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## Journal and Proceedings of the Military Historical Society of Australia

# SABRETACHE



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## **SABRETACHE**

## Journal and Proceedings of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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This issue marks a change of editor for Sabretache. Peter Stanley's long night vigils peering over your manuscripts are soon to be replaced by equally lonely nights on the campus at ANU. It shall be a difficult task maintaining Peter's high standards but I shall do my best with your support.

I cannot add anything to what Peter has asked during 1981 — contributions in the form of articles, book reviews, notes, queries or letters are needed to make your journal what it is — successful.

From the next issue I would like to be able to tell readers a little about the authors who contribute to our journal. With this in mind would writers in future forward a short biography (about 50 words) with their article.

Barry Clissold

Barry Clissold

## **MORLANCOURT: PRELUDE TO AMIENS**

Major-General J.F.C. Fuller died in 1966 at the age of 87, by which time he had become probably the most prolific soldier-writer in the English language. His monograph The Decisive Battles of the Western World is regarded by many as a standard work of reference for military historians.

Australian readers would be interested in General Fuller's treatise of the Allied general offensive in France, the Battle of Amiens, in August 1918 which he regarded as the most decisive battle of the First World War. Inevitably that interest would focus, in part, on General Fuller's criticism of an Australian operation, which he regarded as asinine, launched several days before the Allied offensive. General Fuller believed that this operation, at Morlancourt on 29 July 1918, resulted in upsetting III Corps battle preparations and caused its failure to reach objectives on 8 August 1918.

General Fuller's treatise may be superficial; German strategy and local tactics combined to blunt the advance of the British III Corps. Moreover, Germany's defensive plans to halt the allies advancing east of Amiens were more reason for the disruption of III Corps preparation for the 8 August 1918 offensive than German reprisal for the Australian attack on Morlancourt as General Fuller suggests.

At Moricourt it had been raining for three days and Australian trenches were shallow pits of water, lined with sticky yellow clay. Overhead German artillery and trench mortar shells whistled to explode into the sodden defensive positions while German snipers pursued their deadly game.

Patiently, with relief only days away, infantrymen of the 29th Battalion, 5th Australian Division waited. During the nights the Australians patrolled, rarely in groups exceeding sixteen, denying the German Army both domination of no-man's land west of Morlancourt and offensive action against their own positions. The 29th Battalion had relieved the 28th Battalion of the 2nd Australian Division who, in early June 1918, had repulsed advances by elements of the German 54th Division which had been part of a general German offensive.

Reinforced by seventy divisions, following the collapse of Russia in 1917, the German Army had launched the *Kaiserschlacht* (Emperor Battle) on 21 March 1918; simultaneous attacks by four German Army groups along an 80 mile front on the Western Front toward Amiens, the strategic communications and supply centre of the allies, failed. Marshal Foch's combined allied forces held the offensive, denying Amiens to the Germans and preventing further advances westward. A new forward battle line was formed, stretching in a broad U curve, from Ypres in the north through Morlancourt, ten miles east of Amiens, to Verdun. At this line the German Army poised, to regain strength, for a fresh attack.

The final, and again, ambitious German offensive, launched on 15 July 1918, faltered, lost momentum and failed. Anticipation of German

tactics by Marshal Foch and a counter-attack on 18 July 1918, by the French 10th Army, launched from the two flanks of the German salient west of Rheims, was instrumental to the allied success in blunting and holding the German Army.

Amiens, although still within the defensive perimenter held by the allies, along with the Amiens-Paris railway link, remained threatened: defending it was the Australian Corps. From the 5th Australian Division's reserve line the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade replaced the 15th Australian Infantry Brigade in the front line on 17/18 July 1918.<sup>2</sup> They had spent a miserable month suffering from influenza and although at rest they had lived daily with the stench of cresol used to spray their dugouts and shelters to prevent spreading infection.

Their commanding officer, Lietuenant Colonel McArthur welcomed the return to the forward line and resumption of active patrolling. The 29th Battalion occupied the centre position in the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's defensive perimeter forming a horseshoe around Moricourt; the 32nd Battalion was held in reserve.

Almost immediately, on 18 July 1918, Major-General Hobbs,<sup>3</sup> General Officer Commanding, 5th Australian Division, and his General Staff Officer 1 (GSOI) Colonel Peek, visited Brigadier Tivey, Commander, 8th Australian Infantry Brigade to discuss defensive and offensive policies to be followed in the sector.<sup>4</sup> Discussion centred on the Morlancourt sector, a mere 1200 yards east of 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's left flank, and a feature code-named "Brick Beacon", some 500 yards forward of the centre of the Brigade's eastern defensive perimeter.

Several days earlier, on 13 July 1918, General Rawlinson Commander of the British Fourth Army began planning an allied attack east of Amiens. The plan of the operation was to strike out in an easterly and south-easterly direction using the Somme River to cover the left flank of the advance, with the object of gaining the line of the Amiens outer defences between Le Quesnel and Mericourt sur Somme, thereby freeing the main Paris-Amiens railway. The development of this plan was to bear heavily on the execution of an Australian attack on Morlancourt, sixteen days later, on 29 July 1918.

The Morlancourt sector was held by the German 107th Infantry Division comprising the 227th RIR, and the 232th RIR, and the 203rd RIR of the 43rd Reserve Division of the German Army.5

Their position was well-established, the trench system extensive. The German troops were well known to the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade; earlier, on 7 July 1918 the Australians had planned a brigade-strength attack on the positions south of Morlancourt to destroy and deny the enemy access to that position.<sup>6</sup>

Now back in the sector the 29th Battalion resumed fighting patrols. The patrolling habits and successes of Australian units in the sector proved both disruptive and a source of irritation to the Germans. Australian patrolling domination of no-man's land at night denied German patrols access to Australian defensive perimeters. In an order to the 202nd RIR, on 2 July 1918, its commanding officer authorized three weeks leave for the first German soldier who brought in a prisoner or equipment enabling identification of the Australians. 8

Although unsuccessful in patrolling, the Germans harassed the Australian position with artillery, directed by observation posts at Morlancourt. Lieutenant-Colonel McArthur, using intelligence gained by his patrols, drafted Battalion Order 148,9 for a Battalion operation (with two companies of the 32nd Battalion attached) of limited objectives in the Morlancourt sector. The objectives of the operation were threefold;

- a) to inflict loss on the enemy;
- b) to improve the 29th Battalion's position; and
- c) to disorganise the enemy's defensive organisation.

Lieutenant-Colonel McArthur did not date this order not did he allot a date for the operation.

It is most likely that Lieutenant-Colonel McArthur acted on his own initiative in proposing the Morlancourt operation to 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters as a task for the 29th Battalion. Lieutenant-Colonel McArthur was probably well aware of the visit of Major-General Hobbs and Colonel Peek to 8th Brigade Headquarters. 10 By 20 July 1918 Brigadier Tivey had formulated plans to widen the scope of the plan submitted by McArthur based on additional information given to him by his divisional commander on 18 July 1918. The new plan, to involve both the 29th Battalion and the 32nd Battalion, aimed to both improve the Brigade's position and pave a way for further offensive action. 11

An operational instruction, 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No.186, was issued on 20

July 1918 and Brigadier Tivey left his headquarters at 5a,m. on that day to visit McArthur and discuss the operation.<sup>12</sup>

Conditions in the Mericourt sector and the forward lines of the 29th Battalion were miserably wet: mud in many trenches was up to the knees. Incessant German sniping and machine gun fire into its position heightened McArthur's concern and the need to do something about it. While Tivey and McArthur discussed the local position and the Morlancourt operation, which as yet had no date, the request for its implementation, supported by Major-General Hobbs, was being consid-Brigadier Tivey returnered at Australian Corps. ed to his own headquarters at 9p.m. and the following day, 21 July 1918, McArthur visited Tivey to renew their discussion on the operation. 5th Australian Division Headquarters a message was received from the Australian Corps giving approval for the operation to proceed subject to the Army Commander's approval.

It is unclear whether this message was relayed immediately, or if at all, to the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters. That same afternoon, General Monash advised Major-General Hobbs that.

[I] regret that the permission given provisionally this morning to carry out the operation must be withdrawn. The Army Commander [General Rawlinson] does not desire that this operation should take place at present. Preparations should, however, be continued so that the operation could be put on, if required, at short notice."

General Rawlinson gave no reason for his refusal. Two days were to elapse before his instruction was passed to lower commands. Thus 23 July 1918 became the most crucial date in the development of what was to be criticized as an "asinine" raid in the Morlancourt sector.

Having put proposals to General Sir Douglas Haig, towards the end of the third week in July, for a counter-offensive on a very large scale (and not expecting an answer for several days), General Monash sought and received approval to go on leave in London. 13 General Monash left the sector on 23 July 1918, leaving instructions that all offensive actions by the division be stopped with the exception of active patrolling. In a Secret Order, in direct reply to Operation Order No. 148 from the 29th Battalion, the Brigade-Major of the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade instructed all Brigade battalions, 29, 30, 31 and

32 that no offensive operations would be undertaken on the brigade front instead, "Battalions would carry out vigorous patrolling with fighting patrols and endeavour to obtain identifications."

Lieutenant Colonel McArthur's response to this instruction, on the same day it was issued, was forthright,

"in view of the proposed operation on the brigade front being postponed indefinitely, and the possibility of the Battalion being relieved I seek permission to carry out the minor operation on the "Triangle" 14 so as to pinch the enemy out of this part of our front line system which would give us command of the valley and minimise the danger of the enemy assembling and attacking the Battalion's trenches. I propose to carry out the operation on similar lines as laid down in Brigade Order No.186 and in my own Order No.148. I request that the operation be carried out at an early date prior to relief." 15, 16

Lieutenant Colonel McArthur did not get an immediate answer. The following day, 24 July 1918, 8th Australian Infantry Brigade issued a "Defence Scheme" outlining the organisation of area for defence and the plan on which to conduct the defence.<sup>17</sup>

The 29th Battalion continued to patrol the German positions being defended by the German 107th Infantry Division at Morlancourt; continuing rain and German sniping did not help maintain morale. The Brigade's sector of responsibility remained: north from a ridge traversed by the Bray-Corbie Road to the River Ancre and then across the Amiens-Albert railway; included was the defence of the villages Ville-sur-Ancre, Treux and Buire.

On 25 July 1981 Major-General Hobbs, appearing to bypass Australian Corps Headquarters in General Monash's absence, sought General Rawlinson's relaxation of his earlier instruction and approval of the minor operation near "Brick Beacon", south of Morlancourt, 18 to take place in "three or four days". 19 General Rawlinson agreed. Australian Official Historian, C.E.W. Bean suggests that the 5th Australian Division were being given a chance to maul the Germans before being relieved in the front line. 20 Instructions for the relief, now timed for 1 August 1918, were issued on 27 July 1918.

On the same day that General Rawlinson agreed to the Morlancourt operation a British Brigade on the left of the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's defensive perimeter carried out a daylight raid on German positions in front of their own sector.<sup>21</sup>

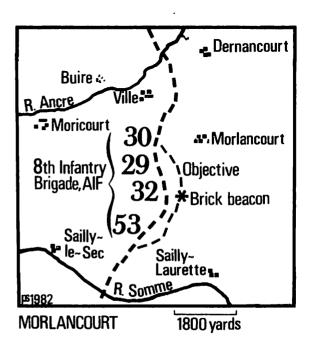
Discussion of Morlancourt at 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters between Brigadier Tivey, Lieutenant Colonel McArthur and the acting commanding officer of 32nd Battalion. Major Wark, preceeded 5th Australian Division Order No.218 of 27 July 1918 which ordered an operation against German Army defensive positions at Morlancourt;22 subsequent orders to both the 29th Battalion and the 32nd Battalion were issued by 8th Australian Infantry Brigade the same day. On returning to his headquarters McArthur hurriedly rewrote his earlier draft and had it delivered to his company commanders; invitations for them to dine with him at noon on 28 July 1918 to discuss the imminent operation were issued late on 27 July 1918.33

It was still raining when final preparations for the operation were completed. A note was sent to General Rawlinson informing him that a local operation would take place on "C" Divisional front with the objective of capturing and consolidating the German's defensive system astride the Bray-Corbie Road.<sup>24</sup> An instruction from 8th Australian Infantry Brigade informed that zero hour for the operation would be 12.30a.m. on the night of 28/29 July 1918.

Behind a creeping artillery barrage<sup>25</sup> the 29th Battalion and the 32nd Battalion, supported further south in another offensive operation, by the 53rd Battalion of the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade, advanced on a three-company frontage; the advance being executed in two waves. Later, a German prisoner was to declare, "we thought it (the attack) one of your (Australian) usual nightly shoots."<sup>26</sup>

On the right flank infantrymen from the 32nd Battalion found the wet conditions slowed their progress despite the tapes laid on the ground to guide the troops in the dark and the expected initial confusion of the attack. Despite the extra equipment and ammunition that each infantryman carried,27 the first line of the German position was reached soon after the artillery barrage was lifted, and the second wave passed through to the second line of trenches. Although a "great number" of German troops withdrew from the main defensive position there were fierce hand to hand encounters. Major Wark remarked, "good bayonet work was done in many instances and together the Bosche did not put up any opposition to our troops."28 Notwithstanding, the 32nd Battalion lost 6 men and suffered 32 additional casualties; it had killed an estimated 100 German soldiers and captured 2 German officers and 71 other ranks.

On the left flank the 29th Battalion met opposition on its extreme left. Both sides were soon engaged in bitter bayonet fighting but the 29th Battalion, "showed their superiority with this weapon and practically the whole of the front line troops opposite the 29th were killed". The Germans managed to get a machine gun into action but it was overrun and the crew killed with the garrison of the post numbering in all twenty.



At 12.50a.m., twenty minutes after the Australians crossed the start line, the success signal, a rifle grenade, red over red over red, was fired as the attacking brigade group reached the first objective; by I a.m. a signal was received by 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters that all objectives had been captured and mopping-up operations were in progress.<sup>30</sup>

Three small counter-attacks were reported — all being repelled. On the left flank the Germans rallied but were stopped by the Victorians of the 29th Battalion as two Lewis guns were brought into action. A greater threat came from German artillery and machine gun fire, which commenced shortly after the Australians reached the first objective and continued spasmodically throughout the night. However by 3a.m. the situation had quietened except for gas shelling of the communications trenches and battery areas.<sup>31</sup>

Dawn found the Australians occupying its objective on Beacon Hill. Unlike the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's defensive area, the German system of trenches was, for the most part, deep and narrow, containing in places deep dugouts. The Australians were impressed with the dry and well drained system. The 29th Battalion and the 32nd Battalion were not unscathed; officers had been killed and 16 other ranks had been killed, 3 officers had been wounded together with 141 other ranks, with 3 missing. Notwithstanding, the operation had been well planned and brilliantly executed.

Ninety-two German prisoners, including one officer, were escorted to the rear following searching. 32 A total of twenty-three machine guns and four minenwerfers were captured.

Following the operation German artillery shelled the Australian-held position at Morlan-court and the Brigade's defensive position, particularly that of the 30th Battalion which lost 8 men and 61 wounded. The Germans used aeroplanes to drop coloured flares to indicate the 30th Battalion's position, and both Private Dew and Private Laurence were killed when a minenwerfer landed directly on their dugout "blowing them to pieces." Nothing of either soldier was found for burial; total Australian casualties during the two days occupation in the Morlancourt sector were 266.

Tactically the operation was successful. An entire German front line, and support positions of three infantry battalions were put out of action and its defensive organisation captured. The 8th Australian Infantry Brigade now had command of the Morlancourt Valley and strong control of the high ground south of the Bray-Corbie Road. Clearly though the Brigade had no intention of holding the new position.

Australian Corps Order No.137<sup>33</sup> of 27 July 1918 instructed the Brigade it would be relieved by elements of the British 58th Division of the III Corps on 1 August 1918. Leaving manned observation posts, connected to the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's headquarters, and the Brigade Forward Station, by ladder lines and a chain of power buzzers, both the 29th Battalion and the 32nd Battalion returned to the Brigade's defensive perimeter surrounding Moricourt. Most were muddy, their puttees encased in yellow clay, and gaping rips in their green woollen tunics.<sup>34</sup> Wooden handles, taped to bayonet scabbards, flapped against tired legs, camouflage scrimage hiding the shine and shape of their bulbous steel

helmets. Many wore the vertical rectangle black and tan colour patch of the 29th Battalion on their left shoulder; Major Wark's tired infantrymen wore the tan and white rectangle of the 32nd Battalion.<sup>35</sup>

The 8th Australian Infantry Brigade had achieved two of its objectives, namely, to inflict loss on the enemy, and to disorganise the enemy's defensive organisation. The other planned objective, to improve its own position with a view to further offensive action, could hardly be termed an objective on the virtual eve of departure from the area, an event known on 27 July 1918.

If, as Major-General Fuller mooted, the operation jeopardized the Allied counter-offensive that was soon to be launched, on 8 August 1918, then the fault, if any, did not lie with Lieutenant Colonel McArthur for he did not know at that time that a counter-offensive was imminent. Nor did Brigadier Tivey. Both were, and intentionally, deceived into believing that the Canadian Corps were to relieve the Australian Corps in the line.<sup>36</sup> The instruction for this and the concealment of an Allied offensive is revealed in General Monash's Australian Corps Order dated 1 August 1918.<sup>37</sup>

The Morlancourt operation itself did not affect directly the counter-offensive. But Major-General Fuller argues that the disruption by the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade of the German positions compromised allied preparations and stiffened German resistance to the III Corps advance on 8 August 1918.38 General Sir Douglas Haig also alludes to a strong local attack by the German Army on 6 August 1918 south of Morlancourt leading to severe fighting, undoubtedly rendering the task of the III Corps more difficult in the launching of the offensive two days later. 39 Major-General Fuller asserts that this German incursion was ordered as a reprisal for the Australian operation of 29 July 1918.

The 8th Australian Infantry Brigade received its orders to withdraw from the front line on 31 July 1918; the relief was ordered to take place on 1 August 1918. A day early, the 8th East Surreys relieved the 32nd Battalion and the following day the British 58th Division commenced the relief of the 5th Australian Division. 40 The Australians withdrew to Querrieu and Allonville and the III Corps consolidated themselves in the old 5th Australian Division positions north of the Somme River. This position would cover the northern flank of the allied offensive shortly to be launched. South of the Somme River the 4th Australian

Division advanced into forward lines. From 1 August 1918, all easterly movement of troops and transport was made at night to deny the Germans any early indication that a general allied offensive was underway.<sup>41</sup>

But at 4.15a.m. on 6 August 1918 the German Army put down a heavy barrage of trench mortars and shrapnel on the trenches of the III Corps new position, localised about 300 yards south of Crump Lane to about the line of the Morlancourt-Corbie Road and followed it up with an attack with about three battalions. At the time the 8th London Regiment was in the process of relieving the 2nd Bedford Regiment. On a two company frontage the Germans attacked. A phalanx of grey penetrated about three lines of trenches; the Bedfords retreated against overwhelming pressure .42

A counter-attack by troops of the British 18th Division, III Corps, at 4.40a.m. the following day retook most of the British positions except a pocket of single trench line. In the centre sector of the allied forces, poised for the attack east of Amiens, the Australians observed with concern the battering on its left flank as the Germans attacked from the direction of Morlancourt.43 The Germans were from the 123rd Green Regiment of the 27th Division who had only just relieved the Prussians in the Morlancourt sector.44 The fresh German Regiment pressed home its attack on the British lines with great determination. They were far superior to the troops that opposed the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade on 29 July 1918 who had been described as physically poor and low in morale.

The attack by the 123rd Green Regiment gained, initially, forward British dumps and gun positions prepared for 8 August 1918 offensive.45 Because of the losses in this incursion the 56th Infantry Brigade, British 12th Division had to be replaced for 8 August 1918 operation; subsequent change to the artillery program, new gun positions and moving the start line 300 yards further west were all necessary, mildly inconvenient moves.

Major-General Fuller believed that this attack by the German 27th Division was a retaliatory action based on the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's 29 July 1918 attack on Morlancourt. There is little doubt that the German Army would have wanted to launch a successful counter attack (having had three local counter attacks repulsed on 29 July 1918) against the attackers of the Morlancourt sector. Reinforced with fresh troops that is exactly what occurred. There seems little doubt, however, that the British 58th Division would have

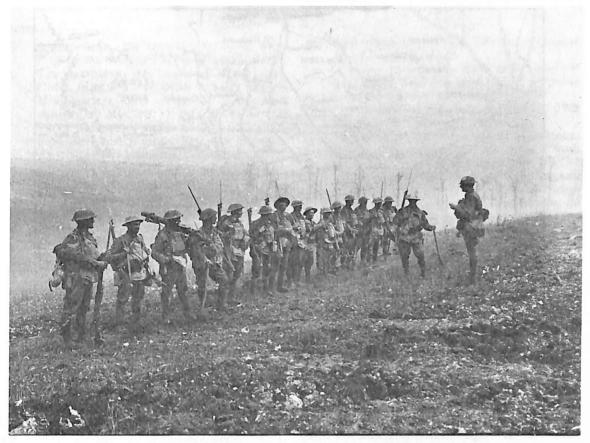
been attacked irrespective of the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's operation on 29 July 1918. The German Army, unaware of the imminent allied offensive, expected isolated local attacks such as that that had occurred at Morlancourt. 46 Early in August 1918 General Ludendorff, Chief of the German General Staff, realising that the German offensive of July 1918 had failed, suspended further offensive operation and reverted to the defensive on the whole front facing Amiens.

Importantly, General Ludendorff planned counter-strikes to local allied attacks, though on a smaller scale. These tactics support the view that the attack by the 123rd Green Regiment on 6 August 1918 was part of Ludendorff's overall strategy, not an act of retaliation as Major-General Fuller implied, whose target was the luckless British 58th Division who relieved the supposed culprit for the attack, the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Greater repercussions, resulting from 29 July 1918 Morlancourt operation, were to follow, according to Major-General Fuller.

The Allied counter-offensive, to disengage Amiens and free the Paris-Amiens Railway began at 4.20a.m. on 8 August 1918. Preceded by a bombardment of the main 2000 guns of the Fourth Army, the Australian Corps and the Canadian Corps, with flank protection provided, on the left by the British III Corps, and on the right, the First French Army, crossed the start line.47 The Australian Corps, attacked and successfully gained all of its objectives according to its allotted program for Day 1. The British III Corps had its advance, north of the Somme River, blunted by first class troops of the German 27th Division who had only just arrived in the line after eight weeks rest and who had already inflicted losses on the British 58th Division on 6 August 1918. There is little to suggest that the German's had respect, or were daunted, by the 58th Division's white, black and blue colour patch depicting an imposing fortress with a flag fluttering from its ramparts.48

Close to the Somme River, with tasks to portect the left flank of the Australian Corps, the 173rd and 174th Brigades of the British 58th Division had problems soon after crossing the start line at 4.20a.m. In dense fog, which did not clear until 10a.m. troops from both brigades intermixed and wandered aimlessly; German machine gun and rifle fire slowed their advance and added to the confusion. 49 However, despite this the woods of Gressaire were eventually taken, securing protection for the exposed flank of the Australians



Lieutenant Downes briefing his platoon of 29 Bn prior to attack near Warfusee – Abancourt on 8 August 1918. (photograph: Australian War Memorial)

advancing on the southern side of the Somme.

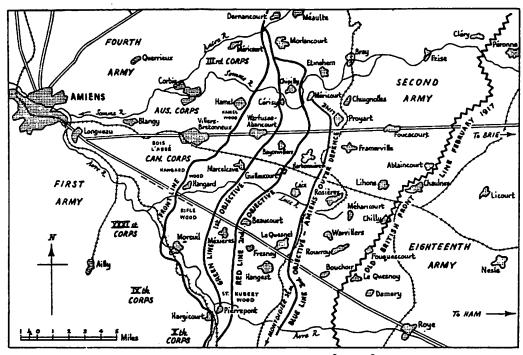
Incorrect aeroplane reports early in the day gave the 58th Division Headquarters false hopes that the 2/10 London Regiment held and commanded a bluff near Chipilly, a hook in the Somme River where the Germans established a strong defence against frontal, and British attack, directing enfilade fire against the Australian's exposed left flank. The men from the 2/10 London Regiment were only a handful and were forced to retreat in the face of heavy fire. With tenacity the 2/10 London Regiment continued to attack throughout the day and eventually, at 7.30p.m., took Chipilly; but they failed to take Morlancourt.<sup>50</sup> A vigorous German counterattack, however, recovered Chipilly.

The Germans were putting up strong resistance north of the Somme.<sup>51</sup> The exhausted German Division that had been relieved a few days earlier, and who were now resting in a region south-west of Peronne, were immediately mobilized by the Commander of the 2nd German Army.

Reserves were rushed forward by train. Bitter fighting for Chipilly and Morlancourt continued throughout the night and at dawn on 9 August 1918 the 175th Brigade of the British 58th Division, the 36th Brigade of the British 18th Division, supported by the American 33rd Division, launched repeated attacks and finally captured Morlancourt and took Chipilly village and cleared the Chipilly bend. Chipilly itself was eventually secured at 11p.m. on 9 August 1918.52

Despite German resistance and considerably better defence on 9 August 1918 the German 2nd Army was forced to retreat. The German 123rd Green Regiment had, however blunted the advance of III Corps. It was not until the evening of 9 August 1918, having suffered heavy casualties, including many Australians who had advanced on the exposed left flank, that the III Corps managed to penetrate the defences of the German 2nd Army.

Major-General Fuller is harsh in his assessment of the failure of the III Corps to fulfil its task:



BATTLE OF AMIENS, AUGUST 8, 1918

he asserts that it was largely, if not entirely, due to the Australian's Morlancourt raid on 29 July 1918.<sup>53</sup> General Monash is more critical of the failure of III Corps to reach their ultimate objective line and its inability to capture Chipilly and protect the security of the left flank of the Australian Corps.<sup>54</sup>

He suggested that while an internal inquiry might have been made to examine the reasons, no result is known. The official report was to the effect that the enemy on that front had resisted strongly, that fighting had been fierce and that no progress could be made.55 General Monash commented, however, that one was compelled to recognize that such language was often an euphemistic method of describing faulty staff co-ordination, or faulty local leadership.56 General Monash's assessment, compared with that of General Fuller's. appears not to be based on a slender connection between two dissimilar military events, one of which caused the failure of the other. Rather there were intrinsic reasons for the failure of the III Corps.

Firstly it was General Ludendorff's strategy of the local offensive that dictated the attack on the British III Corps position on 6 August 1918. This incursion was made by the German 27th Division, recently rested, with high morale and fresh in the line. Moreover, by chance, the 27th Division was positioned directly in the path to be taken by the British 58th Division, III Corps, in 8 August 1918 offensive. German strategy and local tactics combined to temporarily halt the advance of the British III Corps. Additionally, General Ludendorff's defensive plans, to halt the allies advancing east of Amiens, were more reason for the disruption to the 58th Division's preparations for 8 August 1918 offensive than a reprisal for the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade's attack on Morlancourt on 29 July 1918.

The Morlancourt Operation, notwithstanding the initiative displayed by Lietuenant Colonel McArthur, was a well-planned military operation having, as an unusual distinction, the imprimatur of no less than the Army Commander. It was a minor operation to remove German observation positions directing sniper and artillery fire onto an Australian battalion's defensive position. Major-General Fuller does its planners an injustice, firstly by labelling the operation as asinine, and secondly, linking the failure of III Corps on 8 August 1918 with the success of the Australian operation on Morlancourt on 29 July 1918.



#### Notes

- C.E.W. Bean, The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, Vol.VI, p.222.
- The instruction was contained in a Warning Order from 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters. refer: Period 10, Defence of Amiens (8 Mar. to 31 July 1918) Subject 10.14 Defence of Amiens 29/6 - 12/7/1918, 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Box 435, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- General Monash, Commander, Australian Corps, described General Hobbs as an outstanding citizen soldier. Hobbs had sound common sense and virtue of a large-hearted sympathy for all subordinate to him. See Sir John Monash, The Australian Victories in France in 1918, p.193.
- Period 10, Defence of Amiens (8 Mar. to 31 July 1918) Subject 10.15 Defence of Amiens 13-31 July 1918, 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Part 1 Brigade Hqrs, Box 435, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- Subject 12.2 Final offensive 5-12 August 1918 58th Division III Corps Right Division, Box 485/8, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- This operation was to involve the 29, 30, 31 and 32nd Battalions. It did not, however, proceed. refer, Order No.184, 7 July 1918, Period 10, Defence of Amiens (8 Mar. to 31 July 1918) Subject 10.14 Defence of Amiens 29/6 12/7/18. 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Box 435, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- 7. Active fighting patrols normally consisted of an officer and about 15 other ranks with a Lewis Gun. refer, Period 10, Defence of Amiens (8 Mar. to 31 July 1918) Subject 10.15 Defence of Amiens 13-31 July 1918. 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 2, 29th A.I. Battalion, Box 435, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- 8. 58th Division, III Corps, Right Division, Box 485/8, op. cit.
- 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 2, 29th A.I. Battalion, Box 435, op. cit. Note, although the order was not dated it was not marked as a "draft".
- 10. 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 1 Brigade Hqrs, Box 435, op. cit.
- 11. Note: This could have meant that Brigadier Tivey had been informed of the likely general offensive to be launched in a matter of days. Thus a conscious decision was being taken to weaken enemy positions to pave the way for that offensive.
- 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 1, Brigade Hqrs. Box 435, op. cit.

- 13. F.M. Cutlack, (ed), War Letters of General Monash, p.253. op.cit.
- A sector immediately north of Morlancourt which had been the objective of proposed Brigade operation on 7 July 1918.
- 8th Australian Inf. Brigade, Part 2, 29th
   A.I. Battalion, Box 435, op. cit.
- 16. Note: It would appear that Lieutenant Colonel McArthur had his own "bush telegraph". Australian Corps Order No.135 did not appear until 24 July 1918, "advised that the 58th Division (British) III Corps would relieve the 5th Australian Division on the night of 27/28 July. Comment This was cancelled (on that date) owing to the subsequent Morlancourt operation.
- 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Part 1 Brigade Hqrs, Box 435, op. cit.
- Note: This was essentially the 29th Battalion's original proposal.
- 5th Australian Division General Staff, Box 425/1, op. cit.
- 20. Bean, op. cit., p.515.
- Period 10 Defence of Amiens (8 March to 31 July 1918) Subject 10.15 Defence of Amiens 13-31 July 1918. 8th Inf. Brigade, Part 3, 30 A.I. Battalion, 31 A.I. Battalion, 32 A.I. Battalion, 8 A.L.M. Bty, Box 435, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- 22. 5th Australian Division General Staff, Box 425/1, op. cit.
- 23. 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 2 29th A.I. Battalion, Box 435, op. cit.
- 24. Aust. Corps, General Staff, Box 361/4, op.cit.
- 25. At zero hour allied 18 pounders bombarded the German positions for three minutes. At zero plus 3 minutes the barrage was to creep forward at the rate of 100 yards in two minutes. refer: 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Part 1. Brigade Hqrs, Box 435, op. cit.
- 58th Division, III Corps, right division, Box 485/8 op. cit.
- 27. Each infantryman carried 220 rounds of .303 ball ammunition, two 36m grenades, one No.5 grenade, and two aeroplane flares. In addition 50 per cent of troops carried either a pick or a shovel.
- 28. There are varying Australian versions how the German soldier reacted. In War News, 29 July 1918, it was reported, "Three weak (Australian) Battalions plus two companies (total 1400) captured two strongly defended enemy lines". refer, 5th Australian Division General Staff, Box 425/1, op.cit.
- 29. 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 3, 30 A.I. Battalion, 31 Battalion, 32 A.I. Battalion, 8 A.L.M. Bty, Box 435, op. cit.

- The Regimental Signal Officer had been prepared for any emergency in communications including the use of pigeons.
- 31. 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Part 2, 29th A.I. Battalion, Box 435, op. cit.
- 32. The War Diary of the 5th Australian Division records that 4 officers and 127 other ranks were captured. This would have included prisoners taken by the 14th Infantry Brigade. refer: 5th Australian Division General Staff, Box 425/1, op.cit.
- 33. This superseded Australian Corps Order No. 135 of 24 July 1918 that ordered the relief of the 5th Australian Division on the night of 27/28 July 1918. refer: Australian Corps General Staff, Box 361/4, op.cit.
- 34. The uniform and equipment worn by an infantryman of the 29th Battalion, who fought in the Morlancourt operation, is on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. In his haversack were carried iron rations, 24 hour rations and one tin of solidified alcohol (for heating food). Worn on his chest was a box respirator, carried at the alert; not shown in the display, he carried a steel entrenching tool tucked behind the respirator as protection against small arms fire. Also carried was a cape shelter (in the haversack) and two sandbags under braces across the back. refer; 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, Part 3, 30 A.I. Battalion, 31 A.I. Battalion, 32 Battalion, 8 A.L.M. Bty, Box 435,
- refer; Distinguishing Badges of the Australian Imperial Force, "The Weekly Times," 5 April 1919.
- 36. Monash, op. cit., pp. 98-99.
- 37. It was not until 6 August 1918, in a note to all Australian Corps Divisional Commanders, that General Monash directed that all troops be informed in the "forenoon of 7 August" of the offensive. refer: Period 12 Final Offensive (1 August to November 18) Subject 12.1 Final offensive 1-4 August 1918. Aust. Corps General Staff, Box 488, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- 38. Fuller, op. cit., pp. 376-377.
  39. Boraston, op. cit., p. 260.
- Australian Corps General Staff, Box 361/4, op. cit.
- Australian Corps Battle Instruction No.2, refer: Period 12, Final Offensive (1 August to November 18), Subject 12.1 Final offensive 1-4 August 1918, Aust. Corps General Staff, Part 1, Box 488, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- 42. Subject 12.2 Final Offensive, 5-12 August 1918, 58th Division, III Corps, right division, Box 485/8, Supplementary File, Records, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

- This information was relayed by radio from Australian Corps Headquarters to 1st Australian Division. refer: Aust. Corps General Staff, Box 488, op. cit.
- 44. Australian Corps General Staff, Part 2, Box 488. op.cit.
- 45. 58th Division, III Corps, right division, Box 485/8, Supplementary File, op.cit. note: Two artillerymen of the 50th Divisional Artillery were captured by the Germans and it was feared that Germans would learn of 8 August 1918 offensive.
- Ludendorff, General, My War Memories, 1914-18, p.678.
- 47. Australian Corps Battle Instruction No.1, of 1 August 1918 gave the Corps the order "The Australian Corps will attack the enemy from the Villiers Bretonneux-Chailnes Railway exclusive to the River Somme inclusive," refer. Australian Corps General Staff, Box 488, op.cit.
- 48. Moore, William, See How They Run, p.178.
- 49. 58th Division, III Corps, right division, Box 485/8, op. cit.
- Despite criticism of faulty staff co ordination, General Monash did not question the bravery of the British 58th Division, refer; Monash, op. cit., p. 127.
- 51. Nonetheless, General Ludendorff was to state "August 8 was the black day of the German Army in the history of the war". refer, Ludendorff, op.cit., p.679.
- 52. 58th Division, III Corps, right division, Box 485/8, op. cit.
- 53. Fuller, op. cit., p.377.
- 54. Monash, op. cit., p. 126.
- 55. Monash, op. cit., p. 126.
- 56. ibid, p.127.

Peter Stanley(ed)

## **RQMS NEAVES AT POZIERES**

Henry Herbert Neaves was born at Wollongong in September 1892 and enlisted in the AIF on 21 May 1915. He was posted as a reinforcement to the 13th Battalion which he joined in October 1915. In March 1916 Neaves transferred to the 45th Battalion as Quartermaster. Commissioned in February 1917 he became a full lieutenant on 21 June, was wounded in August 1918 and, after promotion to captain in May 1919, returned to Australia the August after Armistice Day. Captain Neaves became Chief Clerk in the Crown Solicitor's Office in Sydney and died on 22 February 1933.

His dairy was transcribed by the Crown Solicitor's Office and donated to the Australian War Memorial by his widow. It is now a part of the Memorial's Donated Records Collection.

On the night of the 4th we marched through Albert to Tara Hill where we bivouaced for the night on the ground previously occupied by the 20th Bn. As we passed through Albert, Fritz put several shells into the town but none of them did any damage to us. As we were going up we passed an Australian Unit coming out and many were the comments and remarks they passed. They wanted to know "What Unit are you" "When did you come over" "Are you war babies" "You'll be sorry you came" and such like. There was one of our aeroplanes just over the hill from this position that had been brought down by the Bosche and hundreds of the men went across and inspected it. Of course in these days aeroplanes were not so common as afterwards and this was the first one that I had seen that had been brought down.

All battle equipment was issued out at Tara Hill and on 5 August we relieved the 17th, 18th and 19th Battalions from their position of the front line (Map refce. Martinpuich 1/20,000 Front line from X6b 4½ 1 to R 35 c.i.4.). The relief took place under very heavy hostile artillery fire. The Yorkshires were on our right flank and the 48th Bn. on our left.

The cookers and water carts were taken forward after dark and there seemed to be a bit of a mix-up as to where they were to go. The Bn. that was on the Hqrs. advised that they should be back at Sausage Gully, a mile farther back, but after some discussion it was decided to dig places for them just forward of Bn. Hqrs. They were hidden as much as possible during the night and early in the morning a possie was commenced for them. It was finished during the day and the kitchens were then out of sight. They were not dug in however before some damage was done. One cooker was hit the first night and several dixies were blown to atoms. The cooks went on with their work very well during the whole of the time in the line and the men in the line were fed exceptionally well considering the amount of shelling that had to be put up with and the conditions under which the cooks were working. I must say that our Bn. fared equally as well as any Bn. and better than a good many, for food in the front line during this very strenuous period.

The main store remained in Albert and I had an advanced dump at Bn. Hqrs. and with me were George Swift and Jim Bowen and both of these chaps worked very well. The rations were brought up to me in bulk and then they were split up into Coys. and then Platoons and sent off to them to wherever they were located. At first the wagons used to arrive at night but the shelling got so heavy that it was decided to have the rations brought up in the early morning. This proved to be a much better arrangement as less shelling was met with on the way up and it was usually quieter round head-quarters about that time.

Great difficulty was experienced here with water and a constant supervision had to be kept on the supply. All the water was drawn from Sausage Gully in the carts and was brought to the cook house and the advanced dump. At the dump petrol tins were kept filled and despatched to the men forward. Heavy shelling was frequently met with by watermen and often they were blocked for an hour or two. Several rows with 48th Bn. over water.

So many things were crammed into the next few days that it is hard to describe them.

On the way up we passed through Becourt then along Sausage Gully, past Contalmaison to just behind Pozieres. Sausage Gully I shall never forget. It was a great hive of business, guns were placed axle to axle everywhere and as we passed along they were throwing forward their projectiles of destruction and death. What turmoil, what confusion and what noise - it was almost deafening. You would be passing along the track in front of a Battery, someone would halt you, the battery would fire a salvo and on you would move again to go through the same performance further along. All the time this was going on Fritz was also having a share in the business and he was ploughing up the earth here there and everywhere, sometimes doing damage at other times doing no harm.

Near the top of Sausage Gully there was more confusion. Almost on the crest of the hill at the cookers, water carts, and limbers of the Bde. being relieved were mixed up together, the road was blocked with wagons and horses and men going in and coming out, and such a mix up cannot be imagined. I was thanking my lucky stars that we had not to take over this position because I thought if he starts shelling here there is bound to be a great slaughter as there was practically no shelter. After we got towards Contalmaison there was less traffic and as we took forward our wagons many of the men coming out wanted to know where they were being taken and when told said "You are mad they will be blown to blazes". No cookers had previously been taken forward of Sausage Gully. After off loading the rations and

getting things fixed up at the cook house I looked round for a suitable place to dig in. There was an old German trench just alongside the dump so I got fixed up in an old gun pit in the trench. As long as one had a covering over his head he felt a bit safe but the covering in this gun pit was actually of no use although it seemed safe. It consisted of a couple of big thick girders, a sheet of iron and several Fritz ammunition baskets. The noise and confusion here was also something terrible. All night long our artillery kept up an incessant bombardment, the shells were whizzing overhead chasing one another, and in addition Fritz's shells were landing everywhere and the explosions of these were very great. Everywhere the ground and trenches were being ploughed up. Men were being hit, others calling for stretchers, these would be procured, the men would be carried to the R.A.P. and there dealt with by the M.O. All night it seemed as though chaps were calling out for stretcher bearers. The men from the Bns. being relieved were coming out all night, they were tired and absolutely done for, and with these chaps and our own men the place was rather congested. Men lay down wherever they could find a bit of trench, but of course it was difficult to get sleep.

The 48th Bn. brought their cookers and water carts up at about 9p.m. on this first night and the officer in charge was advised to take them and get them dug in alongside ours. For some reason or other he wouldn't do this and left them in the open between my dump and Hqrs. so that they could be dug in next morning. This of course meant that there was to be a good deal of traffic round this particular spot and things didn't seem too healthy. A place was dug for these cookers early the following morning and they were fairly well screened.

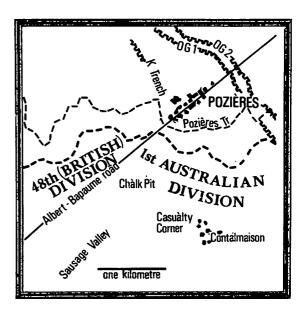
The Store remained in this place until the 12th when it moved back to Sausage Gully.

The Battalion had a very rough time right from leaving Tara Hill. There was much confusion on taking over owing to the very heavy bombardment put down by Fritz and by the absence of enough guide from the Bns. being relieved. The position taken over had only been captured from Fritz that morning and our job was to consolidate and hold it. This was always a rotten job and the general impression is that it is much easier to capture a position than to consolidate and hold it afterwards. However that was our job and our job we did. Fritz put over high explosive shells and shrapnel all night and our casualties were heavy. Many of our old 13th hands who had come

through from the Peninsula unscratched were knocked out on his first night. Bill Bailey, McNaught and Charlie Thompson were amongst the first to go. The casualties up till midday on the 6th were Major Chapman, 2nd Lieutenant Draper and 30 other ranks killed and 70 other ranks wounded. This was a very heavy toll for less than a day in the line.

At 4.30a.m. on the 6th Fritz delivered a weak counter attack but this was easily repulsed and several prisoners were taken. The same afternoon B. Coy. assisted the British in their attack on Munster Ally. This operation was very successful and 30 prisoners were taken. The success of this operation was largely due to the work and initiative of our men. The Tommies went over without sufficient ammunition and bombs and our boys organised carrying parties for them and kept them supplied with the necessary explosives as well as taking a very active part in the actual fighting. At 4.30a.m. on the 7th the enemy attempted another weak counter attack which was easily repulsed. C. and D. Coys. on the left were relieved by A. Coy. On the 8th the 46th Bn. relieved us and the Bn. went into strong points in the support trenches. This position was forward of Hqrs. who remained where they were. Early on the morning of the 8th a number of men of C. Coy. who had just been relieved from the line got into the support trenches to settle down for the rest of the night and have a good rest when Fritz got on to a bomb dump near by and blew it up. Capt. Drinkwater and about 15 men were killed as the result of this dump going up, and it was a terrible sight to see next morning. The bosches artillery was particularly severe all the time that we were in the line, and it was a pitiful sight to see the men as they were wounded and tired out. All kinds and descriptions of wounds were to be seen but I think some of the shell shock cases were as bad as any. The wounded were coming all the time and the stretcher bearers and A.M.C. staff had a particularly busy time. Great admiration was felt for the work done by our M.O. Capt. Elwell. Previously in Egypt and France everyone had regarded him as being very show and much like an old woman but after his work on the first night at Pozieres and subsequent nights he was regarded as a wonder and went up in the estimation of all. Despite all the shelling that was going on he at all times remained cool and calm and would very quietly say "bring in the next man" whilst shells were bursting overhead and round about. Many times I thought the R.A.P. would be blown in but luckily it

escaped. Just in front of Hqrs. and between there and the cookers a number of tommies came up to dig gun pits, but the first from Fritz's artillery was too hot for them and after half completing the job they went away but not before at least half of them had been skittled. Needless to say we were all glad when they knocked off because we had quite enough shelling there as it was without batteries being put in to draw more crabs. I think one of the worst sights I saw during the whole of the period was the morning the 48th cookers were blown up. Ern. Tuson, Bill Alabaster, Ernie Lind, Simmie and I were sitting down having a snack at breakfast time. Fritz was shelling round about but the shells were lobbing some distance away. A number of men were standing round the cookers getting breakfast when all at once a Fritzie shell hit the sandbags behind the cookers and exploded in the air. Such destruction and damage is inconceivable, men were blown to pieces, heads, legs, arms were blown everywhere, two cookers were smashed to smithereens, and food was blown everywhere. One could never imagine such a sight. We were sitting about 15 yards away from all this destruction and needless to say were smothered in dirt and dust. Altogether 28 men were killed and 16 wounded by this shell. To show the wonderful luck some chaps have I will just mention one little incident. Bob Graham (R.Q.M.S. 48th Bn.) and the R.S.M. of the 48th



were walking towards their cookers when Bob suddenly left the R.S.M. and walked towards where we were sitting. They had only taken a few steps each when the shell exploded. The R.S.M. was killed and Bob was untouched. The whole time in was brimful of narrow escapes and it seemed wonderful how anyone managed to escape. One night a number of officers (including Col. Herring, Capt. Lee Adjutant, Capt. Howden, Lts. Lance Young, McIntyre and Cowie) Ernie Lind and myself were in the gun pit where the S.A.A. and bombs were stored. The C.O. was giving instructions to an Engineer Officer as to a trench that had to be dug forward of the front line. Shells were lobbing round about and all at once one whizzed into our dugout and buried itself just under W. McIntyre's batman who was lying down. Luckily it was a dud and didn't explode. When the dust and dirt cleared away it was found that only the chap who was lying down was hurt, although I got a clout on the side of the head with a piece of timber that I didn't forget for several days. The batman was lying on a waterproof sheet and blanket and these were taken right from under him and buried with the shell.

It was very funny at times to see us, when shells were exploding close by, ducking behind bits of boxes or anything at all, sometimes a watercart. These of course would be of no real value but they gave one the feeling of security. Curly Slee gave me quite a lot of assistance during these days with the water for the front line and George Swift and Bowen were invaluable to me. Mick McGlinchey also did good work and several times when things were brisk he voluntarily went on stretcher bearing.

The two cooks that we had cooking for Hqrs. and A.M.C. and others round about were Charlie Bowes and Wagga. They were two old chaps of between 50 and 60 years of age and should never have been at the war. In the morning they were always very frightened but during the day from some place or other they managed to get some rum, by midday they were less frightened and very talkative and by 5 o'clock they were just able to make tea and almost drunk. Many were the arguments the two had and they eased the strain rather considerably as they were most amusing.

Fritz kept up a continual fire. There was a different feeling when he switched his guns off your particular sector and commenced to pounder away elsewhere. The whole of the country was covered with shell holes and it was difficult to find ground a yard square without a shell hole. Pozieres itself was absolutely in ruins. I don't think that

one brick remained on top of another. A very prominent point just in front of our lines was the windmill but nothing whatever remained of it, the only way of locating where it once stood was by the mound of earth at that particular spot. Contalmaison was also in ruins, but here there were the stumps of a few trees and parts of buildings were still standing.

At this time our aeroplanes were very busy and they did quite a lot of work directing artillery fire. I often wondered when a heavy barrage was on why these planes never got hit with our own shells because hundreds and hundreds of shells were going over and the planes very often were not up too high. Fritz planes too paid many visits over our lines but the general impression was that we held the supremacy of the air. Both our captive balloons and Fritz's were up continually at this time. We of course were more concerned with those of the Bosche. He had one balloon up which seemed to have a great eye turned on our sector all the time and when it was up movement was restricted as much as possible and all cover was taken advantage of. At this time, however, our planes had the German Balloon Section bluffed. His balloons used to be up and immediately one of our planes went over towards his lines you would see the balloons being pulled down. About half a dozen balloons were brought down while we were in the line.

The 48th Bn. were relieved from the line on the night of the 10th and they moved back. All our signalling stores were packed up ready to be moved out and were stacked near my dump. On the morning of the 11th these boxes were missed and it was thought that possibly the 48th had taken them away by mistake. Enquiries were made but the gear could not be traced, a search was made everywhere without success. During the night a shell had lobbed just alongside some other cases that were stacked up but no one thought that the signalling gear had been blown up because not a trace of the box or equipment could be seen. Late that afternoon, however, the mystery was solved by the finding of a piece of leather from a telephone case marked 45th Bn., some 200 yds. away. This put us on to a clue and a thorough search was then made in the vicinity and a number of pieces of equipment were found, but none of these were closer than 50 yards from where they were blown up. If the piece of leather had not been discovered the box of telephone gear would have remained a mystery because so completely had everything disappeared that we did not

think that it had been blown up. I afterwards learnt that two chaps, who had been imbibing too freely on rum, were sleeping on the other side of these boxes; when the shell exploded they quickly sobered up and cleared off for a bit of shelter.

On 12 August the Bn. was relieved in the front line, and moved to reserve trenches at the top of Sausage Gully. We were only in this position for a little while but the strain wasn't nearly so great as in the front line and the enemy shelling was less severe, although there was a good deal more noise from our own guns as we were right amongst the 60 pounders, and they were very noisy. The Bn. had one or two casualties whilst here from one of our guns. There was an 18 pounder firing from near the water tanks and continually shells from this gun were dropping short. One of these shells burst in one of our trenches and wounded two men. Whilst the Bn. was in this position a number of us went across to La Boiselle to see the huge crater that was made when a mine was exploded there. The explosion must have been tremendous and nothing could have lived in the vicinity. The crater was fully 180 feet across and 60 feet deep, and when the mine exploded it must have been responsible for hundreds of lives.

The stay in the reserve trenches was short and sweet and early on the morning of 14 August the Bn. relieved the 46th Bn. in the firing line. The relief was completed by 8a.m. and without casualties. Our sector this time was a little to the left of that previously occupied and the C.O. was torward of his previous Hqrs. although the remainder

of Hars, was in the same position as formerly. In the afternoon the Germans put down a very heavy bombardment on our front line and communication trenches but the night was comparatively quiet. Captain Perry was wounded in the afternoon. Curly Slee gave a hand to carry him to the R.A.P. and I afterwards had a varn with Curly who was feeling rather tired and worn out after the strenuous time in. I told Curly that we were being relieved the following morning and he was quite cheered up and said "Oh, I'll be able to stick that alright". About half an hour later I heard that he had been killed. He was a splendid soldier and looked after his men like a mother and we who knew him felt the blow and were deeply grieved at losing such a good pal.

It was with great joy that the trenches were left on the 15th when we were relieved by the 5th Bn. The relief was completed by midday and the Bn. moved back to Albert and bivouaced for the night over from the brickfields. The time in the line was most strenuous and very often was a vertiable hell. Our casualties were very heavy and we lost some of our oldest and best soldiers. The casualties were:—

Killed: 9 officers, 84 O.Rs. Wounded: 7 officers, 337 O/Ranks.

Missing: 10 O/Ranks.

Died of Wounds: 5 O/Ranks.



Colin Simpson

## THE "BOER AMMUNITION" COLLECTION OF COLONEL HOWLAND

When the First South Australian Contingent sailed for South Africa on 2 November 1899 as the State's initial contribution to the Boer War it was under the command of Captain Frederick Henry Howland. Frederick Howland, then 36, had served for 3 years as a sapper in the First Middlesex Engineers before his departure for Australia in 1883. Two years later he joined the South Australian Company of Volunteers with the

Frederick Henry Howland photographed circa 1903 wearing his Queen's South Africa Medal (5 bars) and Volunteer Officers Decoration.

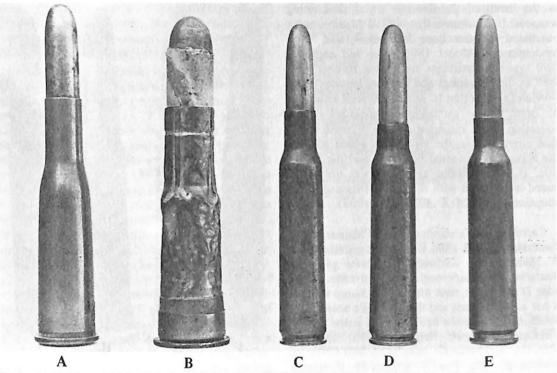
rank of Lance-Corporal and obtained his commission as a Lieutenant in 1891 and was promoted to Captain in 1893.

Captain Howland was present at the taking of Johannesburg (31 May 1900) and Pretoria (5 June 1900), at the battle of Diamond Hill (11-12 June 1900) and at Belfast (27 August 1900) the last set-piece battle of any size in the war. He saw active service on the border between the Transvaal and Portugese East Africa and was promoted to Major in the British forces on 5 September 1900 by Lieutenant-General R. Pole-Carew. At the termination of its 12 months service in South Africa the Contingent sailed for Australia arriving in Adelaide on 30 November 1900.

Major Howland continued in military service and in 1907 was appointed to command the South Australian Infantry Regiment. He volunteered for active service in World War One and following his retirement with the rank of Colonel he lived in Mount Gambier until his death in 1952.

When he returned from the South African War Major Howland brought a small collection of souvenirs and subsequently mounted 23 assorted unit badges, fifteen cartridges and various spent bullets and pieces of shrapnel onto a small (42 x 31cm) display board. To the casual observer the display would probably pass as an assortment of wartime odds and ends, but closer inspection shows that it represents rather selective collecting. This article deals only with the cartridges which Howland mounted under a small caption bearing the words "BOER AMMUNITION". The wording itself is significant, as will become evident below, and is interpreted to mean that all the cartridges displayed were collected in the theatre of war and hence were used against the British Forces.

Howland's cartridge collection contains examples from all of the 5 types of rifles known to



Boer ammunition: A - 8 mm Guedes; B - 577/450 Martini-Henry; C - 7 x 57 Mauser; D - 7 x 54 Mauser; E - 6.5 mm Krag (Approx. true scale

have been "officially" purchased by the Boer Republics (both the South African Republic – ZAR, and the Orange Free State – OVS), during their arms buildup prior to the outbreak of the Second Boer War on 11 October 1899.

After the abortive Jameson Raid in December 1895 the government of the ZAR considered the procurement of arms a matter of urgency. Apparently more through haste than sound deliberation they acquired some 8mm Guedes rifles. The Guedes single shot rifle was made by Steyr (Austria) specifically for the Portugese Government, but several thousand became available for external purchase when it was superceded by magazine weapons1. At the outbreak of the war 6150 Guedes rifles are known to have been purchased together with some 7 million blackpowder and 500,000 smokeless powder, cartridges<sup>2</sup>. Cartridge A is an 8 x 60mm round for the Guedes rifle. It is of unknown manufacture but bears a headstamp of .96, if this represents a date stamp (1896) it is probably a smokeless powder variety<sup>3</sup>.

Personal arms, as a basic tool for survival, had always played a significant role in the life of the

Boers. Among the great variety of arms disseminated among the population various types of Martini - Henry and Westley Richards weapons were much favoured. It was not surprising then that when more thought had been given to the purchase of specific arms an order was placed for the Westley Richards No2473 improved Martini -Henry rifles chambered for the 577/450 cartridge. The rifles subsequently supplied consisted of both this version and also older Martini - Henry types which fired the same cartridge. Altogether the Boer States purchased 43752 Martini - Henry rifles between 1896 and 18992 Cartridge B is a standard rolled case variety for the Martini -Henry rifle. The very thin sheet brass of the case is evident from the several dents. It bears no headstamp or inspection hole but has the characteristics of the standard Martini - Henry Mark III round4 issued to the British forces from 1873 until that rifle was replaced by .303 calibre arms after 1888.

Probably the best publicised personal weapon used by the Boers was the 7mm Mauser. Almost all contemporary literature on the war makes some reference to that arm and there is no denying that

in the hands of the Boers it was a devastating weapon. It is known that 49810 Mausers were purchased by the Boer Republics<sup>2</sup>, and were predominantly Model 1896 rifles and carbines. Two types of cartridges are known to have been used in these weapons and both are represented in Howland's collection (C and D). Several examples of 7mm Mauser cartridges are included in the collection, some mounted in their 5 round magazine charger clips, the innovation which allowed the Mauser an increased firepower over the British rifle. (Charger loading capability was not introduced into service with the British forces until the adoption of the SMLE .303 rifle in 1903).

Cartridge C is a standard 7 x 57 Mauser round (headstamped DM 1896 K) and was manufactured in 1896 at the Karlsruhe munitions plant of Deutsche Metallpatronenfabrik, Germany. Cartridge D is a much rarer Mauser 7 x 54mm variety. It has a shorter case and the cartridges noted from South Africa bear the headstamp of either F.N.93 (Fabrique National, Belgium, 1893) or D.M. 1896 F y A. Howland's samples all bear the latter headstamp. The F y A apparently represents Fusils y Ametralladoras (for rifles and machineguns) and were most likely produced in the DM factories by necking down 7.65 x 54mm Argentine Mauser cartridge cases<sup>3</sup>.

The ZAR purchased 100 Norwegian Krag Jorgensen rifles<sup>2</sup> and a rimless 6.5 x 55mm cartridge (E) is believed to be from the ammunition supplied with those weapons. The cartridge illustrated bears the headstamp RWS \* T \*. The significance of the T is unknown, RWS indicated Rheinisch Westfalische Sprengstoff of Nuremburg and has been noted on other Krag ammunition<sup>4</sup>.

For the British and Colonial troops the Boer War was fought with .303 calibre Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles and carbines. In 1893 the British had adopted the solid ball, cordite loaded Mark II .303 cartridge which, though well designed, lacked stopping power<sup>6</sup>. The British had achieved better stopping power by using .303 expanding bullets against non-white adversaries on the North West Frontier and in the Sudan. After much experimentation they adopted in 1897 the Mark IV hollow-pointed expanding bullet as the standard round. The use of expanding bullets was internationally outlawed in July 1899 by the Hague Peace Convention. Though the British continued to manufacture and develop expanding bullets they experienced some operational problems



Varieties of .303 expanding bullets in Howland's *BOER AMMUNITION* collection.

when the bullets were used in badly fouled barrels. This resulted in the Mark IV being declared unserviceable in mid 1899, and some 66 million rounds (40% of total reserves) were withdrawn from service<sup>7</sup>. The British thus resorted to using the obsolete Mark II as their standard cartridge for the Boer War<sup>6</sup>.

The Boers were not altogether unfamiliar with the .303 Lee-Metford and prior to the outbreak of the war had acquired 2730 of them2. During the war the effects of British blockades, and loss of equipment due to capture and abandonment, severely reduced the Boer arms and ammunition supplies. As the war progressed they came to rely on captured British munitions. During the guerilla phase of the war Reitz noted that to replenish ammunition it became a regular practice to trail British columns (sometimes for up to a week) and collect dropped rounds8. However the Boers obviously had other supply sources for .303 ammunition. In his collection of Boer ammunition Howland had 5 different .303 cartridges, four of the rounds (illustrated) are varieties of expanding. bullets, (the fifth was a commercially produced round for use in Maxim machine guns). It is interesting that no examples of the standard British Mark II cartridges were included.

Cartridge F is the British Mark IV hollow point .303 headstamp R L (Royal Laboratories Woolwich), and presumably originally captured from the British by the Boers. It is not known how many of these cartridges were in South Africa at the outbreak of war. In the summer of 1899 four million Mark IV cartridges were sent there by the war office<sup>7</sup>. On 15 July 1899 an order was sent to the General Officer Commanding in South Africa to the effect that on mobilisation (against the Boers) only Mark II ammunition was to be used<sup>6</sup>. Six days after the declaration of war another order was sent directing that all hollow point ammunition should be sent back to England<sup>7</sup>. Despite such orders there is ample evidence to show that occasionally incidents involving the use of expanding bullets occured on both sides and allegations of the use of "dum dums" caused much heated debate at the time<sup>6</sup>, <sup>9</sup>. In such debate the term "dum dum" was applied to any type of expanding bullet, though technically it refers to jacketed bullets with an exposed lead tip. Many varieties of expanding bullets were noted amongst Boer ammunition. Winston Churchill writing during the advance to Ladysmith commented that British medical officers had collected six types of expanding bullets used by the Boers and had tried to classify the wounds that each produced.10

Cartridges G, H and I are all expanding bullet types and all of British commercial manufacture, presumably intended originally as sporting rounds for big game. Bullet G (headstamped Eley London) is similar to the Mark IV though the hollow in the nose is wider and deeper. Bullet H is a soft nosed variety produced by Kynoch (headstamped K I) in which the front one third of the bullet is unjacketed lead. (Mauser 7 x 57 cartridges with almost identical amounts of exposed lead and headstamped D were collected by other South Australian soldiers in the war (examples are on display in the Boer War collection of the Fort Largs Police Academy Museum, Adelaide). Bullet I is a split jacket variety made by Eley Brothers, London (headstamped EB). It has a nickel jacket, a flat nose (produced by grinding down until lead is exposed) and 4 scores, or splits, 90° apart each extending for 14mm down the length of the jacket. Churchill observed boxes of this ammunthe Boer trenches after the battle of Inniskilling Hill (24 February 1900) near Colenso.

Game hunters had informed him that they considered the split jacket bullet to be "the most severe variety of its kind yet invented" 10.

This then documents some of the history associated with the items in Colonel Howland's Boer ammunitin Collection. It had obviously been assembled by an observant eye and though it does not contain examples of all cartridges used by the Boers it is representative of the more historically sifnificant types. Grateful acknowledgement is extended to Tony Harris of Magill, Adelaide, for his co-operation and assistance in the preparation of this article.

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Peter Burness

## A GRAND OLD SOLDIER

Recently a veteran of the 1914-18 War donated his late father's medals to the Australian War Memorial. The event was remarkable in that his father had served in the Crimean War.

The three medals are evidence of the service of William Raymond in the British Army and the Victorian Colonial Forces. They are the Crimean Medal with bar "Sebastopol", the Turkish Crimea Medal, and the Victorian Volunteer Long and Efficient Service Medal.

William Raymond was the recipient of this interesting group of medals. He had been born on 31 December 1836 and later joined the British Army. He served in the Crimea as a bombardier with the 5th Battalion Royal Artillery. His family recall that he would tell of carrying sick and wounded men during the war and claimed that the rum ration kept him in good health.

Raymond came to Australia in 1863, sailing from Southampton on the "Ivanhoe". He settled in Victoria and duly joined the local artillery volunteers. He did not stay long with the artillery and subsequently transferred to the Victorian Naval Reserves.

A photograph from the studio of Batchelder & O'Neill, one of the earliest Melbourne quality studios, shows Raymond in Victorian Naval uniform. It shows him wearing his Crimea medals, the Five Years Badge, and a musketry badge for 1878. In 1884 he was awarded the Long and Efficient Service Medal for 15 years service in the Victorian Forces.

William Raymond's contribution to the Military Forces did not cease with his retirement. During the 1914-18 War, when he was in his eighties, he had three sons serving with the AIF.

This grand old soldier died on 10 September



William Raymond, veteran of the Crimean War, in the uniform of the Victorian Naval Reserves C.1880.

Hans Zwillenberg

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S ARMY PART FOUR

South Australia had nine military commandants before federation. Their task had not been easy, since the government often failed to make its policy clear, while their own professionalism, until the arrival of Downes, tended to fall far short of the required standards. Nor did the need for combining military efficiency with concessions which had to be made to the citizen soldier, simplify matters. It was also unfortunate that accusations of being '... War Office pets or ne'er-do-wells', or that officers above field rank were 'rusty' by the time they reached the Colony, were sometimes levelled at serving or ex-Imperial officers and, more unfortunately still, were often true161.

From the early sixties, officer selection in South Australia was based on the results of competitive examinations, not the applicant's social status, contrary to the English precedent of 'gentlemen first and soldiers afterwards'. In the matter of selecting a commandant, however, especially in the early part of the century, the government had little choice. It could either be one of a small number of colonial officers, with little military experience, and that more often than not quite obsolete, or the senior Imperial officer in the Colony.

As South Australia's Army evolved we can distinguish three distinct groups of officers, the Imperial officers, the South Australian staff officers, and the South Australian regimental officers. The Imperial officers commanded the detachments of Imperial troops in the Colony, at times acted as lieutenant-governor designates and on one or two occasions actually functioned as head of state. In the fifties and early sixties they fulfilled the duties of inspecting officers for the local forces, assisted in their training and, on one occasion, the senior Imperial officer was, in fact, Colonel-Commandant of South Australia's fledgeling army.

The South Australian staff, serving full time, consisted of the commandant and usually one or two staff officers. The former was in overall command of the force and thus was responsible to the ministry for the day to day administration of the force and was the level from which policy was recommended to the government of the day. The staff officers were mainly concerned with administrative tasks and assisted in training, either by direct instruction by by supervising the Imperial non-commissioned instructors. From the early eighties onwards, some of the staff officers commanded and trained the Colony's permanent forces.

The South Australian regimental officers were local citizens serving on a part-time basis. Their responsibility was the command and training of the part-time citizen army units and sub-units.

The first South Australian commandant was Boyle Travers Finniss. Educated at Sandhurst, he was commissioned in 1825 as ensign in the 56th Regiment of Foot, second sold his commission in 1835 after eight years of fairly uneventful service. In 1854, whilst serving as colonial-secretary for South Australia he was given the task of organising the South Australian force, with the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and inspecting officer162. Finniss' military duties were not very arduous; the appointment was almost in the nature of an honorary one. The actual training of the new force was left in the hands of Major E. Moore, the officer commanding the South Australian detachment of the 11th Regiment of Foot (north Devon).

This is the twelfth instalment in a series of articles on the history of South Australia's defence forces, taken from a major work submitted by the author to the University of Adelaide some years ago as part fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

Moore succeeded in establishing harmonious relations with the volunteers. The same could not be said of his successor, Major S.L.K. Nelson of the 40th Regiment of Foot (2nd Somersetshire). Faced with the conflict between standard military discipline and the spirit of citizen soldiery, Major Nelson exhibited a singular lack of tact. He interfered in the domestic arrangements of the volunteer companies 163, and succeeded in arousing the personal animosity of prominent South Australian officers, among them Lieutenant-Colonel A.H. Freeling, R.E. 164. Nelson had to be removed from active participation in the volunteer movement, otherwise no volunteers would have remained in the services 165.

Captain F.S. Blyth, also of the 40th Regiment of Foot, was, in 1860, appointed Finniss' successor to 'the general management of the volunteer force with the colonial rank of colonel166. Blyth's relations with the volunteers were amicable. In a memorial presented to him on his departure for New Zealand in April 1863, he was paid a glowing tribute 167. However, Blyth could not resist a snub to the government which had treated him rather shabbily in a number of ways. In his letter of resignation as Colonel-Commandant, he spoke of 'his endeavour to carry out the command and the wishes to the satisfaction of the Governor-in-Chief . . . ', not of the government of the day. The point was well taken; the government merely acknowledged receipt of his resignation, without expressing the customary thanks and good wishes for his future 168

After Blyth's departure, Lietuenant-Colonel Finniss was again briefly considered for the position of Colonel-Commandant, but the governor appointed Captain John Hesqueth Biggs, late 49th Regiment, instead. A parliamentary debate ensued after the appointment was made public. Why was a junior officer appointed instead of Finniss? At the time, neither officer was in the Imperial service, hence both satisfied the popular requirement that volunteers should be commanded by volunteers. Despite his undoubtedly greater service experience 169, Captain Biggs' appointment was the one occasion in South Australia when a commandant owed his posting directly to political patronage<sup>170</sup>. Colonel Biggs was an excessively strict disciplinarian, particularly with respect to those volunteer officers who may have been, even remotely, challengers to his position. His arguments with Captain Blackham of the Port Adelaide artillery over technical gun details171, his recommendations to have Majors Brinkley and

Torrens removed from the list of officers over a technicality concerning leave of absence, confirm this impression 172.

One of the disciplinary problems, which marred Biggs' tour of duty, was a court of enquiry, convened to re-examine certain charges brought by Biggs against Captain J.C. Ferguson, officer commanding a troop of cavalry, and against the senior permanent instructor, Sergeant Major McBride<sup>173</sup>. The court of enquiry was concerned with three fundamental aspects of citizen soldiery. (1) Is a soldier on parade, when ever he is in uniform, or only after actually fallen in? (2) Are the volunteer company officers senior to, or do they have to take orders from, the regular staff officers? (3) Are volunteer officers appearing in court citizens or soldiers? Only the last point was satisfactorily resolved: unless subpoenaed, an officer, when in court in connection with a service matter, was regarded as a soldier, and not as a civilian 174.

Other disciplnary actions initiated by Biggs did little to enhance the image of the military, so much so that the *Register* condemned quite openly the disciplinary facets of military life.

... a court martial can be got to sit for seven days collecting the most mitigated silliness that was ever submitted to arbitration . . . Court martialling . . . must be regarded as proving one of two things, either the Head of the force does not possess sufficient moral control over it or that subordinates are singularly deficient in moral respect. 175

The government was forced to institute an enquiry into the Staff Department<sup>176</sup>. As a result, Biggs was dismissed, and by April, 1869, South Australia had a new commandant, in the person of its Commissioner of Police, Peter Edgar Warburton.

Warburton's service as South Australian commandant was plagued by the same conflicts which at times had hampered his predecessors, namely, the position of volunteers vis-a-vis Imperial troops, when brigaded together<sup>177</sup>. Depsite his competence, Warburton's contribution to the defence of South Australia was insignificant. Although officially appointed as colonel commandant, he was treated more like a stand in for someone else. Returning from a journey of exploration, Warburton found himself superseded by the temporary re-appointment of Biggs, whereupon he returned his commission<sup>178</sup>.

Subsequent to the Finniss Commission of 1876, and under the influence of the Jervois report, the government asked for the services of a

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FENNER Mr B 52 Mowby Rd EAST BENTLEIGH VIC 3165 AA01; Mil Vehs	GAY Mr DJ 111 Damien Ave SOUTH WENTWORTHVILLE NSW 2145	OM01; AA01; UE01 HANSEN Mr N Flat 3/53 Smith St	542 Lester St ALBURY NSW 2640 B01; UE01 HUGHES Mr K G
FESTBERG Mr A N Flat 3 85 Nicholson Rd MCKINNON VIC 3204 MH10	PO Box 2320 DARWIN NT 5794	HANSEN Mr R W 8 Woorana Rd THE GAP QLD 4061	Tuggerah Lakes Military Museum Wyong Rd BERKELEY VALE NSW 2259 MH01
FLACK Mr E D 72 Audley St PETERSHAM NSW 2049 MH11	MH01; B01; OM01, 20 GILBERT Sgt T M PO Box 224 ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750 B20	MH10; B10; UE10 HARDIE Mr J D PO Box 516 PORT HEADLAND WA 6721 MH10; B10; AA20; UE10	
MH60; OMUI	GOLDSMITH Col D V (RL) 137 La Perouse St NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604 MH01; F	HARRIS Mr A F 29 Jervois Ave MAGILL SA 5072 MH12; B10; AA30; UE10	
FOLDI Mr N S 21 Ingameles St GARRAN ACT 2605 MH 20, 30, 40; F	GORMAN Maj J C (RL) PO Box 316 QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620 F (CAV)	HARVEY Mr P B 15 Burbank Ave BEDFORD PARK SA 5042 MH01; OM10, 20	IRVIN Mr W R 40 Martha St DONVALE VIC 3111 OM01, 10
FORD Mr B PO Box 413 TAMWORTH NSW 2340 B10, 20; UE10 20	GRAINGER Mr J W V 21 Evelyn St BENTLEIGH VIC 3204 MH01	HAYDON Lt Col L J ED AMM JP (R PO Box 2435 DARWIN NT 5794 MH01	L) IRWIN Mr JH 13 Bolva St DUTTON PARK QLD 4102 B70; OM70; UE70

'n

JACKSON Mr A F Lot 4 CORNDALE VIA LISMORE NSW 2480 JARDINE-VIDGEN Mr G 9 Margary St MT GRAVATT QLD 4122 MH01, 30, 40 JESSUP Mr L 229 Canterbury Rd **HEATHMONT VIC 3135** MH01; B01; OM01; AA01 JOHANSON Capt H **GPO Box 2803** SYDNEY NSW 2001 MH01 JOHNSON Mr G 1034 Yensch Ave **ALBURY NSW 2640** MH01 JOHNSON Cpl P G RAAF Support Unit **TENGAH** AFPO 5 C/ GPO SYDNEY NSW 2001 MH10, 14; B10, 11 UE10 JOHNSTON Sgt R G 6 Careek St **WODONGA VIC 3690** MH01 JOHNSTON Ms S E PO Box 360 **HAWTHORN VIC 3122** MH30, 40, 50, 60

KENNEDY Mr J M 28 Haines St **CURTIN ACT 2605** OM01 KENNER Mr R 2 Maurice Crt **WANTIRA SOUTH VIC 3152** MH10; OM20; B10 KENNETT Mr R V 3 Park Tœ CEDUNA SA 5690 MHOL KICK Mr R R 41 Base Rd KEENE N H 03431 USA B20; OM20; UE20 KIRK Mr R J 18 Osborne Crt **HAWTHORN VIC 3122** MH40, 50; UE01; PBM KIRKLAND Mr F 9/46 Harriette St **NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089** MH60; OM01, 10, 20, 70 KOCINS Dr E PO Box 65 **NORTH ESSENDON VIC 3041** MH01 KUUSK Maj S 480 Portrush Rd **LINDEN PARK SA 5065** MH10; B10; OM10; UE10

L LAFOREST Mr D 616 Charon St MONTREAL P Q CANADA H3K 2P6 MH70; OM70 LAMB Mr J M Institute de Phonetique, ULB 50 Ave F D Roosevelt 1050 BRUXELLES BELGIUM B10, 20, 70 LAND Dr W A 10/8 Pacific Highway DEE WHY NSW 2099 MH12, 13, 14, 15; OM10, 20 LANDIS Mr L J 94 Rice St NORTH ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4701 B10; AA10; UE10 LANGLEY Lt Col M G MC RAA MALJERS Mr J P 170 Summerleas Rd

KINGSTON TAS 7150

MH01

MAMO Mr R 138 Franklin St LEE-ARCHER Lt Col H C (RL) **BLACK ROCK VIC 3193** WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650 MH10; AA10; UE10; PBM MH12; B10; AA10; UE10 C/ Dept of Foreign Affairs CANBERRA ACT 2000 KARRINYUP WA 6018 **MULGRAVE VIC 3170** 

**MATRAVILLE NSW 2236** B10, 20 MAY Mr M J 68 Davey St PARKDALE VIC 3195 MH10 MEARNS Mr D C PO Box 1275 **ORANGE NSW 2800 B10** METCALF Dr D A PO Box 44 AMBERLEY NEW ZEALAND MH21: B20: UE20 **MEYERS Mr J W** 7/98 Martyn St PARRAMATTA PARK **CAIRNS QLD 4870** OM10, 20 MILLER Maj B J PO Box 1510 **BOROKO** PAPUA NEW GUINEA MH10; B12; UE20 MILLS Brig Gen K 1302 Plum St **LAREDO TEXAS 78040 USA** MONTGOMERY Mr B Badgers Rd THE RANGE Cooma-Monaro Historical Museum VIA WILLUNGA SA 5172 B20; UE20; AA20; MH20 MOORE Mr N J 10 Taldra St **BOX HILL NORTH VIC 3129** MH01 MORRISON Lt R N 806 David St **ALBURY NSW 2640** MH10 MOUNTAIN FIt Lt K J **Dental Section** No 4 RAAF Hospital Air Base Butterworth MALAYSIA OM10, 20 MUIRDEN Mr B 219 Kensington Rd **KENSINGTON SA 5068 OM40** MURPHY Mr PB PO Box 1548 CAIRNS QLD 4870 MH10; B10; OM10

K

**KALEM G** 152 Signals Sqn SAS REGT CAMPBELL BKS SWANBOURNE WA **MILPO 6010** KAPLAN A

PO Box 132 **GERMISTON 1400** SOUTH AFRICA OM01

KAYE Col P OBE ED (RL) 128 Wheatley Rd ORMOND VIC 3204

MH10; F

KELLING Lt Col G H 4322 Dauphine Dr SAN ANTONIO TEXAS 78218 USA MH01

MH10

4 Stork Ave **BELMONT VIC 3216** MH50; B20

LAWTON Mr T M

LAYCOCK Mrs F

20 Bremer St

20 Bremer St

32 Coolabah St

MH10

OM01

**B10** 

LEE Mr I R

16 Stanley St

LEGG Dr D P

LENNOX Mr J B

285 Brooker Ave

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7251 HEMMINGEN

WEST GERMANY

Hirschstr 32

MH50; OM10

LOCKER Mr N

PINE VALLEY

COOMA NSW 2630

LOMASNEY Mr ID

Austcom, Lagos

MH10, 14; OM01

6 Bridgewater Cr

LUCAS Mr M P

MH40; OM10

LUCAS Mr P W

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LINDMARK Mr R

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**MENTONE VIC 3194** 

MH10, 11, 50; PBM

MH10, 30, 40; PBM

LAYCOCK Mr K G

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MH01

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TONKS Mai M J **VERNEY Mr G** STILLMAN Mr L RYAN Lt S T A C/ Department of History Parachute Training School Area Theatre PO Box 323 **BALLARATT VIC 3350 RAAF Base** University of Sydney Laverack Bks WILLIAMTOWN NSW 2314 **SYDNEY NSW 2006 TOWNSVILLE QLD 4813** OM01 MH01 B10, 12, 20 TOWNS Mr R VERNON Lt Col P V STORER Mr H 34 Gellibrand St 2 Reid St 4 Deanswood Crt **CAMPBELL ACT 2601 LINDFIELD NSW 2070** CHELTENHAM VIC 3192 OM10, 20; AA30 MH12, 13; B12; UE20 B70: OM70 (POLICE) SARGENT Lt Col T C (RL) TOWNSEND Mr L VESTY Mr H J STRACHAN Capt R W PO Box 30 7 Omerod Crt Puckapunyal Wksp Coy 558 Beach Rd GARRAN ACT 2605 **HAMMERSLEY WA 6022 GISBORNE VIC 3437** MILPO PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662 MH11,70 B10; AA20; UE10, 20 OM01, 20; B10 STRICKLAND Mr J SCHEUCH-EVANS Mai L (RL) TOWNSLEY Mr I R VIDEON Mr B J 69 Burrindi Rd 2/15 Elphin Grove **SOUTH CAULFIELD VIC 3162** 20 Thomasina St 24 Parnoolar Crs HAWTHORN VIC 3122 FERNY HILLS QLD 4055 **EAST BENTLEIGH VIC 3165** B70(LH) MHOI MH01 MH15; B13; UE01; PBM SUTTON Col R (RL) SCHMIDT Mr J W 67 Beach Rd TRIGAR Mr D J VIVIAN Mr D PO Box 7 **COOGEE NSW 2034** 59 Paterson St 4 Hamley St COCHITUATE MIDDLE PARK VIC 3206 **MORPHETTVILLE SA 5043** MH01; PBM **MASS 01778 USA** MH01 OM20 OM01 TRIGELLIS-SMITH Mr S SEDGWICK WOII V J 19 Leura Gr 7 Eyre St **HAWTHORN VIC 3123 CHIFLEY NSW 2036** MH01: PBM MH01, 12, 13, 70 (LH) TAMPLIN Maj J M A TD TRILL Mr S SHAW Mr P A 10 Hughes St Flat 1/104 LONDON SWI BRITAIN 37 Coomoora Rd Stoneleigh St MH01; OM01 **BOORAGOON WA 6154 LUTYCHE QLD 4030** WALLIS Mr B J MH12, 13; B12 TANCRED Mr R B10, 20 4 Railway St SHELTON Brig JJ DSO MC 275 Ramsay St TRINICK Mr D **GLEN INNES NSW 2370** HABERFIELD NSW 2045 7 Endevour St 14 Wortley Ave B10; OM10; AA01 **RED HILL ACT 2603** OM01 MT WAVERLEY VIC 3149 MH70 WALTERS Mr C TAYLOR Mr W MH01 19 Wren St SNELGROVE Mr G 4 Mc Alpine Pl TRUSWELL Mr T O'HALLORAN HILL SA 5158 FARRER ACT 2607 33 Ryedale St Station Rd MH01 **TINGALPA QLD 4173** MH20; OM20; AA30 **BETHANIA QLD 4206** B01; OM01 WARD Mr G TEAGUE Lt Col I C B10; OM10 109 Husband Rd SPRY Mr R **HQ 3 Cadet Group** TURNER Mr T S **FOREST HILL VIC 3131** 52 Willcox Ave 309 Swan St 16 Telegraph Rd OM01 PROSPECT SA 5082 **BURNLEY VIC 3121** KINGSCOTE MH01; B10, 20; AA01 WAYTE Mr N MH01; B70; OM70 **KANGAROO IS SQ 5223** 45 Illawong Way STANIFORTH Mr B J THIES Mr A B10, PBM **KINGSLEY WA 6026** D-7440 Nurtingen PO Box 1 TWEEDALE Mr G OM01 **DROMANA VIC 3936** BISMACKSTRAFSE 28/1 9 Penno Pde Sth **WEST GERMANY** MH01 WEBB Mr J **BLACKWOOD SA 5051** MH01 3 Petrina St STANLEY Mr K AA20, 70 **EIGHT MILE PLAINS** 40 Deborah Gr THOMAS Mr P OLD 4123 **MODBURY NORTH SA 5092** 7 Prentice St MH30, 40 ST KILDA EAST VIC 3183 MH, B, OM10, 20; PBM U MH20, 21; B20; AA20; OM20 WEBSTER San Ldr R STANLEY Mr P 89 Beaurepaire Crs UNDERWOOD Lt Col N THOMPSON Mr R C/ AWM **HOLT ACT 2615** Canadian Forces College **PO Box 345** 29 Parsons Way MH40, 50; AA70 **INNALOO WA 6018** 215 Yonge Blvd **CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601** TORONTO ONTARIO MH11,40 WEDD Mr M THORNBOROUGH Capt F B EM (RL) M5M 3H9 CANADA 92 McIntosh Rd STAUNTON Mr A MH10; AA70 **DEE WHY NSW 2099** 193 Brunswick Rd 13 Haig St **BRUNSWICK VIC 3056 BEXLEY NSW 2207** MH10 MH01 UE01: F WELCH Mr P J VAZENRY Mr G 'Talavera' STEPHENS Mr D TITCHMARCH Capt J 39 Rose Pde 66 O'Connor St 34 Watson St 5 Glenleigh Ct MT PLEASANT NSW 2519 **RESERVOIR VIC 3073 GEELONG VIC 3220 HECTORVILLE SA 5073** MH10 MH01 OM70; AA70 MH01

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MH10,15; B10, 13; OM01
WHITELAW Maj Gen J AO CBE
8 Downes Pl
HUGHES ACT 2605
MH10(RAA)
WHITTLES LAC A C
C/ Arm Sect
RAAF DARWIN NT 5790
B01
WIGZELL Mr S W

17 Royal St
ALEXANDRA HILLS QLD 4161
PBM; MH01; AA01
WILKIE Mr I A
4 Gidgee Crt
FOREST HILL VIC 3131
B01; OM01, 10; PBM

WILLARD Mr SJ 10 Durack Ave **WARILLA NSW 2528** MH01, 40, 50; PBM WILLIAMS MR B 57 Fawnbrake Crs WEST BEACH SA 5024 B01; OM 10, 20, 70; AA70 WILLIAMS Mr J R 2 Churchill Dr AMBLECOTE, STOURBRIDGE **WORCESTERSHIRE DY8 LJ5 BRITAIN** WILLIAMS Capt R C 4 Currandooley Crt OAKEY QLD 4401 OM01, 10, 20 WILMOT Mr P J 67 Frudal Crs **KNOXFIELD VIC 3180** MH14; OM10, 20; B11 WILSHIRE Mr R B PO Box 171 **KALGOORLIE WA 6430** MH40, 50, 60

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WOOLMORE Mr W
39 Swan St
STH BALCKBURN VIC 3130
OM10, 20
WRIGHT Mr D A
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MH15; B13, 20, 70; OM20

Z ZWILLENBERG Maj H ED (RL) 7 Bonwick Pl GARRAN ACT 2605 MH01, 10



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'competent Royal Artillery officer', to be seconded from the British Army as commandant<sup>179</sup>. Two Imperial officers, Lietuenant-Colonel Major Frances Downes, R.A., and Major John Goodwin, as his staff officer, were sent out to the Colony in 1877. Their arrival ushered in a period of military professionalism in South Australia.

Colonel Frances Downes was born in February 1834, at Dedham, Essex. He entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1848 and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1852. He served in the Crimean War in 1855, at the siege of Sebastopol. He was instructor of fortifications at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, from 1858 to 1859. He commanded the artillery on Mauritius from 1863 to 1865 and on St Helena from 1869-1871. Subsequently, he spent five years as instructor at the Artillery School for the English Militia and Volunteers. Downes served as South Australian commandant from 1877 to 1885, he spent the next three years as Secretary to the Victorian Defence Department, and returned to South Australia for a further four years as commandant. He retired in May 1892, and died in Victoria in 1923180.

It was Downes who introduced military expertise and professionalism to South Australia, although, at first, Downes seemed to make little impact on military thinking in the Colony, having laid the groundwork for the permanent force. Meanwhile his staff officer, Goodwin, was occupied with the problem of making paid and unpaid forces work harmoniously with each other. Downes emerged, in 1878, as an opponent of unpaid volunteers, provoking censure on two counts. Firstly. volunteers were citizen soldiers and not regulars, and hence would revolt against anything smacking of despotism, military or otherwise. 'This is a lesson which any commander of a colonial volunteer force would have to learn and it is just as well he should make up his mind at once' 181. Secondly, Downes failed to appreciate the public relation function of the press, which was to 'publish anything that was fair and not to publish anything that was spurious'203. In addition, the press rarely failed to emphasise that the force existed for the benefit of the Colony, and not for that of the colonel, and it was the latter's duty to promote military efficiency by exercising tact as well as by displaying military skills<sup>182</sup>.

Downes soon learned his lesson in public relations. Militarily speaking, however, he had not learnt the lesson of Majuba Hill and continued to point to the highly successful Prussian infantry,

trained to fire kneeling down or standing up, under ground conditions very similar to the South Australian coastal plains, precisely the area where South Australians would have had to fight. Consequently, he supported only those new units in which the emphasis was on a high degree of drill, rather than on bushcraft.

One of Downes' practical contributions to military art was the design of vanishing targets, to be fired at by men on the move<sup>183</sup>. It was probably the first time that fire and movement was simulated on a rifle range. He was also the only commandant on record to have taken personal command in field exercises<sup>184</sup>.

After his re-appointment in March 1888, Downes was again briefly involved in the controversy of paid versus unpaid forces. He criticised some members of parliament for overrating the efficiency of the Rifle Volunteer Force (unpaid) and for trying to gain more and more privileges for them. He freely conceded that there was good material in the R.V.F., '... but as a rule the officers were in the hands of their men and [had] no moral control over them . . . '185. Downes expected strong public resentment, and it came. No one doubted his motives, but he became persona non-grata for criticising an institution which, though recognised as being of little use, was, nevertheless, considered sacrosanct, because it was based on the voluntary principle 186.

In the period between Downes' first and second tour of duty in South Australia, that is between 1885 and 1888, the conflict between the purely voluntary citizen soldier concept, with all its shortcomings, and the striving for military efficiency by the professionals, reached its peak. Brigadier-General John Fletcher Owen was commanding in South Australia, the most highly qualified and experienced officer to serve in the Colony. Born on 8 April, 1839, in Derbyshire, he entered the military in 1856 and after various administrative and active service postings was appointed commandant in South Australia on 26 March, 1885. He returned to England in 1888. Then from 1891 to 1894 he served as commandant in Queensland and concluded his military career as commandant of Malta<sup>187</sup>.

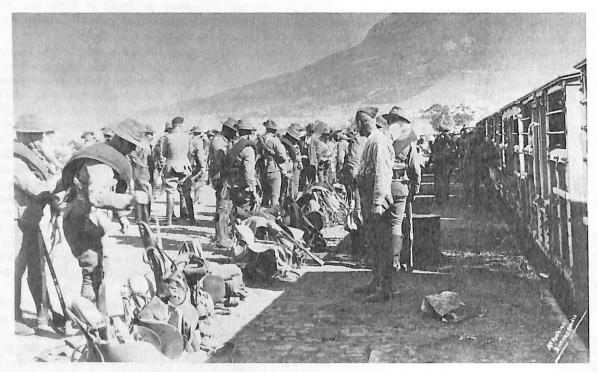
Owen was a hard-working officer who paid a great deal of attention to recruiting the right sort of men, not '... pale faced, narrow chested wobbling boys, but fine stalwart men ...' 188. Historically, Owen's importance lay in his uncompromising stand regarding the unpaid Rifle Volunteer Force. To Owen the paid force was the senior

branch of the service 189. The commanding officer of the Rifle Volunteers Force, Lieutenant-Colonel S.J. Lovely, resigned after Owen appointed two officers of the (paid) Volunteer Military Force to take charge of a combined forces field day. Owen's professional integrity would not allow him to compromise, as in fact, most of the other commandants had done, and were to continue to do until the political climate changed. From 1887 onwards it was open war between the commandant and the unpaid branch. Owen was charged with prejudice by parliament and press<sup>190</sup>, <sup>191</sup>. By 1888 even the usually objective Observer clamoured for Owen's removal, and for the appointment of a less strict disciplinarian. 'The colonial idea [of discipline] may be very wrong and may be very un-military, but it is only by recognising and accepting that it is the colonial idea, that a defence force may be obtained'192. It is, therefore, not surprising that Owen's offer to serve for another term fell on deaf ears and Downes returned for a second term.

When the time came to appoint Downes' successor, the Premier, Charles Kingston, was most anxious to appoint a local man. The importation of yet another serving Imperial officer would most likely have provoked a public outcry. Thus, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Maria Gordon was

made acting Commandant in 1892<sup>193</sup>. The appointment was confirmed in 1893. Gordon was a colourful personality. He combined appreciable Colonial social knowhow with tact, determination and the ability to appear professionally very knowledgeable, whilst actually learning his trade as he went along. His success at the latter is borne out by his last appointment as Australian Chief of General Staff and First Member of the Military Board, in 1912.

Jose Maria Jacobo Ramon Francisco Gabriel del Corazon de Jesus Gordon y Prendergast, to give him the full name, with which he was christened in Jerez de la Frontera. Spain, on 19 March 1856, was descended from the First Earl of Huntley, through the Spanish line of the Gordons of Beldoney, Ward-house and Kildrummy, The family was famous for its adventurers, soldiers of fortune, some of whom served under Peter the Great, helped to assassinate Wallenstein, were cavalry officers in the Polish army, and of whom one was called the 'last of Nelson's Captains'. Gordon joined the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich in 1874. His practical experience included brief periods of duty with the Carlist army in Estella, in Spain in 1874, and at Limerick, Ireland, where he contracted rheumatic fever and



An Australian mounted unit entraining at Cape Town during the Second Boer War. Refer also "Australians at the Cape", page 34.

resigned his commission. To regain his health, he went to New Zealand, where he served under Colonel Reader as drill instructor. He resigned to take up duties as private secretary to Sir Frederick Weld, Governor of Tasmania, but the appointment did not materialise. Arriving in Melbourne he tried his hand at editing the Turf Issue, then as a merchant, and as an actor, and eventually called at Adelaide while en route for Scotland. He became a police instructor in South Australia in 1881. and commenced his duties with the South Australian military forces on 2 January 1882 as staff instructor, with the rank of lieutenant. Gordon made many friends, became a member of the Adelaide Club, and had ready entry to Government House. Eventually, he assisted in organising the permanent artillery, was acting commandant between Owen's departure and Downes' return in 1888, and assumed command in 1892.\* Gordon's major contribution to South Australia's defence was the pioneering of the universal service legislation of 1895. During the preparation of the bill occurred the one and only instance which earned him the displeasure of the government for ex-

ceeding '... the precise limits of his duties' by intimating to the press that officers pay was too low'195.

The Boer War had broken out during Gordon's absence in London and the task of raising the South Australian contingent fell to Lietuenant-Colonel James Stuart, Born in Derbyshire in 1848, he was commissioned lieutenant with 2nd West York Rifles. He migrated to South Australia and during the Russian scare of 1877 joined the Norwood company as a private. Commissioned a year later, he went to England, attended a staff course at Aldershot, and observed the German and French armies in their autumn manoeuvres. After his return he was retrenched in 1895, and for a while was inspector of distilleries. He came back into the force as commanding officer, First Battalion Adelaide Rifles, in 1898, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel and in May 1898 was appointed acting commandant 196. He was the first officer of field rank, fully trained in South Australia, to reach the standard of competence the Colony required.

\* The foregoing biographical sketch is mainly derived from Joseph Maria Gordon's autobiography<sup>194</sup>.

#### Notes

- 161. O. 30.4.1892.
- 162. \* B.T. Finiss, A Constitutional History of South Australia. London, 1886, p.157.
- 163. CSC/I/1259, 1560/1859.
- 164. CSC/GRG/24/51 Mil. Letters 23-25, 28, 32.
- 165. GD/I/104/1860; GD/O/90, 97/1860.
- 166. GD/O/101/1860.
- 167. O. 25.4.1863.
- 168. CSC/I/333/1863.
- 169. B.T. Finniss, op.cit., p.158.
- 170. R. 15.8.1863.
- 171. CSC/I/655/1863; CSC/O/167/1863.
- 172. CSC/I/849/1863.
- 173. CSC/I/191, 497/1867; CSC/I/180, 361, 400, 694/1868.
- 174. PP 77/1868/69.
- 175. R. 18.7.1868.
- 176. CSC/O/271/1869; PP 65/1869.
- 177. CSC/I/1040/1869.
- 178. CSC/I/1554, 1579/1877.
- 179. GD/O/24/1877.
- P. Mennelli, Dictionary of Australian Biography, London, 1892, p.139; O.31.8.1888.

- 181. O. 16.11.1878.
- 182. ibid.
- 183. O. 10.1.1885.
- 184. O. 7.3.1885.
- 185. O. 1.11.1884.
- 186. O. 29.11.1884 L.
- P. Mennelli, op.cit., pp.359-360, O. 9.5.1885,
   O. 26.2.1892.
- 188. O. 2.8.1887.
- 189. CSC/I/2439/1885.
- 190. O. 12.12.1887.
- 191. L.C. 5.6.; 26.6.1888.
- 192. O. 7.1.1888.
- 193. GD/O/conf. 3.5.1892; CSC/I/1479/1893.
- 194. J.M. Gordon, op.cit.
- 195. CSC/I/1658/1895.
- 196. O. 10.12.1897; 11.11.1899.

Sonia Barron

# AN ARTIST AT WAR

We have much pleasure in being able to announce to the public that we have made most efficient arrangements for illustrating the military engagements in the Soudan campaign. Our principal artist is Dr Doyle Glanville, who has seen some very active service both as a soldier and a pressman.

During the Zulu war he contributed to the London *Graphic* a large number of excellent war and other sketches. Our consituents will thus see that the ILLUSTRATED SYDNEY NEWS will have an able representative in the front to depict the doings of the British forces and Australian contingent in Egypt.

Dr Glanville was attached to Colonel Durnford's column of 2,000 men, the whole of whom, including Colonel Durnford and the 1st 24th Regiment was slaughtered. Dr Glanville escaped with some 30 others, having been ordered to march the night previously with a party of reconnaissance, and was 3 miles away from camp when the Zulus swarmed down. His assistant (Dr Brice) was killed. Dr Glanville was then placed on the medical staff of General Wood's column, and served with the flying column, and was present at the battle of Ulundi,

when he was mentioned in Sir Evelyn Wood's despatches for distinguished services. After the battle of Ulundi the column was disbanded, and Dr Glanville was attached to the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, Lord Wolseley's military escort, and proceeded with them through the Transvaal. He was present when the body of the Prince Imperial was found in Zululand.

Sergeant Murray, of the Infantry contingent, a clever draftsman, has also been retained as sketcher to this journal. We expect at an early date to produce some illustrations from his pencil.

Earlier, in 1863-64, the *Illustrated Melbourne* Post had published engravings from the Maori Wars, referring in one issue to "a Gentleman with New Zealand experience whose services have been acquired in providing sketches". Illustrations attributed to "our special artist" appeared sporadically, but research to date has not revealed his identity.

About Usher G. Doyle Glanville we have been able to learn considerably more. The *Graphic* in 1879 published a brief biography giving his birthplace as Brighton, Sussex, birthdate 31 October 1844, and details of his medical education. Prior to the Zulu War he had served in part of one the "Kaffir" War at the Cape. During 1879 Glanville provided the *Graphic* with reports and sketches. His work also appeared in the *Illustrated London News* with the following attribution: "... by Mr Doyle Glanville, a Colonial Government Medical Officer, formerly of the Union Steam-Ship Company Service ...".4

Glanville may well have returned to one of these occupations in the following years, but he arrived in Sydney sometime in February 1885; in time to serve as examining medical officer at

The following notice appeared in the Illustrated Sydney News of 14 March 1885:

A letter written to the Colonial Secretary on 6 February 1885 by a surgeon on board the S.S. Rome, offering his services to the Egyptian Campaign, was to provide the New South Wales Contingent to the Sudan with a medical officer and Australia with one of its first professional war illustrators. <sup>1</sup>

Paddington Barracks where volunteers assembled to offer their services.<sup>5</sup>

As one of three surgeons and with the rank of Captain, he travelled to the Sudan with troops assigned to the S.S. Australasia. Beginning with the front page illustration of 11 April and up to and including the 4 July issue of the Illustrated Sydney News, sketches by Glanville and Murray appeared. Works by Murray were at no time attributed to him by name, but as sketches were published from onboard both troopships, Australasia and Iberia, we can assume that those from the Iberia are by him. These first sketches of shipboard life do not appear to have been reworked to any great extent by the home-based engravers, and are simple, direct and humurously descriptive. Some of the later ones depicting scenes in the Sudan are initialled "A.C." - Arthur Collingridge - who worked as an illustrator and engraver with the Illustrated Sydney News and presumably reworked the original sketches sufficiently to justify signing them.



Life on board the SS "Australasia" as seen by Dr. Glanville.

It was a short-lived campaign for Australians as well as Australian 'special artists' at war. By the mid 1890s technology made it possible to reproduce photographs in newspapers and magazines by simple and economic methods. While the British and Continental press continued to employ 'specials', as well as photographers, in war Australian enthusiasm for the photograph dominated the press coverage of the Boer War.

Doyle Glanville returned to Australia with the Contingent and served briefly with Major-General Sir Peter Scratchley, the newly appointed Commissioner for New Guinea. In 1886 he was accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. 6 In the same year Glanville was registered in Victoria as a medical practitioner. 7

We know that Glanville was again in Africa by 1890 as a Colonial Government Medical Officer and sending sketches back to the *Illustrated London News*. In 1891 he died of an unnamed fever while escorting three Red Cross Nurses by the then new route from the east coast of South Africa, up the Pungwe River to Mashonaland and the gold fields of present-day Zimbabwe.<sup>8</sup>



### Notes

- Indexes and Registers of Letters Received 1880-85 (AO NSW ref.: AO Reels 116-119, 2600)
- 2. Illustrated Melbourne Post, 20 Oct. 1863.
- 3. Graphic, 9 Aug. 1879.
- 4. Illustrated London News, 21 June 1879.
- 5. Echo, Special Illustrated Number, Sydney, 3 March 1885.
- Royal Geographical Society Archives, London,
- McIntosh, A.M., "Army Medical Services in New South Wales prior to Federation", Despatch, March 1980.
- 8. Illustrated London News, 7 Nov. 1891.

Arthur Bottrell

# THE FIRST CHAPLAINS

On receipt of the information in Australia that General Gordon of Khartoum had been killed in the Soudan on 26 January 1885, Sir Edward Strickland felt impelled to write a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald for the issue of 12 February proposing that the colony of New South Wales despatch a regiment of 1000 men to Africa.

The Government took up the challenge and offered the Imperial Government a battalion of 500 men, two Batteries from the Permanent Field Artillery and an Ambulance Corps. The Home Office accepted the offer, minus one Battery. Colonel J.B. Richardson, as Commandant, was accompanied by a staff of 11 officers. This composite force was raised in fifteen days prior to embarkation on 3 March, 1885, and landed at Suakin on 29 March.

A proposal that a chaplain should accompany the troops had already been mooted and dismissed. Under pressure from the Church authorities the question was re-opened, resulting in a decision to enlist and send an Anglican clergyman. This proposed denominational exclusiveness brought strong reactions from Archbishop Moran of the Roman Catholic Church in Sydney.

Relative to the discussions that ensued Reverend Father Kevin Livingston kindly supplied some data that had emerged during his research for a doctoral thesis on "Catholic Priests in Australian History". The information was taken from a letter to Archbishop (later Cardinal) Moran from the Colonial Secretary's office in February, 1885...

"My dear Lord Bishop.

I regret that I had not the honour and pleasure of seeing your Grace this morning when I called here. The question of the despatch of chaplains to accompany the Troops has been seriously considered by Cabinet and on various grounds it has been resolved that it would be unnecessary to make this provision with regard to an expedition of such limited proportions and which will so soon be incorporated with Imperial troops who will doubtless have chaplains attached to them..."

This communication did not end the Archbishop's concern. I was able to confirm and enlarge on the data supplied by Father Livingston from T. Shine's The Soudan Campaign. A Record of the New South Wales Contingent and the Guardbook of Newspaper Cuttings concerning the New South Wales Contingent in the Soudan Campaign.

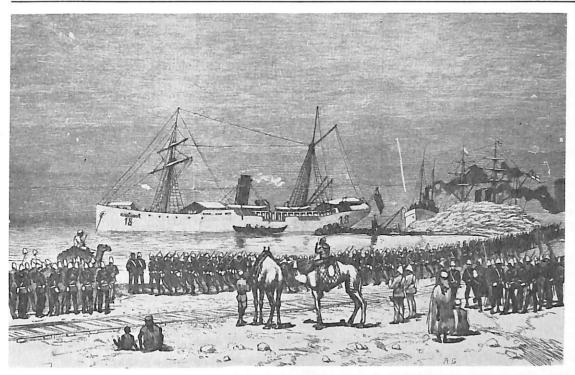
Inter alia, Shine states

. . . it was decided to allow two ministers to be attached to the contingent. One representing the Church of England and the members of all the other Protestant denominations in the contingent, and the other officiating with respect to the Roman Catholic section of the contingent . . .

The two chaplains were afforded passages by the Government and their renumeration was fixed at £200 a year while employed, but the Colonial Secretary (W. Bede Dalley) provided that if on arrival at Suakin it was found that the reverend gentlemen could be unable to accompany the troops if they were ordered to advance, engagement of the chaplains would be at an end . . . "

If the advance order prevailed passages for the return of the chaplains would be arranged, either to New South Wales or to England. Army pay would continue until they reached the destination of choice.

The chaplains so posted were Rev. Herbert John Rose (CE), Christ Church, North Shore, Sydney and Rev. C.F. Collingridge (RC), Chaplain to Sacred Heart Convent, Rose Bay, Sydney. Both these men, so important in the history of Australian military chaplains, were appointed chaplains by Order of the Governor and Executive



The N.S.W. Contigent arrive in the Soudan. This illustration was drawn by Dr. Glanville whose work is featured in Sonia Barron's article on pages 28-29 in this issue.

Council on 27 February 1885. The first Australian chaplains to be commissioned for service on a war footing. Their attestments were made four days before the contingent embarked at Sydney.

Unless the legislative authorities of the Colony improbably accepted the offer of the British War Office to pay the two chaplains, the men were financially poorer than their English counterparts whose Army pay was at the rate of £450 p.a. Chaplain 4th Class and Rose and Collingridge were also 4th Class grading but by Australian standards.

At the conclusion of the campaign C.F. Collingridge made England his destination and home, by which move the Australian Church lost a man of much experience and the Army likewise. H.J. Rose returned to Sydney with the contingent and with the troops received his discharge. However, he offered his services again and was accepted as a chaplain in the Boer War.

Chaplains Rose and Collingridge, in recognition of their fulltime service with the contingent, received the same British awards as their compatriots, the Egypt Medal with clasp *Suakin 1885*, and the Khedive Star-1884-86. On arrival home all contingent members were awarded an array of medals by the their proud colonial authorities; the Mayor

of Sydney's Silver Medal, the Departure Medallion and the Return Silver Medal.

When the veterans disembarked on 12 June, 1885, Colonel J.B. Richardson issued an Order of the Day in which he stated

the thanks of the Colonel Commandant are especially due to [naming a few officers] ... and the Reverends Rose and Collingridge, chaplains, for the manner in which they discharged their respective duties.

This Soudan force made more history when they became members of the first Australian force to receive a mention in Despatches for war service. In a despatch of 15 June, 1885, Lord Wolseley stated that

The Contingent's work has been so satisfactory that I trust that the noble and patriotic example set by New South Wales may, should occasion arise, be followed by other colonies".

Subsequent history eloquently testifies to the more than fulfilment of Lord Wolseley's trust in Australia's fighting men.

Clem Sargent

# MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE

The second Australian Military History Conference, sponsored and organised by the Australian War Memorial, was held in Canberra from 11-13 February 1982.

## The following papers were presented -

Peter Burness

'Australian colonial forces'.

Colin Jones

'The Victorian colonial navy as a fighting

force'.

Guy Verney

'The Russo-Japanese war and the introduc-

tion of compulsory military service'.

Lloyd Robson

Images of the Warrior: Australian views of

British soldiers in the Great War'.

Chris Coulthard-Clark

'Duntroon and the first world war'.

Phil Greville

'The Army and the National Estate'.

Jan Bassett

'Australian women in the Great War'.

Wendy Mansfield

'Patriotism and power: the struggle for

control of Anzac celebrations, Queensland

1916-1936'.

Steve Dyer

'Recollections of the RAAF'.

**Margaret Barter** 

"The poor bloody infantry": 2/2 Bat-

talion AIF'.

David Horner

'Military aspects of Curtin's 1944 over-

seas visit'.

Hank Nelson

'Angels of War: film and war history'.

Anne Gray

'British influences on Australian war art'.

Michael Bogle

'The organisational structure of the

Australian war art program'.

Jim Fitzpatrick

'The bicycle and the military'.

Fewer MHSA members attended this year, no doubt because much less financial assistance was offered and because a fee of \$30 for participants was imposed. This places the cost of the Conference and accommodation at about \$150 plus fares. This level of cost, plus the possible loss of two days wages, places the Conference beyond the reach of those who do not enjoy some form of sponsorship. Under these circumstances it is hard to see any increase in the number of interstate MHSA members attending but, unfortunately, this is the reality of the current situation.

One interstate member who did attend was Don Wright, President of the Queensland Branch. He was present at every session and said that he had a thoroughly rewarding time.

The papers presented followed much the same pattern as last year, still a preponderence on the post 1901 period, but certainly the paper presented by Peter Burness on 'Australian Colonial Forces' and the slide lecture by Brigadier Phil Greville on 'The Army and the National Estate' demonstrated that there are interesting and important aspects of Australia's military history from 1788 to 1901 which still offer lucrative research fields for those who are prepared to examine this period.

There was not the same bias towards papers by academics this year as last and the question of greater involvement by amateur historians was addressed in the Conference wash-up. This year's presentation indicated a heartening widening of participation. However, the organisers of the Conference, Dr Mike McKernan, and his staff, including our Editor Peter Stanley, have an unenviable task trying to find people who are prepared to present papers — to establish a balance must be well nigh impossible.

Three main points came out in the post Conference discussions.

Firstly, now that a conference fee is charged, consideration should be given to sessional fees for those who are unable or do not wish to attend the full conference. This proposal is to be examined by the organisers — it will mean considerably more work for them and is unlikely to help the interstate MHSA member, who, if he is able to attend at all, would probably opt for the full conference as the main cost component for most will be the fares.

Secondly, it was suggested that provision should be made in the program for a series of short papers, of perhaps 10-15 minutes duration, which might open the way for some amateur historians, unable to devote the time necessary to research and write a 45 minute paper, to make a more personal contribution to the conference than is now possible.

This is a welcome suggestion and it is expected that more will be heard of it. Consideration will need to be given by the AWM Council to the suggestion. Obvious questions arise — how many are likely to be able to contribute, what criteria are to be met to qualify a short paper for presentation (currently the majority of papers are presented by people whose credentials are known), how much conference time can be devoted to short presentations, what will be the effect on the academic standing of the conference?

If this second suggestion is accepted it is hoped that the MHSA might be approached to put the AWM in contact with members who could participate in this way. Perhaps it could lead to more coverage of the period 1788-1901? As soon as any firm information is available details will be advised through Sabretache.

Thirdly, the AWM is moving closer to the production of a journal, possibly bi-annually. It is still very much in the planning stage and members will be kept advised of developments as this will undoubtedly be a publication of significance to all Australian military historians.

Again the Council and staff of the Australian War Memorial are to be congratulated for mounting an interesting and stimulating conference on Australian military history.

Robert Williams

# AUSTRALIANS AT THE CAPE

Whilst researching in the South African National War Museum Johannesburg in 1980, two photographs caught my eye. In both we see Australian troops entraining at Cape Town during the second Boer War but unfortunately the units are not identified.

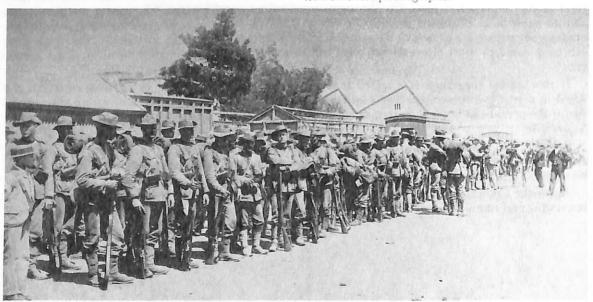
The first picture shows an infantry unit. They are still wearing their cloth Australian home service uniform. The other ranks have coloured stand-up collars, "V" cuff piping, shoulder strap piping and trouser piping. On the shoulder straps are short straight metal titles. There are flapped patch pockets on each breast and flapped, pleated, patch pockets on each hip. The trousers are tucked into laced gaiters. The brown leather equipment has metal snake waistclasps. At the rear is strapped the folded greatcoat with the mess tin below in a waterproofed cover. A round grey cloth covered waterbottle is slung from a buff strap over the left shoulder and a brown canvas haversack hangs from a broad strap over the right shoulder.

The officers have no coloured decoration on their frocks and wear puttees in place of gaiters. They are also armed with revolvers instead of the rifle.

In another photograph in this issue (page 26) we see men of a mounted unit. They have khaki drill frocks and slightly darker cloth breeches, laced high leather gaiters (there is a small strap and buckle at the top of the gaiter) and strapped spurs attached to laced boots. The dark grey greatcoats are worn en banderole and the bandolier, waistbelt and pouch at the rear waist are in brown leather. The waterbottle is as in the first picture but the haversacks are white. Martini carbines serve as the firearm.

I am very grateful to Mr J.J. Bruwer of the S.A. National War Museum for arranging to have the pictures reproduced for me.

The editor would welcome any further information on these photographs.

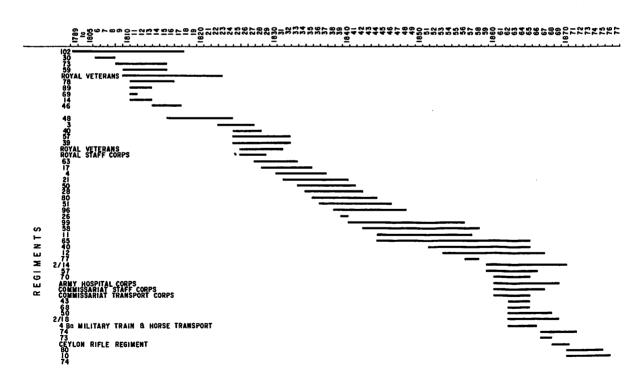


Australian troops at Cape Town.

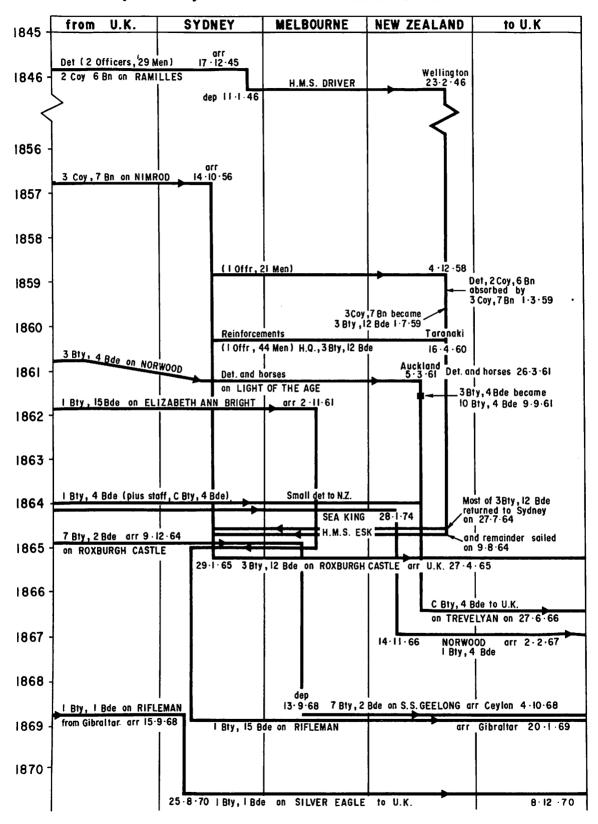
Maurice Austin

The accompanying charts depict the service of British troops in Australia and New Zealand from 1789 to 1877.

# British regiments in the Pacific 1789-1877



## Royal Artillery in Australia and New Zealand 1845-1870



# **BOOK REVIEWS**

R. Montague, Dress & Insignia of the Brish Army in Australia & New Zealand 1770-1870, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1981 – 124 pages – \$17.95.

Apart from the work of Brigadier M. Austin, very little has been published on the service of the British Army in Australia and certainly nothing, until this publication, on the uniforms and insignia worn in Australia.

In addition to a description of dress and insignia, the author provides information on the history of the 29 infantry regiments, including details of Australian and New Zealand Service, and also covers the various technical and service corps in support of the main garrison troops.

The descriptive notes are well supported by photographs and line drawings, sources are well recorded and the use of contemporary paintings to illustrate insignia and dress items, long since lost, is an innovative step used to reveal rarer items such as the cross belt badge of the NSW Corps.

This book will be an asset in any military library and for the military modeller and badge collector is a must.

The author served for 12 years in the British Army including service in some countries gaining their independence in the *post* 1945 years and while still serving he developed an interest in the contribution made by the British Army in the various colonies. On his arrival in Australia, he continued this interest which has culminated in this fine book.

K. WHITE

"G" for George, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1981. 24 pages, illustrated in colour and black and white. Price \$2.00.

The Lancaster bomber "G" for George is probably the Australian War Memorial's best known exhibit. Standing majestically in Aeroplane Hall it pays silent tribute to the Australian airmen who flew with the Australian squadrons, or were scattered amongst the various operational squadrons of Bomber Command.

This Australian War Memorial booklet is excellent. The text is clear, concise, crisp, and informative. The large page format gives ample room for the inclusion of a number of illustrations from the Memorial's collection of photographs and paintings. The paintings are reproduced in colour along with a number of photographs of 'George', with some of the memorial staff in the rear gunner, mid-upper gunner, and bomb-aimer's positions. The centre double page is devoted to a reproduction of the A.V. Roe and Co. Ltd detailed plan of the Lancaster Mark I.

"G" for George is worthy momento of a visit to the Aeroplane Hall.

S.J. WILLARD

General Donn A. Starry, 'Armoured Combat in Vietnam', Blandford Press, Recommended price \$21.95. Review copy courtesy ANZ Book Co. Pty Ltd.

'Armoured Combat in Vietnam' provides a detailed tactical account of the employment of US Army and South Vietnamese armoured units in Vietnam. The book is based primarily on official records, debriefing reports and interviews, published and unpublished secondary works, and from the personal experience of the author General Donn A. Starry. This is a book principally written for practitioners of armoured warfare and for senior combat commanders, who may be required to develop concepts of operations for combined arms teams in similar circumstances. For the historian the book is, perhaps, too detailed although there are some useful summaries of lessons learnt and the tactical battles are discussed within a strategic framework.

The book begins with a brief but useful examination of the experiences of French armoured forces. Then follows the development of South Vietnamese armour, the role and problems of US armoured advisers, and subsequently the commitment of US and other Free World armoured forces to South Vietnam. There is a good coverage of the Tet Offensive in 1968, the battles for control of South Vietnam's borders and the attacks into Cambodia and Laos. Finally, the book covers the US withdrawal from Vietnam and its aftermath.

The descriptions of the tactical battles are extremely interesting and good sketch maps are provided throughout. The book covers combat in all the regions of South Vietnam and describes the various operational techniques used in the differing terrain. Perhaps two aspects do not receive sufficient emphasis. They are the significant variations in the distances at which targets were acquired due to vegetation, and the freedom of manoeuvre available to US armoured forces due to the constantly favourable air situation. Nevertheless, many valuable lessons are brought out relating to operational use, technical and logistic support, and the employment of air cavalry with armoured ground forces.

Readers with a particular interest in armoured vehicles will find that the book provides an excellent insight into the performance of the M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier. It does not describe fully the enormous work undertaken by tank crews to get their vehicles into some battle areas, but it does emphasise correctly the importance of the tanks firepower and greater armoured protection vis-a-vis the M113. The introduction of the Sheridan light tank is discussed although its operational limitations are glossed over.

'Armoured Combat in Vietnam' is a book for the specialist and, as such, is an important reference for armoured officers. Because it is detailed and well documented it is of value to the military historian who wishes to study a particular battle, armoured fighting vehicle or problems associated with supporting armour. It is not a book to suit the more general reader.

J.C. GREY

John E. Price, They Proved to All the Earth, Cheltenham, 1982, Price \$8.00 plus \$1.00 postage.

When John Price, a previous Secretary of the MHSA, wrote his article on Will Christie's service with the 3rd Victorian (Bushmens) Contingent and his death in South Africa (Sabretache Vol.XX No.4) and later allowed us to share his obvious delight in the later acquisition of Christie's Queen's South Africa medal (Sabretache Vol.XXI No.3), he gave no indication of a much deeper involvement in the study of South African War casualties and their memorials that was evident in the two articles.

That interest has now been manifested in the publication of many years of careful and detailed research — "They Proved to All the Earth", a book written, published and distributed by John Price, in which he has recorded details of two hundred and sixty Victorians who died on service or as a result of service in the South African War.

The book records the unit, rank and name, previous service, place of birth, locality of next of kin, cause, place and date of death, place of original and final interment, the war memorials commemorating the soldier and the awards and decorations of the 260 Victorians from the First Victorian contingent to the Fifth VMR, the Australian Commonwealth Horse, Victorians who served in units from other states, the RN, the British Army and the many volunteer units which operated in South Africa.

The text is supported by several useful appendices — a summary of casualties, qualifying dates for the awards of the QSA and bars and the KSA, abbreviations, sources, glossary of South African terms and, most importantly, an alphabetical index of the casualties.

This book reflects painstakingly detailed research by the author who acknowledges the help of several interstate MHSA members. Its organisation is logical and straightforward. John Price has rigidly adhered to his objective and not been sidetracked to enlarge on the service of the many interesting personalities covered. This must surely present a challenge to the South African War enthusiasts to follow up the leads given on so many Victorians and further research their history. The book also presents a challenge to researchers in other states to emulate this example and record the story of their own state units.

"They Proved to All the Earth" is one of the most complete and important reference books on this aspect of the involvement of Victorians in the South African War. John Price is to be congratulated on his effort, not only for the research but also for its presentation in such a clear and attractive form at a price which makes it a must for everyone with an interest in Australia's military history. The QSA and KSA medal collector cannot afford to be without it.

The book is available only from:

Mr John E. Price Villa 7, 16 Barrett Street CHELTENHAM Vic. 3192 (Cost \$8.00 plus \$1.00 postage). Douglas H. Robinson, *The Zeppelin in Combat*, University of Washington Press, Seattle and London 1980, 417 pages, illustrated, index, appendices, glossary, bibliography. Review copy from ANZ Book Co. Pty Ltd. Recommended price \$34.95.

This is a reprint of the third edition of this history of the German Naval Airship Division, rightly described as the standard work on the subject. It is all there, not only a clear and comprehensive narrative of developments over the period 1912-1918 in policy, technology and operational deployment but some worthwhile comment and conclusions as well as considerable technical data on the construction and flying of these leviathans of the air.

The book does not purport to cover all German airship operations — only those of the Navy but in fact a number of references are made to the German Army airship service's efforts and its ships, particularly when the two services combined in bombing London. It was an Army 'Zeppelin' (actually a Shutte-Lanz ship, the SL11) which provided the first of several major pyrotechnic displays for the London public in September 1916 when Lieutenant W. Leefe Robinson of the RFC shot its hydrogen gas into flames. As with nearly all losses by fire in the air, and there were many, there were no survivors.

Indeed it was the newly developed explosive/incendiary ammunition used by Robinson, and improved means of delivering it, which finally finished these mighty gasbags, up to 743 feet long containing over 2.4 million cubic feet of hydrogen. But it took another two years and grievous losses to put an end to raids on defended targets, such as London. Meanwhile the crews, all volunteers, accepted the most appalling risks every time they went into combat. If some commanders proved timid in attacking England, and London defences in particular, who shall blame them? Even when not facing the enemy they lived dangerously, with adverse weather, navigational uncertainty, mechanical troubles, cold, altitude sickness, fatigue and anxiety all taking their toll of nerve and resolution.

Most of the Naval Airship Division's flying effort went into scouting flights over the North Sea and the Baltic, fulfilling economically the role of the scouting cruiser, so it was said. An airship could be built in six weeks; a cruiser took over two years. Although many reports were made, it is difficult to assess the value of these flights compared with the effort; no doubt most of the time there was simply nothing to see. Airshop participation in the Yarmouth and Sunderland operations and the battles of the Dogger Bank and Jutland was not distinguished. But airships were there and appear to have been credited by the Royal Navy with having an impact on the results. Certainly the Royal Navy took the Zeppelin menace to the fleet very seriously indeed and directed substantial resources to countering it.

But the book's emphasis is on the raids on England. The weather was frequently unfavourable to navigation and bombing and comparisons between the airships' logs and British reports indicate that mostly the Germans had no idea where they were. Meteorological forecasting was unreliable, as were radio bearings, and the result was bombing that seemed to the British to be indiscriminate. Indeed, at one stage, they believed the Germans were trying to set fire to crops with their incendiary bombs. Damage and casualties were relatively small but brought a fearful and angry reaction from the British public, which demanded protection and reprisals. Again there was a massive diversion of effort to countermeasures to the direct detriment of crucial operations on the Western Front. It is an extraordinary thing, however, that almost to the end of the war the commander of the Airship Division, Strasser, was convinced, and convinced others, that England could be overcome by airships through destruction of cities and facilities. Strasser died in L70, brought down in flames off the Norfolk coast in August 1918.

This is a complete book of reference and takes a lot of reading. It deserves a place in every library.

ALAN FRASER

C. Lawrence (ed. Sir Ronald East), The Gallipoli Diary of Sergeant Lawrence of the Australian Engineers, published by Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1981, 167 pages. Recommended retail price (hardcover): \$15.95. Review copy supplied by Melbourne University Press.

The publication of any diary written by an Australian soldier during the Gallipoli campaign should be greatly welcomed both by historians and interested readers alike. Further insight into this fascinating military operation is always valuable. This is particularly so when it is the form of primary source material written by an intelligent, articulate and attentive observer, which is how one can describe The Gallipoli Diary of Sergeant Lawrence of the Australian Engineers.

Sergeant Lawrence was a sapper and later an NCO on the headquarters staff of the 2nd Field Company Australian Engineers for several months on Gallipoli. His diary thus describes a different aspect of life on Gallipoli — the role of the engineers. These men played a part which was equally as important as that of the infantry. Lawrence vividly recounts the backbreaking work performed by the sappers in making new trenches and constructing roads and dugouts. The diary also outlines the constant tunnelling work as the Australian engineers engaged in a neverending war with their Turkish counterparts for the ascendency in the Anzac position. Many of the engineers' tasks were, however, supportive in nature. These included the construction of piers and gun positions, and the maintenance of a satisfactory water supply. The diary is therefore of great interest because, by outlining the role of the engineers, it covers an often forgotten but nevertheless extremely important arm of the services on Gallipoli.

However, equally as valuable, in the reviewer's opinion, is the detail of the diary and the manner in which it is written. Lawrence has the rare ability of being able to make the reader visualize the events related, clearly in his mind. This "life-like" quality adds greatly to the worth of the diary to the historian. The diary also has detail of commonplace matters often neglected in other works. These include the diet of the soldiers, the physical problems associated with the geography of the Gallipoli position and the constant danger of shells and bullets with which the troops had to exist. Lawrence further mentions the weather, his daily routine and his homesickness which together enable the reader to build up a more complete picture of what life was like for the Australian soldier on Anzac.

The diary begins on 10 May 1915 when Lawrence arrived by troopship at Suez. The next three weeks were spent in camp in Egypt and several pages are included with an excellent and fascinating description of the colour and life of Cairo. Lawrence's company was sent to Gallipoli in early June and, apart from a six weeks rest on the island of Lemnos, remained there until the evacuation of the Australians in mid-December of 1915. The bulk of the diary is devoted to the activities and observations of Lawrence during his stay on Anzac.

"What with the constant hard work, hard food, not enough of it, and bullocking labour of having to manhandle everything up and down mountainous valleys to the firing line 500 feet up above the beach, the want of sleep and a dozen other hard shifts, the men are starting to break up. It's absolutely piteous to see great sturdy bushmen and miners almost unable to walk through sheer weakness caused by chronic diarrhoea, or else one mass of Barcoo rot".

This was the condition of most of the Australians when they took part in the allied offensive in early August. This part of the diary is extremely well written and most interesting. Lawrence lucidly describes the bloodiness of the fighting, particularly at Lone Pine.

The Australian casualties at Lone Pine were horrific. Lawrence wrote on August 9: "There is just one continuous stream of wounded down from the trenches — mostly flesh wounds caused by bombs. Awful sights, nearly all soaked in blood, perhaps half a leg blown away, a hand or jaw missing and yet one looks and forgets all about it." The de-humanizing effect of Lone Pine quickly became apparent. Lawrence noted: "The smell is awful. The newly captured trenches are just full of dead still, whilst others lie on or just over the parapets. In one place we have had to build a parapet of bodies; it's horrible but necessary and one does not seem to realize the awfulness of what he sees or what he does or what he hears. It is just one dream".

Lawrence remained on Gallipoli until September when his company was sent for six weeks to Lemnos. They returned in November and remained until with the Australians: "Much as we hate and detest the place there's something of an indescribable feeling that comes over one when he thinks of leaving it. Oh (the evacuation) couldn't be . . . How could we leave those comrades who have paid the price and now lie sleeping under the sod in the cemeteries tucked away in the valleys? Are their lives to be given for nothing and all our striving to go for naught?" The diary concludes on December 15, a few days before Lawrence was evacuated.

The editor, Sir Ronald East who was a peacetime colleague of Lawrence, has done an excellent job in compiling in a concise and succinct manner these appendices which serve to fill in any gaps in the diary. Sir Ronald also includes an introduction to the Gallipoli campaign which, although basic in its coverage, will prove to be of some assistance to those not familiar with events on Anzac.

The reviewer recommends *The Gallipoli Diary of Sergeant Lawrence* to all those interested in military history, not only students of the Anzac campaign. The diary is written in a lucid and vivid fashion and contains many observations of interest. It will certainly become a significant primary source for the military historian who seeks to find out what life was like for the ordinary soldier on Gallipoli.

# **SOCIETY NOTES**

### **Annual elections for Federal Council**

Elections for officers of Federal Council are to be held by 1 July 1982.

Nominations are sought for the following positions:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Only financial members of the Society may be nominated. Their consent in writing must accompany nominations which are to reach the Secretary by 30 April 1982.

The results of the elections will be declared at the 1982 Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the ACT Branch on Monday 19 July 1982.

## Royal Australian Survey Corps Museum Acquisition

At the 19 November 1981 Spinks' sale of the collection of the late Len Forsyth, the KGV LS & GCM to WOI H. Rossiter was purchased on behalf of the RA Svy Corps Museum at Bonegilla. Rossiter was one of the foundation members of the Corps.

The Museum is anxious to acquire the remaining medals in the group. If any member is able to advise the location of the remaining medals or is in a position to offer them for sale, please contact the Federal Secretary with details. All information will be treated confidentially.

#### **RAA Museum**

In Sabretache Vol.XXII No.3 members were informed of the authorisation of a number of Army Museums in Defence Instruction (Army) Admin. 34-1.

We have recently been informed by the Secretary of the Royal Australian Historical Society that the RAA Museum has not yet been established although the Society holds a number of items for inclusion in the Museum. Work is progressing on the restoration of a 15 pdr BL on field carriage, a 25 pdr MK3, a 25 pdr MK2 and a 40 MM No.1. The RAA Historical Society has also acquired a 9 inch RML MKV 12 ton gun with garrison carriage.

The address of the Society is:

**RAA Historical Society** 

P.O. Box 42

MANLY N.S.W. 2095.

The RAA Society has become a subscribing member of the MHSA.

# Albury-Wodonga 1982

Plans are proceeding for the Queen's Birthday weekend display at Albury-Wodonga. Albury-Wodonga Branch President, Mr Don Campbell, reports that pro forma requests for accommodation are flowing in so a good roll up is expected.

The photograph below, showing a collection of artillery pieces, gives intending visitors some idea of the existing standing display in the RAAOC General Museum.



## South Australian branch and the Krait Appeal

Mr Moss Berryman was the guest of the South Australian branch of the Society at its November meeting. Mr Berryman was one of fourteen men who, under the command of Major Ivan Lyon, participated in the celebrated Operation "Jaywick" in September 1943. The men, members of "Z" Special Force, sailed a captured Japanese vessel, the *Krait* from Darwin to Singapore, where under the cover of darkness they sabotaged Japanese shipping. The small force, operating in three-man canoes within the enemy harbour, sank 39,000 tons of shipping. Mr Berryman gave a talk on the operation and exhibited the decoration which members of the force received. After the talk a cheque was presented to Mr Berryman on behalf of the South Australian branch. The donation will go towards the restoration of the *Krait*.



South Australian President Barrie Montgomery presenting a cheque to Moss Berryman.

#### Funds for official histories

In April 1981 Federal Council wrote to the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment expressing concern that funds were not available to start work on the official histories of the involvement of Australian Forces in the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam War.

The Minister, Mr Ian Wilson, has now advised that the Government has decided to allocate funds in the 1981-82 Budget for work to start on these official histories. The Australian War Memorial is to make the necessary administrative arrangements for work to begin in the near future.

# **MEMBERS WANTS**

Wanted: to purchase: Australian Engineers items:

- 1901-18 1 to 5 AE title, 2 GRVI badge (brass).
- 30-42 collars, GRV collar (same as badge), and officers brass (bombburst).
- 30-42 titles, RAE 1 3/8 inches long, RAE 1¾ inches long (oxy).
- 48-53 collar, officers oxy, (Australia on scroll).
- Present day officers collar (anodised).
- G. McGuire, 12 Bernice Avenue, Underwood, Qld, 4119.

## Wanted

Australian Army Shoulder Titles period 1948-1962 — old style with border. List of specific wants will be supplied to enquiries. Purchase or exchange Mr J.V. Phillips, 44 Glenorme Avenue, Ormond. Vic. 3204.

Wanted: MM - 1237, McLennan, 4Bn; VM - 2538, Donnelly, 6Bn; BWM & VM - 2044, Marsden, 17Bn; BWM - 5309, Colls, 18Bn; MM - 2435, Madden, 18Bn; BWM / VM - 3956, Winter, 23 Bn; VM - 6341, Hopper, 23Bn; BWM - 2028, Harper, 26Bn; MM - 2792, Turley, 30Bn; BWM - 588, Bowman, 35Bn; MM - 3252, Borserio, 53Bn; BWM - 239, Maloney, 9 MG Coy; STAR - 894, Terry, 2 LHR.

M.P. Lucas, 62 Blackwood Terrace, Holder, A.C.T. (062) 888198.

# COLOURS, GUIDONS & BANNERS PART FOUR:

Infantry Regiments continued

The Ceremonial Section of the Directorate of Personnel Support, Department of Defence (Army) has kindly allowed Sabretache to publish an abbreviated version of their six-monthly return of Guidons, Colours and Banners of the Australian Army.



The Regimental Colour of the 59th Infantry Bn.

Unit	Date Presented	By Whom Presented	Туре	Date Laid Up	Where Laid Up	Remarks
56th Inf Bn (The Riverina Regiment) 57th Inf Bn (The Merri Regimen	t)		KR	27.10.57	Christ Church Cootamundra	
58th Inf Bn (The Essendon Rifler Regiment)		H.E. Sir Ronald Munro Fergusson	KR	20. 7.25	Town Hall Essendon	Transferred to the
58th Inf Bn (The Essendon, Coburg and Brunswick Rifles)	16. 5.25	Maj Gen W. Johnson	KR	3.11.57	The Shrine Melbourne	Shrine on 3 Nov 57 Both colours fading and
58th Inf Bn (The City of Essendon Regiment)	14. 4.57	H.E. Dallas Brooks	KR	10. 5.70	Town Hall Essendon	starting to disintegrate
59th Bn 1st AIF	Jan 1919	H.M. King George V	KB	12. 8.37	ARES Depot Shepparton	
59th In Bn (The Shepparton Regiment)			KR	10. 4.60	The Shrine Melbourne	Held in trust. Both colours fading and
59th Inf Bn (The Hume Regiment)	5.11.58	Lt Gen H.J. Edgar	QR	26.10.69	Civic Centre Shepparton	starting to disintegrate
60th Inf Bn (The Heidelberg Regiment)			KR	20. 9.57	The Shrine Melbourne	Transferred from
60th Inf Bn (Brunswick and Carlton Regiment)	No deta	ils known	R	No d	letails known	St James Invanhoe Disintegrating
64th Inf Bn (The City of Melbourne Regiment)	11. 3.17	H.E. Sir Ronald Munro Fergusson	KR		Town Hall Melbourne	Now missing
67th Inf Bn (The Bendigo Regt) 67th Inf Bn (The Bendigo Inf) 70th Inf Bn (The Belliant Bast)	10.10.15	Sir A.L. Stanley	KB KR	3.11.14	St Pauls Church Bendigo St Pauls Church Bendigo	
70th Inf Bn (The Ballarat Regt) 71st Inf Bn (The City of Ballarat Regt)	8. 8.14	H.E. Sir Ronald Munro	R KR		Christ Church Cathedral Christ Church Cathedral	Torn and falling apart Torn and falling apart
86th Inf Bn (The West Australian Rifles)	n 18. 2.11	Fergusson H.E. Sir Gerald Strickland	KB	1930	St Johns Church,	Fair condition
88th Inf Bn (The Perth Battalion	n) 18. 2.11	H.E. Sir Gerald Strickland	KB	7. 6.30	Fremantle City Hall Perth	Restored now suitable
Bathurst Volunteer Rifles Castlemaine Company Victorian Volunteer Rifles	1870 1862	Mrs J.E.N. Bull	R KR		Historical Museum Bathur Christ Church Castlemaine	
Richmond Company Victorian Volunteer Rifles	2. 2.1861	Mrs P. Johnson	KR	1928	St Phillips Church Collingwood (Now	Transferred to War Memorial Canberra
3rd Pioneer Battalion AIF	June 1916	H.E. Lady Stanley	KR	June 1916	demolished) St Pauls Cathedral Melbourne	10. 8. 67

Unit	Date Presented	By Whom Presented	Туре	Date Laid Up	Where Laid Up	Remarks	Page 46
14th Victorian Battalion AIF			KR	27. 4.30	Town Hall St. Kilda	Kings colour is	
The Adelaide Rifles	21. 6.1879	Lady Jervois (Wife of Gov. of S.A.)	QR	30.11.01	St Peters Cathedral	disintegrating One set of colours	
The Adelaide Regt. of Volunteer Rifles	9.10.1860	Lady MacDonnell (Wife of Gov. of S.A.)	KR	Jan 1902	Adelaide St Peter Cathedral Adelaide	which could belong to any of these	
The Adelaide Rifles	30.11.01	Lady Tennyson (Wife of Gov. of S.A.	QR	12. 6.32	St Peter Cathedral Adelaide		
Prince Albert Volunteer Rifles (Adelaide Regiment)	2.11.1867	Duke of Edinburgh	QR	21. 6.1879	9 Town Hall Adelaide	Not held in Town Hall	
Perth Company WA Volunteer Rifles	28. 5.1896	Sir Gerald Smith	QR	7. 6.30	City Hall Perth	Location now not known	
1st Bn (The Tasmanian Rangers)	18. 2.11	H.E. Sir Gerald Strickland	KB	13.11.49	St Davids Cathedral Hobart	Fair condition. Fringe	
1st Bn (12th Aust Inf Regt Tasmania)	13.12.11	H.E. Sir Gerald Strickland	KB	13.11.49	St Davids Cathedral Hobart	loose could be repaired Good condition	ξ <sub>2</sub>
Tasmanian Volunteer Rifle Regiment	10. 2.1878	Mrs Weld	Q	13.11.22	St Davids Cathedral Hobart	Very poor condition torn left corner not	SABRETACHE
Tasmanian Volunteer Rifle Regiment	10. 2.1878	Mrs Weld	R	13.11.22	St Davids Cathedral	repairable Very poor, torn	ACH
1st Bn (The Derwent Regiment)	13.12.11	Not Known	KB	13.11.22	Hobart St Davids Cathedral	tattered Small tear, fading	E VOL
Third (Port Curtis) Infantry			KR	1938	Hobart St Pauls Cathedral	but reasonable	X TC
Sydney University Regiment	10. 9.27	Lt Gen H.G. Chauvel	KR	19. 6.60	Rockhampton Grand Hall Sydney University		XXIII
Sydney University Regiment University of New South Wales Queensland University Regiment	9. 8.59 26.10.63 19. 7.60	Lt Gen Sir Eric Woodward Lt Gen Sir Eric Woodward Col Sir Henry Abel-Smith	QR QR QR		Oniversity	Replace in 1979 Replace in 1983	-JANC
Melbourne University Regiment	21. 3.28	H.E. The Lord Summers	KR	16. 4.67	The Shrine Melbourne	1. Replace in 1980 2. Currently subject to Board of Survey due to 1975 Flood damage 1. Stitching gone and disintegrating on Kings colour 2. Fringe disintegrating on Queens colour	JANUARY/MARCH 1982

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Unit	Date Presented	By Whom Presented	Туре	Date Laid Up	Where Laid Up	Remarks
Melbourne University Regiment Adelaide University Regiment	23. 5.65 20. 1.57	H.E. Sir Rohan Delacombe Air Vice Marshal Sir R. George	QR QR		Adelaide University Regiment Officers Mess	Replace in 1985 Replace in 1977. Held in Officers Mess
West Australian University Regt.	25. 5.58	Lt Gen Sir Charles Gairdner	QR			AUR, Good condition Replace in 1978 Poor condition
Royal Military College Duntroon Royal Military College Duntroon Royal Military College Duntroon Royal Military College Duntroon Officer Cadet School Portsea	11. 2.54 27. 2.58		KR QR QR QR	21. 2.54 28. 6.70	St Johns Church Canberra RMC Chapel Duntroon	Replace in 1973 Replace in 1985
1st Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	30. 3.57	H.E. Field Marshall Sir W. Slim	QR QR		1 RAR Officers Mess	Replace in 1983 Replace in 1972
2nd Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	28. 9.55	H.E. Field Marshall Sir W. Slim	QR			Replace in 1970
3rd Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	24. 4.56	H.E. Field Marshal Sir W. Slim	QR		3 RAR	Replace in 1971 Kapyong Streamer
4th Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	11. 4.65	H.E. Viscount De Lisle	QR			replaced 23.4.78 Replace in 1980
5th Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	29.10.67	H.E. Sir Roden Cutler	QR			Replace in 1982
6th Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	14. 5.68	H.E. Lord Casey	QR		Streamer presented on 18.8.1968	Replace in 1983
7th Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	6.10.68	H.E. Sir Roden Cutler	QR			Replace in 1983
8th Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	25. 9.68	Lt Gen Sir Reginald Pollard	QR			Replace in 1983 Streamer presented on 29.10.70
9th Bn The Royal Australian Regiment	29. 4.71	H.E. Sir Paul Hasluck	QR			Replace in 1986
1st Bn Pacific Island Regiment	4 7.56	H.E. Field Marshal Sir W. Slim	QR		St Johns Taurama TPNG	Off Order of Battle
1st Bn Pacific Island Regiment	11. 3.71	Lt Gen Sir Thomas Daly	QR			Off Order of Battle

Abbreviations: K Kings; R Regimental; C Colour; B Banners; Q Queen's.

#### THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

#### **ORGANISATION**

The Federal Council of the Society is located in Canberra.

The Society has branches in Brisbane, Canberra, Albury-Wodonga, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and Perth. Details of meetings are available from Branch Secretaries whose names and addresses appear on page 2.

#### SABRETACHE

The Federal Council is responsible for the publication quarterly of the Society Journal, Sabretache which is scheduled to be mailed to each member of the Society in the last week of the final month of each issue.

Publication and mailing schedule dates are:

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

Jul-Sept edition mailed in the last week of Sept. Oct-Dec edition mailed in the last week of Dec.

#### **ADVERTISING**

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

Commercial advertising rate is \$4.70 per Column inch.

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

1 January for January — March edition. 1 April for April — June edition.

Please address all Correspondence to:

1 July for July - September edition.

1 October for October – December edition.

#### **QUERIES**

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

#### **SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

Society publications advertised in Sabretache are available from:

Mr K. White, P.O. Box 67, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602.

Orders and remittances should be forwarded to this address.

## THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 30, Garran, A.C.T. 2605. Australia.						
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP						
I / Weof						
(Name, Rank, etc.)	(Address)					
hereby apply for membership of the MILITAR the Rules, etc., of the Society and wish to be ad (Strike out non applicable alternative.)	Y HISTORICAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA. I/WE agree to abide by mitted as a Branch member of the					
•						
I/We enclose My/Our remittance for \$15.00 (Au-	st), being annual subscription, due 1st July each year.					



