193. West Germany.

In our capacity of editors we give you notice of the fact that from now on the world famous "Haffner" - figures from the time of 1838 until about 1920 are obtainable from us as facsimile.

The "Haffner" - laboratory, known in Europe and overseas, was founded in 1838 by Johann Haffner (the father) in Furth/Bavaria, and at the world-exposition in Paris it won for the first time a price-medal for its products.

In 1880 the enterprise changed its name to "United toy-factories Förtner & Haffner".

After his father's death in 1898 Johann Haffner (the son) took over the enterprise together with the engraver Albrecht Städtler, who until then, had been employed with Ernst Heinrichsen, and he moved to Nürnberg.

At the Bavarian exposition in 1906 the exposed objects of the enterprise were awarded to a price-medal and bought up by the Bavarian Army Museum.

The laboratory suspended its productions between 1915 and 1920.

The figures offered as facsimile are full-plastic tin-figures of 50 mm height, which are excellently elaborated.

For the time being types of the below-mentioned epochs are available, painted or unpainted:

Bavaria and France 1800 to 1825 Bavaria, Prussia and Württemberg 1900 to 1914

On inquiry we send you a gratuitious detailed list of the different types.

Prices: foot-soldiers from DM 3.-- to DM 4.-- Unpainted from DM 8.-- to DM 9.50 painted horsemans from DM 6.-- to DM 8.-- unpainted from DM 15.-- to DM 20.-- painted

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From Major Rex Clark, Research Officer, ACT Branch

MEDALS TO AUSTRALIANS

Mike Downey has received a number of most welcome remarks regarding errors or suggested amendments to the values of medals. As I did the bulk of the work on producing facts for the book I would appreciate hearing from any other reader who has found errors. As mentioned the book on medals without error is yet to be published and it is hoped that not only collectors but authorities will point out errors which will be included in the next edition.

My only request is that corrections suggested be supported by evidence Lets keep hearing from you.

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MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

(50 cents each ad of reasonable size)

FOR DISPOSAL: Manuals - Camp Standing Orders 7th ALH Regt (VMR) 1909
Light Horse Manual (Australia) 1910
Soldiering in the Tropics (SWPA) 1943
Friendly Fruits and Vegetables 1943
The Sergeants Pocketbook 1910 (used by
5 Sqn, 10 ALH)
Handbook of .303 Maxim M.G. 1911 (15 ALH)
Standing Orders 1903 (Military Forces)
Manual of Map Reading & Field Sketching 1906
Return to Civil Life 1946
Army Rehabilitation (pamphlet) 1946
Handbook Yeomanry and Mounted Rifle Training 1912

Write to Craig Cook, 10 Foch Street, ORMOND, 3163, Victoria.

FOR SALE

"THE CAVALRY JOURNAL"
(Quarterly; first published 1906)

26 quarterly issues; Nos 2, 10-12, 13-16, 17, 19, 20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, 32-35 (July 1914).
Condition generally good but some covers worn.
\$1 each number, plus postage (allow for 1 1b per number), or \$20 in one lot, plus postage. Or, would exchange for wanted numbers same journal; send list. P.V. Vernon, 2 Reid Street, Lindfield, N.S.W. 2070.

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WANTED:

Womens' Air Force uniform items of the Second World War Armband for first Air Training Corps white and red badge and blue printing.

WW2 R.A.A.F. Khaki drill summer weight flying suit Old Air Force Badges.

B.J. Videon, 20 Thomasina Street, EAST BENTLEIGH, 3165.

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DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

- (444) Mr. B.P. FALLON, 640 Old South Head Road, ROSE BAY, NSW 2029. (Australian Military History).
- (445) Cpl. G.A. MACKINLAY, RAAMC, 8th Field Ambulance, First Aust.
 Task Force AFPO 4, C/- GPO SYDNEY, NSW. 2890.

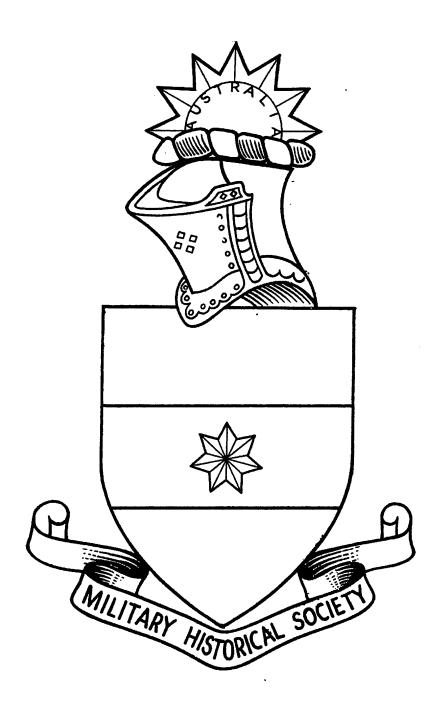
 (Military history 1920-1970. Modern military uniforms.
 Insignia (cloth & metal). Infantry unit organisation & weapons, Airborne, Commando. Army Aviation.)
- (446) Mr. A.R. KING, 14 Isabella Street, GEELONG WEST, VIC. 3218.

 (Military Cap badges & medals)
- (447) Major H.H. CARR, 3 Coronal Avenue, HERNE HILL, VIC. 3218. (General Militaria)
- (448) Mr. D.A. SIMMONS, 19 Laura Street, CLONTARF BEACH, QLD. 4019. (Collects General Militaria)
- (449) Mr. R. ROBINSON, 14 Helenslea Road, CAULFIELD, VIC. 3162.
 (N.Z.Maori War Medals & General Military Interests)
- (450) Mr. W.A. HARRISON, 74 Fox Street, ST. ALBANS, VIC. 3021. (Collects Australian Military Badges)
- (451) Mr. H.J. HARRISON, 3 Treloar Cres., BRAYBROOK, VIC. 3019. (Collects Australian Military Badges)
- (452) Mr. C.H. O'Neill, Box 3699, G.P.O. SYDNEY, NSW. 2001. (Uniforms of the Australian Armed Forces)
- (453) Major I.C. Teague, Australian Staff College, QUEENSCLIFF, VIC. 3225.
 (Military History, Current Military insignia & medal collecting)
- (454) Mr. J.G. FENNELL, 7 Toolambi Street, NARRABUNDAH, ACT. 2604. (Naval history, Military History in general)
- (459) The Chief Archivist, Commonwealth Archives Office, CANBERRA, ACT. 2600. (Subscriber to the Journal)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- (369) Sgt. W.C. BARNARD, to 7 Claudare St., COLLAROY PLATEAU, NSW, 2098.
- (320) Mr. R. STRADLING, to c/- 5 Guthrie St., GEELONG NTH, VIC. 3215.
- (317) Capt. W.G.J. TITCHMARSH, to Unit 7, Glenleith Crt., GEELONG, 3220.
- (414) Mr. D.S. TURNER, <u>to</u> 114 Bindi St., GLENROY, VIC. 3046.
- (83) Mr. K.R. WHITE, to P.O. Box 67, LYNEHAM, ACT, 2602. (Residential address remains unchanged)
- (310) Mr. D.P. LEGG, to 1 Chelsford St., WARWICK, W.A. 6024.
- (98) 311428 S/SGT. D. ALLAN <u>to</u> 6.RAR, Kangaw Barracks, Sembawang Garrison, C/- GPO SINGAPORE.

(With effect from the 1st December, 1971)



THE BADGE OF THE SOCIETY

Features: A repr

A representation of the first "Rising Sun" badge, used as a heraldic crest to the helmet;

A wreath in the national colours of Blue and Gold;

A mediaeval helmet in Silver;

A 3 colour shield of Navy Blue, over Army Red, over Air Force Blue;

The Federation Star of Australia;

A scroll bearing the Title of the Society.