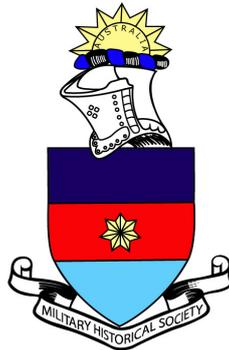


Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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SABRETACHE



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

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Contributions, in the form of articles, book reviews, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles should also submit a biography of about 50 words and a photograph for publication with their article.

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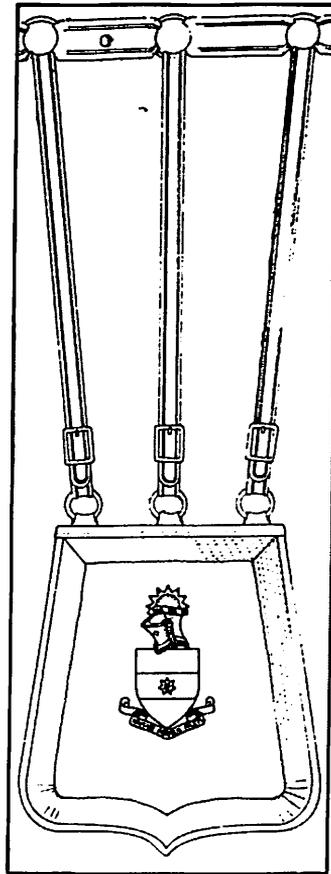
Colonel Commandant. The Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia, Lieutenant Colonel T.C. Sargent (RL) has been appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Army Survey Corps for a four-year period commencing February 1983.

Military Research. The recent Military History Workshop reflected the growing interest in Australia's past, and particularly its military traditions. That interest of course is not confined to the history professional or academic. It is much broader. Amateur historians are increasing in number.

Research is always time consuming and often frustrating particularly in the absence of, or lack of, access to, relevant material. With this in mind *Sabretache* would like to learn of current research being undertaken by members of the Military Historical Society of Australia, or readers of the journal. Such advice would be published in *Sabretache* with the purpose that others might be able to assist in areas of joint interest.

A Hallmark of Bean. Attention to detail and a personal need to discover Australians and their independence of character, particularly in war, was the hallmark of all C.E.W. Bean works. Few writers would seek to establish that during the last actions of the Light Horse in World War I an Australian jockey and a station foreman captured eighty-five Turks and a German Officer with captured weapons. The two Australians were signalmen of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade.

First Casualty. The first member of an Australian raised unit to die on active service was Private Robert Weir, 4th Infantry Company, New South Wales Contingent to the Sudan, who died of illness on 1 May 1883.



Air Force. The Royal Australian Air Force is one of the world's oldest air forces having been formed on 31 March, 1921. It evolved from the Australian Flying Corps (AFC), an Army unit, of World War I; therefore, from the outset it had experienced men as its leaders. Foremost of them was a 30-year-old veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Williams, who commanded No. 1 Squadron, AFC, in the Middle East during World War I, and who became the first Chief of the Air Staff.

Point Cook, on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, west of Melbourne, was the first air force base. It was at Point Cook where Australian pilots were trained for overseas service during World War I.

First Soldier. *Sabretache* regrets its choice of words in *unearthing* Brigade Sergeant Major Henry Thomas Green. A reader has helpfully corrected our blunder:

20.5.83

Dear Sir,

Being a nit-picker by inclination and training, I cannot say I was particularly impressed with the information that Brigade Sergeant Major Henry Thomas Green had been unearthed, unless of course he is destined to be displayed in the Victoria Barrack's Museum in Sydney. (*Sabretache*, Vol. XXIV, Jan./Mar. 83, No. 1, page 3).

Even if the secondary sense of 'unearthed' is used it can hardly be claimed that Henry Thomas was the first soldier in the Australian Army, since that organisation did not come into existence until Federation. He may well have been the first full time soldier in N.S.W.—but 'the State's newly formed force' needs qualification since Volunteer units had been in existence since 1854, some six years before the British Army garrison departed.

Even then, as your worthy President has pointed out in previous issues, N.S.W. was not the first colony to raise local troops. That honour belongs to South Australia where the Royal South Australian Volunteers were raised in 1840.

Having got that off my chest can anyone identify who was No. 1 in the other Colonial Volunteer/full time forces?

In fairness to the contributor/Editor, I must admit that Samuel Johnston in his 'on the bravery of the English common soldier' put it neatly—

In all pointed sentences, some degree of accuracy must be sacrificed to conciseness.

Wishing Thomas Henry a happy final resting place, I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

Armoured Corps. The Royal Australian Armoured Corps can trace its history back to the various Light Horse regiments which came into being during the early days after colonisation. From these 'mounted troopers' came the idea of armoured, mechanised forces—and the First Australian Light Car Patrol was formed to see service in the Western Desert and Palestine during World War I (1914-1918). This unit was equipped with six Ford cars armed with machine guns.

The requirements for a tank corps was envisaged in 1920 and the Australian Tank Corps was formed in 1927. The following year, the purchase of four Vickers Medium tanks was approved. These were landed at Glebe Island (Sydney) and were taken to the Small Arms School at nearby Randwick where a cadre of tank-training officers and men was raised. In 1929 the First Australian Tank Section became operational.

Five Valorous Brothers. In March 1983 the Australian War Memorial received the medals decorations and memorabilia of one of Australia's most famous examples of family military service and valour.

Five brothers of the Howell-Price family of New South Wales all received commissions in the 1914-18 war and were decorated for bravery. Between them they received four distinguished Service Orders, one Distinguished Service Cross, three Military Crosses and six Mentions in Dispatches. Three of the sons of Reverend John Howell-Price and Isabell Winchcombe were killed during the 1914-18 war.

The formal presentation of the donation was made by Mrs Olwen Trevor-Barnston of Cheshire, UK the only child of the late Lieutenant Commander John Howell-Price, DSO, DSC, (RN, RAN). The medals were accepted by the Chairman of Council Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, KBE, AO on behalf of the Memorial.

Commendation. It was announced in April 1983 that a Commendation for Brave Conduct was awarded to Major D. L. Fitzsimmons of 9th Field Ambulance, Mackay.

The award was made in recognition of Major Fitzsimmons' action in providing medical aid to the injured occupants of a crashed and burnt helicopter, and assisting in the rescue of the trapped co-pilot.

Bean Papers. The Australian War Memorial will publish the second in a series of 'Guides to the Collections' with the publication of *A Guide to the Personal Family and Official Papers of C.E.W. Bean* by Michael Piggott, Curator of Written Records.

The guide, which is a small soft bound volume provides a comprehensive guide to the papers.

According to the introduction: *'The 27 metres of Bean official, personal and family papers document practically every aspect of his life. In addition, there is a large quantity of family material covering three generations of the Bean and Butler families . . . The establishment, building and affairs of the Australian War Memorial also receive excellent coverage . . .'*

The 144-page booklet will be available at the Memorial at a cost of about \$3.95.

Research Grants. Over two hundred applications have been sent out in conjunction with the 1984 Research Grants Scheme.

The scheme, which was advertised by the Australian War Memorial in the national press, announced the availability of grants-in-aid to a maximum of \$3,000 for one year or up to \$5,000 over two years.

The grants are intended to finance research during 1984 for work in the field of Australian military history and related subjects. The financial assistance is for travel, photocopying and general research expenses.

The scheme includes a post graduate scholarship for a scholar undertaking supervised research in a tertiary institution.

A new grant will be for a 'Special Project Fellowship' for a senior researcher for a project which is seen by expert advisers as filling a notable gap in Australian military history. The fellowship will be tenable for one or two years from January 1984.

Historical Garrison. Fort Queenscliffe has just celebrated 100 years as a permanent military establishment. From 1882-1947 it served as a coastal artillery garrison and from 1947 to present as the Australian Army Command and Staff College. The Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen, attended the formal day-time celebrations. These activities included a 'changing of the guard' ceremony with the 'old guard', in period uniforms and weapons, being provided by 10 Medium Regiment, Geelong and the 'new guard' in modern uniforms from 2nd Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment (Deakin), also from Geelong.

Museum awards. Fort Queenscliff was recently voted the best museum in its category in Victoria, and also received a commendation. During a ceremony in Canberra, the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, presented a Certificate of Merit to Lieutenant Colonel Warwick Hamilton, a past President of the Fort Queenscliff Military Historical Society. The Australian War Memorial received an award for the best educational program.

The awards scheme, organised by the Museum Association of Australia, is to "reward and publicise those museums which have contributed significantly to public education and the enjoyment of national heritage, and which have initiated important developments in the continuing evolution of museums".

Travellers Rest. Congratulations to Nevil Locker, A.C.T. Branch of The Military Historical Society of Australia whose Travellers Rest Pioneer Exhibition, near Cooma, was chosen as N.S.W. Museum of the Year (restricted section) in the 1983 Museum of the Year awards.

Michael Downey

THE KOKODA TRAIL 1982

In May 1973 I was lucky enough to visit the battlefield of Waterloo whilst on a business trip to Europe. I found it difficult to relate the events of 1815 to the countryside as it appeared 159 years later. The atmosphere was also shattered by my fellow tourists who were cursing the steep climb to the top of the Waterloo monument as they fired off their Pentaxs, Canons and Box Brownies! No doubt a capable guide could have made the visit a lot more interesting but I left this historic area with the definite feeling of having "missed out" on what should have been a very moving experience. I found this experience nine years later on a battle field far removed from the green fields of Waterloo...

Late in 1981, together with three other former members of One Commando Company Army Reserve, I decided to carry out a trek over the Kokoda Trail. All the group were interested in Australian military history and the events and actions that took place on the Trail during the Second World War.

As we were all over 40 an intensive training program was commenced to ensure we were fit enough to complete the walk. This program was supervised by the fifth member to join the group, Dr Tony White. Tony was the M.O. with 5 RAR during its first tour of duty in Vietnam.

Departure date was 26 June 1982, exactly 40 years to the day that Captain S.V. Templeton and B. Company of 39th Battalion received their marching orders to cross the Owen Stanleys.

Apart from the personal satisfaction of completing one of the toughest treks in the world we also hoped to locate the exact position at Isurava where Bruce Kingsbury won his Victoria Cross. I contacted three former members of 2/14 Battalion, Stan Bissett MC, Alan Avery MM, and Bob Thompson, all close friends

of Kingsbury. They provided maps and some personal recollections—although all were a bit hazy about the exact position of the action. Their comments are at the end of this article.

The desperate fighting that took place within the Isurava perimeter on the 29th/30th August 1942 would rank amongst the fiercest of the many close quarter actions that were a feature of combat on the Kokoda Trail.

We also received help from my good friend Ken Clift DCM. Ken served as a Signaller with 16 Brigade and his vivid word pictures of the battles at Templetons Crossing and Iora Creek were fresh in our minds when we actually camped in these areas.

Contact was also made with the Pacific Islands Regiment who were good enough to provide us with an experienced signaller and a radio set. Michael Peni had completed 4 years' service with I.P.I.R. He was a cheerful personality, built like Tarzan, and hailed from the Sepik River district. As we all lay prostrate at the end of each day's climb, Michael would saunter in carrying the radio and happily announce that it was just another day of "easy going".



Michael Downey has collected and researched campaign medals to Australians for over 20 years and is a foundation member of the N.S.W. Military Historical Society and joined the MHSA in 1974.

As departure day drew closer we completed the last of our training walks in the Blue Mountains and carried out a final equipment check. I opted for the army Vietnam pack plus webbing harness, two basic pouches, four water bottles and the small "bum" pack. The others all used the conventional hiking packs on light metal frames. Eight days' rations, spare clothes and a small medical kit meant an all up weight of about 42 lbs. Needless to say this felt like 142 lbs by the time we got to the top of Ioribaiwa at the end of day one!

Five very worried wives waved us goodbye at Sydney International Airport on 26 June. In retrospect we were just as worried about our ability to walk the trail—the big worry being a broken ankle or twisted knee. The frustration of getting half way across and then having to fly out because of injury haunted us until the last day.

The Trail is not a scenic walk. Apart from spectacular views from the mountain tops one spends the entire trip gazing at the ground in an attempt to avoid the mass of tree roots that are specifically located to insure a certain sprained ankle if you trip on one!

A pleasant three hour flight to Port Moresby was followed by a final briefing on the Trail by Major Peter Denham, training officer at Goldie River Barracks with the Pacific Islands Regiment. Peter supplied us with "going" maps with his notes completed after walking the Trail early in 1982.

Sunday June 27th saw us out at Taurama Barracks where Signaller Peni joined us complete with radio and six batteries. These were promptly spread around amongst the group and we set off for Owen's corner. This is at least an hour's drive from Port Moresby over very rough roads. We arrived about 11 a.m. and commenced the steep walk down to the Goldie River. This descent was mainly through shoulder high Kunia grass which combined with 90 degree temperature gave us our first taste of the oppressive walking conditions we were to experience for the next seven days. We camped at the foot of Imita Ridge—the famed "Golden Stairs", and broke out the rum ration for the first time.

0800 hours saw us commencing the long haul up Imita Ridge. There is no sign of the famed "golden stairs". The logs that formed the stairs have gone and only a slight widening of the track on some of the steeper sections gives one an appreciation of the infamous climb immortalised in Damion Parer's photographs.

We reached Imita Gap—the top of the ridge—mid-morning. Hauling the radio up was bad enough—how the troops and natives carried the wounded over this terrain was mind-boggling.

Lunchtime saw us at the foot of Ioribaiwa and by 1600 hours we reached the top. Looking back across to Imita it was easy to sense the frustration the Jap soldiers must have felt when they were ordered to turn back with only "one more river to cross".

The next three days tended to merge into one long exhausting haul passing through the villages and over the features that made history 40 years ago. Nauro . . . Meari . . . Brigade Hill . . . Efogi . . . Kagi. By now we had started to get used to the 90 degree heat and the packs were getting just a little lighter as we ate our way through our umpteenth packet of "Cup-of-Soup".

The end of day four found us at the top of Mount Bellamy looking down on Templeton's Crossing. We froze that night and I vividly recalled Ken Clift's advice to "take more than half a blanket", as I shivered inside my thin plastic space blanket.

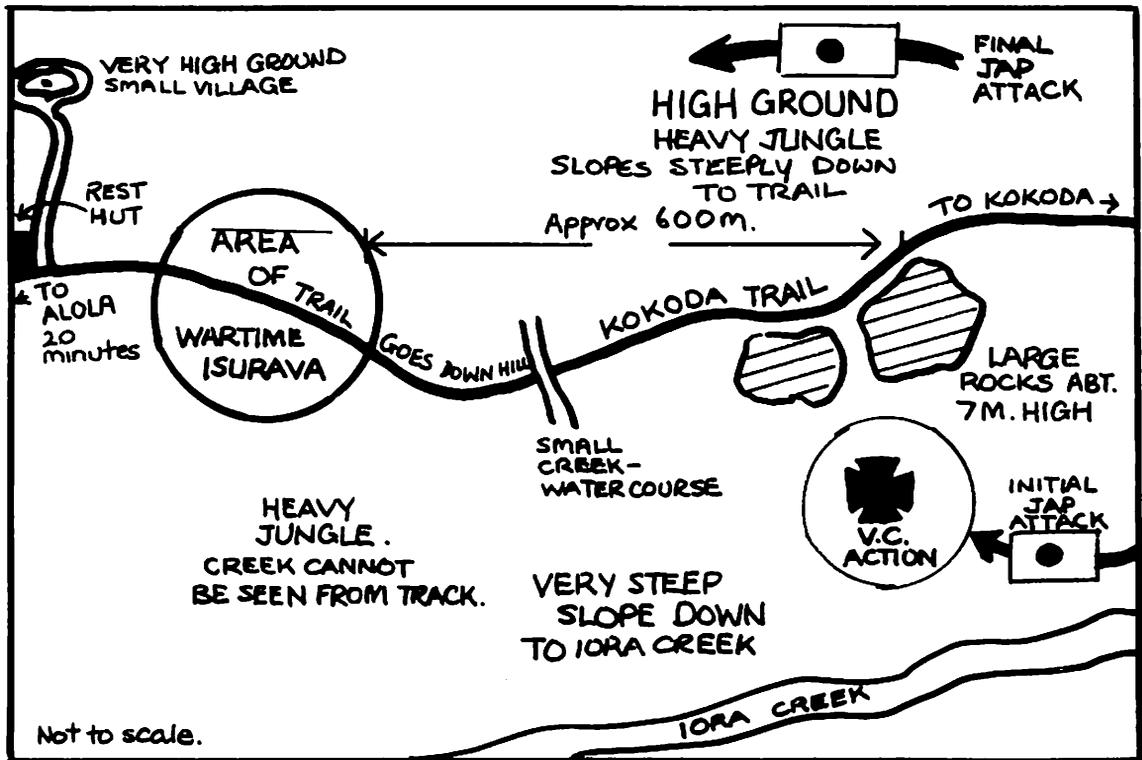
We moved out early on day five arriving at Iora Creek camp mid afternoon. Here was the one spot on the Trail where weapon pits and a defensive position were clearly visible. Their intersecting lines of fire overlooked the steep drop to Iora Creek—the scene of so much bitter fighting.

We found two clips of 5 rounds, some signal wire and the remains of an alarm clock in one of the weapon pits well off the main track.

One cannot help but be greatly moved at places like this. As we camped in the middle of the Iora defensive perimeter, still covered in dirt and sweat after the long haul from Templeton's Crossing, with night falling and the mist rolling in, it was easy to imagine the feelings of the young militia soldiers and the A.I.F. veterans as they waited for the next "Banzai" attack. "The Courage of the Early Morning" would indeed have been called upon by these men.

Noon on day six found us in Alola village. Here we left our packs at the rest hut and moved on to Isurava perimeter where Kingsbury won his Victoria Cross. The wartime village of Isurava is now overgrown and deserted. About a quarter of a mile past the village the track widens and two very large rocks lie alongside the track. I am confident that this was the area of the break through made by the Japs and where Bruce Kingsbury and his gallant comrades of the 2/14 Battalion turned them back.

And so to our last day. Moving through the new village of Isurava and down the long 3500 feet descent through the moss forest finally brought us to the rubber plantation on the outskirts of Kokoda. The long lines of rubber trees reminded us all of Malaya and with a great deal of relief we reached Kokoda at about 1500 hours. The need to concentrate on one's footing for over 8 hours combined with a bad case of



A map showing the location where Private Kingsbury, VC, won a Victoria Cross.

"quivering knees" made it seem the Trail was saying "just a final bit of bastardry to make sure you don't forget me!"

At Kokoda we inspected the small museum set up by H.T. Kienzle. There is a display of weapons, photos and relics of the trail including a large box of assorted bones!

Kienzle was responsible for recruiting the native carriers and setting up the lines of supply over the trail in the early days of the campaign.

After reading his notes that are on display in the museum I came to the conclusion that this man's contribution to the success of the allied war effort has never received the credit due to it.

We signed the visitor's book in the Museum and after a good night's sleep left for Popendetta by the local utility driven at breakneck speed over a terrible road by a gentleman who fancied himself as P.N.G.'s answer to Jack Brabham.

So that was the end of the Trail. To cross it was an experience I would never have missed.

As I looked down on this tortured landscape during the flight back to Port Moresby I recalled a passage in Raymond Paull's excellent book "Retreat from Kokoda". I think it summarises the spirit of the diggers on the trail . . .

"Along the flank in the rear of Bisset's position, 12 Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Lindsay Mason, had been engaged in four counter-attacks during the afternoon, which cost nine men wounded and one missing. The Japanese, late in the afternoon, attempted to subdue this pocket of resistance by a concerted attack, in which Mason's forward posts were lost, won and lost again during the fierce, close fighting, until the enemy's overwhelming numbers compelled the platoon's exhausted remnants to withdraw. Their extrication was largely due to one man, Acting Corporal Charles McCallum. In spite of three wounds, McCallum held off the Japanese with his Bren-gun and a Tommy-gun which has fallen from the hands of a more seriously wounded comrade.

McCallum provided covering fire with these weapons, the Tommy-gun on his left shoulder, the Bren on his right hip. The Japanese rushed him when the Bren magazine was empty, but he swung the Tommy-gun at them, checked their rush with its fire, and replaced the Bren Magazine with his right hand.

His comrades claimed that McCallum killed 40 Japanese in the course of the brief action. So close were the enemy to him that one of them wrenched the utility pouches on his chest in an effort to seize him. McCallum's courage and cool demeanour never faltered.

When the wounded had been carried out, and his comrades called to him that they were clear, he swept the area as a final gesture and rejoined them, bringing both weapons. His action earned him the Distinguished Conduct Medal."

Three of those Australians who fought along the legendary "trail", Stan Bisset, Alan Avery and Bob Thompson were consulted to verify the localities of actions particularly the exact position, at Isurava where Kingsbury won the Victoria Cross. Their recollections are reproduced below:—

During the Isurava battle as I.O. of the Battalion I visited most of the Company areas, but was not in the forward area on the Iora Creek side of the track. I was mainly on the higher ground on the left of the track and at one stage with Col. Key we went along the track past our forward troops and surprised a Jap patrol astride the track. I have no recollection of the large rocks or actual ground in which Bruce Kingsbury launched the counter attack. Bob and Alan both state that the large rocks shown by you right on the track could not be those referred to in our records as they were smaller and were located close on 100 yards on the Iora Creek side of the track. The ground in the area was reasonably level but further back it fell away steeply towards the Creek.

None of us could actually remember sighting any huts on the battle area or the approach to the battle area. You must remember that this particular position had been selected by the remnants of the 39th Bn. and our Bn. was committed into the area without a possibility of reconnaissance piecemeal one company at a time to retrieve and defend positions where the 39th Bn. had been overwhelmed. It was these two or three days that the Japs committed four to six Battalions to attack. It is extremely difficult to remember distances, but the three of us believe that the Isurava battle area would be approximately 1½ miles forward of the Alola and Abuari track junctions.

Your sketch shows "Trail goes down Hill" then "Small Creek". I would say that when the Bn. withdrew during the night 29th August the position which I selected would be at the top of this slope, roughly where you have printed the word "trail". This was the position where the Battalion H.Q. was caught in cross fire and Col. Key and others were lost, approximately hour forward of Alola.

Where you show "Very High Ground Slopes Steeply Down to Trail" this would appear to be the area occupied by 'B' and portion of 'D' Companies, which places Bn. H.Q. close to where you show the rocks. I doubt if any of us would remember the rocks other than Alan and Bob who had a reason for same. I do know that the track was wide in the Bn. H.Q. area, because Don Duffy our R.M.O. needed plenty of room for the R.A.P.

Alan states definitely that he saw the Jap sniper on the large rock and gave him a burst from the Tommy Gun, but just a fraction late. Unless the track route has changed it would seem that they are smaller and possibly 100 or 200 yards further forward and below the track.



Captain Stan Bisset, MC

With regard to Kingsbury's action, I can say little more than the description of our 2/14th Bn. history. At this time many desperate defensive and counter attacks were taking place on all Company fronts. The odds would have been at least eight to one—our fellows fought superbly. Enclosed is a snap taken during the Gona Campaign, about ten weeks after the Isurava action.

Stan Bisset.



Private Bruce Kingsbury, VC (extreme left) and Sergeant Alan Avery, MM (extreme right)

Please forgive me for not responding sooner—Stan Bisset called not long after you sent our copies of your article to discuss your map and location of the position where Bruce won his V.C.

We agreed your two rocks in the map you drew were not the rocks where the action took place. The action was below the track down towards the creek. We did agree it couldn't have been too far down hill—I remember where our R.A.P. was established astride, or on the main track where Dr Don Duffy treated so many wounded. My only new contribution to you for your research would be to contact Dr Duffy; he is a leading gynaecologist in Melbourne. He should have plenty of memories.

Stan and I am almost sure our Battalion did not reach the point where those two rocks are drawn on your map, although we both realise the track could change course over the years. The rocks where our action occurred was no higher than 12"-15" and yes it was a Jap Sniper who shot Bruce from the top of the first rock. Unfortunately he wasn't accounted for.

Alan Avery.

I am sure you appreciate the difficulties that can be experienced when one attempts to cast the mind back forty years and focus clearly on events that occurred, then amid the inevitable distraction of battle.

Some events stand out clearly in my mind. I can recall the several happenings which culminated in the death of Bruce Kingsbury and our later movements resulting from that brief action, in clear detail and I have a fairly clear picture in my mind of the area in which it occurred.

The part that is confused in my memory is just where that piece of ground fits in the overall picture of the Isurava area.

I believe the battalion was sited astride the track about half an hour's walk from Alola. That seems to confirm the location you have drawn on your sketch. I can not recall seeing the Rest Huts, nor the village of Isurava. I have a vague recollection that some of the men in the forward platoons filled their water bottles from a creek in front of them.

If this is so, the Battalion must have been holding the ground between the villae area and the creek.

Our action took place to the right of the track. I recall leading my platoon from B.H.Q. down the track (i.e. towards the creek) some 150-200 yards, then branching off along a small footpad. At this point, I picked up Bruce and Alan Avery and perhaps "Teddy" (Lindsay) Bear, but I seem to recall he had a wound in his foot. Jim Truscott joined in, also.

A little further down this track we came across the body of a Japanese soldier and a little later, parting some bushes that grew over the track, I found myself staring into the eyes of a Jap, doing the same thing!

That's when the action started—Lt. (Bill?) Clements appeared from nowhere—hurled a couple of grenades after the retreating Jap, then disappeared again. I fanned my fellows out and we went forward towards a clearing with Bruce alongside me firing his Bren to great effect.

In fact, due to the support Bruce was giving us as he advanced, firing from the hip, we reached the clearing which was immediately below a large rock on top of which were two rifle company men who had been cut off and forced to sit it out on the rock for an hour or two undetected.

Unfortunately hearing their shout, I stopped our advance to talk to them. It was at this time, I heard a warning shout from Jim Truscott followed by a burst of fire and Bruce was killed.

On your sketch, you show two rocks, both on the track. The one I refer to was 15-20 feet high and off the track at least a hundred yards. There was open ground to the left of it stretching 40-50 yards to trees beyond which was the track. To the right of the rock and the small clearing we attacked, the ground fell sharply to the river.

Assuming that the position of the track has altered, I would say that the large rock on your sketch fits my impression of what I remember, although, I fancy there was some light timber on the sides. If this is the rock, the place where Bruce died is just below it.



Photo of Bob Macdonald taken on leave in Australia, May 1943. Sergeant Macdonald took part in the counter attack with Private Kingsbury against Japanese positions at Isurava.

I am sure you know all the details of this action—how we waited at Myola for a supply drop and because of a shortage of supplies, it was possible to move only one company forward at a time i.e. one company morning, one afternoon. Consequently it was actually the third day when my platoon was called forward. I was Signals Sergeant, my Sig Officer had gone forward with the C.O. On arrival at B.H.Q., the forward Coys were under attack. In the midst of a briefing by the Sign Officer, a runner came calling for reinforcements and I took my platoon forward as we were the only force available.

Thanks to Bruce, we were able to take the ground which had been lost and I felt confident the battalion would be advancing towards Kokoda. Unfortunately, having been foiled on the right flank, the Japanese moved round the high ground on the left and so started the withdrawal that continued until we finally stopped the Japanese at Ioribaiwa.

Bob Thompson

KINGSBURY, Private Bruce Steel

*2/14th Australian Infantry Battalion,
A.I.F.*

19th August 1942, at Isurava, Papua
(Posthumous Award)

CITATION: In New Guinea, the Battalion to which Private Kingsbury belonged had been holding a position in the Isurava area for two days against continuous and fierce enemy attacks. On 29th August, 1942, the enemy attacked in such force that they succeeded in breaking through the Battalion's right flank, creating serious threats both to the rest of the Battalion and to its Headquarters. To avoid the situation becoming more desperate it was essential to regain immediately lost ground on the right flank. Private Kingsbury, who was one of the few survivors of a Platoon which had been overrun and severely cut about by the enemy, immediately volunteered to join a different platoon which had been ordered to counterattack. He rushed forward firing the Bren gun from his hip through terrific machine-gun fire and succeeded in clearing a path through the enemy. Continuing to sweep enemy positions with his fire and inflicting an extremely high number of casualties on them, Private Kingsbury was then seen to fall to the ground shot dead by the bullet from a sniper hiding in the wood. Private Kingsbury displayed a complete disregard for his own safety. His initiative and superb courage made possible the recapture of a position which undoubtedly saved Battalion Headquarters, as well as causing heavy casualties amongst the enemy. His coolness, determination and devotion to duty in the face of great odds was an inspiration to his comrades. (*London Gazette: 9 February 1943.*)

Chris Coulthard-Clark

FIRST BRITISH SHOT OF 1914

In September 1925 Lieut.-Colonel E.F. Harrison, Director of Military Operations and intelligence at Army Headquarters in Melbourne, was attached to the Intelligence Directorate of the British War Office. A month after his arrival in London he fulfilled a longstanding request from Sir Maurice Hankey, Secretary of the Committee of Imperial Defence, for an account for the use of the Committee's historical section of the first British shot fired in the War of 1914-18. This concerned the interception of the German steamship *Pfalz* as it attempted to escape from Port Phillip Bay on the outbreak of war. This is Harrison's account.

The decision of the British Government to take precautionary measures against a surprise outbreak of war with Germany was communicated to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia in due course. On receipt of this communication the Fixed Defences were manned by skeleton detachments of the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery in accordance with pre-arranged plans laid down in the respective Defence Schemes of Defended Ports.

During the day preceding the declaration of hostilities, the atmosphere in the big centres was electrical and German nationals were prepared for anything to happen.

At various ports round the Australian coast a considerable volume of German shipping was to be found. At Melbourne, certain German ships were loading, amongst them the Steamship "Pfalz" of the Deutsche-Australische Dampschiff Gesellschaft.

The "Pfalz" was ready for sea early on the morning of August 5th by which time on account of the difference in Longitude no news of the outbreak of war had reached or could have reached Melbourne, the then seat of the Government of the Commonwealth. The difference in time due to this displacement of Melbourne from London is approximately 10 hours, that is to say 11 p.m. in London is 9 a.m. of the following day in Melbourne.

The further lapse of time caused by cabling, filtering this message through the Cipher Room and "official channels" and issuing orders to the Forts at Port Phillip Heads (the entrance to Port Phillip on which Melbourne stands is some 40 miles distant by seas and 60 by road) amounted to some three and a half hours.

This period added to the 10 hours due to Melbourne's geographical position brought the actual time of the receipt of the War Message at the Forts to



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12.30 p.m. on 5 August 1914.

During the morning of 5 August the S.S. "Pfalz" completed her loading, embarked her pilot at 8.0 a.m. and proceeded down the tortuous South Channel of Port Phillip. Her departure was notified to the Military authorities by the Customs who in Australia are the Department responsible for the issue of the requisite ships papers. When what appeared to be the War Message arrived the Forts reported the "Pfalz" to be approaching.

The narrow entrance channel to Port Phillip passes between the town and Fort of Queenscliff on the West and Nepean Fort on the Eastern headland.

The dredged and blasted channel itself is an exceedingly dangerous piece of navigation during which the tiderip especially on the ebb is enormous. At certain stages the tide causes an overfall which eddies and rages in such a manner as to make ships almost unmanageable and gives to this entrance channel the name of "The Rip".

Overlooking the Rip is Fort Nepean, which was doing duty as Examination Battery under the command of Major F.W. Osborne, R.A.G.A.

Momentarily the "Pfalz" approached the Forts while the War Message was being deciphered at Army Headquarters and communications by telephone were passing from those Headquarters to District Headquarters thence to Defended Port headquarters 60 miles away at Queenscliff, and so to the Examination Battery two miles away on the other side of the entrance. Then ensued a race between the Cipher Room and the "Pfalz" which ended in favour of the Army by minutes only: for at the precise moment that the ship entered the inner end of the Rip with her bows in such a position that a shot across them would ricochet into Queenscliff Town the order to put into force full war measures was telephoned through the lengthy course above described.

The Examination Battery Commander unwilling to fire a shot which would damage Queenscliff used his initiative and fired across the stern of the "Pfalz" trusting that the Pilot who held a latent commission as a Boarding Officer and who had helped us on many practices in that role would appreciate the situation.

Unfortunately the ship did not stop, owing it was discovered later to the navigational perils of The Rip and instructions as to sinking her were asked for from the General Staff of District Headquarters.

Orders to fire to sink if necessary were given and the gun had been laid when the German colours were hauled down and the ship now clear of the dangerous portion of The Rip commenced to turn and headed back to Port Phillip. Valuable papers were secured for us in this ship which eventually became a Prize of War and was later employed in Transport duties for the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force and still later

was incorporated under the name "Booral" as a unit of the Australian Commonwealth Line for whom she traded for years.

Time Table

5th August 1914	
8.0 a.m.	S.S. "Pfalz" completes loading, embarks Pilot, undocks, passes out of River Yarra and proceeds via South Channel towards Port Phillip Entrance.
12 noon.	Forts at Port Phillip Heads warned of imminence of War State and attempted departure of "Pfalz".
12.20 p.m.	Forts report S.S. "Pfalz" approaching entrance to Port Phillip.
12.30 p.m.	Orders for War State passed to Defended Port Commander and through him to Examination Battery. Simultaneously "Pfalz" entered "The Rip" and was fired at.
12.35 p.m.	"Pfalz" turns back to port having passed dangerous portion of The Rip.

Harrison was well-placed to recount the events described above, as at the time of the incident he was a major and the senior General Staff Officer on the headquarters of 3rd Military District (Victoria). In this role he was a central player in the race to decipher the War Message and order the forts at the Heads to stop the *Pfalz* before she made good her escape. As his sister, Mrs Elsie Trefusis of Shepparton, Victoria, wrote in a letter to the *London Evening News* of 12 November 1938, it was Harrison who alerted the forts when the *Pfalz* slipped her moorings in the Port of Melbourne and steamed southwards towards the Heads. When the Declaration of War cable arrived about noon, 'almost simultaneously the forts told him that the *Pfalz* could just be seen coming down the bay. He made the Gunner Commander remain at the telephone, and had the Headquarters people dictate the war declaration to him as it was deciphered'.

This process took some time and the ship, as Harrison's account details, was entering the Rip just as the cable was finished. It was therefore, according to his sister, Harrison who gave the order to fire a warning shot and, when advised that the shot had failed to stop her, ordered that the *Pfalz* be sunk as soon as she was clear of the channel, althiet this action proved unnecessary.

The author wishes to thank Mr Brian Harrison, son of Lieut Colonel (later Brigadier) E.F. Harrison and former Conservative member for Maldon (Essex) in the House of Commons 1955-74, now residing at Kojunup, WA, who kindly provided copies of his father's papers on the subject of the *Pfalz*.

John E. Price

A CATALINA CRASH ON LORD HOWE ISLAND

Almost everyone who visits Lord Howe Island considers it the personification of a South Pacific paradise. Quiet, unspoilt beaches, a lagoon where one may fish, or snorkle to explore the marvels of the world's most southerly coral reef. Some few kilometres of palm tree lined roads, along which tourists pedal their bicycles, scarcely troubled by the fifty, or so, cars driven at a restricted speed by the residents.

Until the all-weather air-strip was constructed, in 1974, by the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers, access to this tiny scrap of New South Wales was limited and sporadic. During the twenty years from 1932, Burns Philp operated a regular passenger shipping service. In 1947 came the era of the Sandringham flying-boats—civil versions of the war-time Sunderlands—which cut the transit time from Sydney down to three hours, bringing in thousands of tourists, together with essential supplies. However the flights were entirely dependant upon the weather.

If cyclonic conditions, or rough seas, prevailed, tourists could be stranded—often for days—and the vital supply line was severed. When the amphibians were phased out, upon the completion of the runway, so ended the last regular flying-boat service in the world.

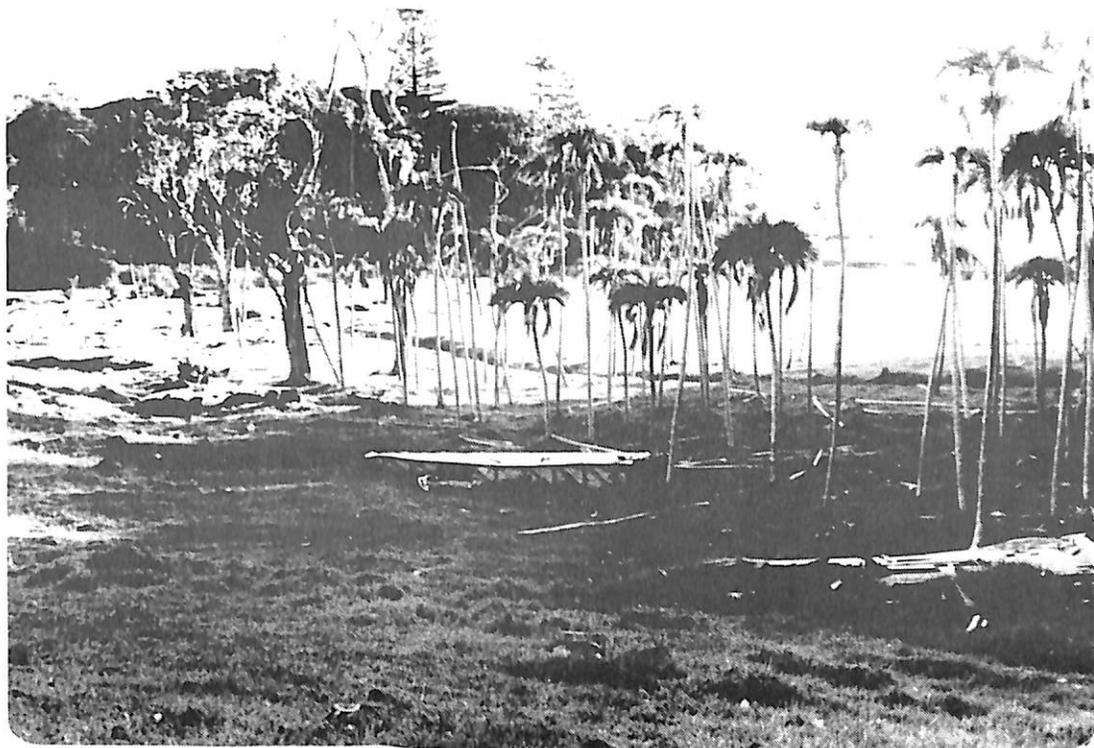
Every item, that is essential to the well being of the community, still has to be carried in; either by small twin-engined aircraft, or by the irregular shipping service which calls at roughly five weekly intervals.

Lord Howe Island is located at Latitude 31 degrees South, and Longitude 159 degrees East. It is some 425 nautical miles north-east of Sydney—almost equidistant from Port Jackson and the island's next-door neighbour, Norfolk Island. Some 300 nautical miles due east of Port Macquarie, and 846 nautical miles north-west of Auckland, New Zealand.

It is part of the New South Wales electorate of Elizabeth District and is represented, in Federal



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The Catalina wreckage on Lord Howe Island.

Parliament, by the member for Sydney. As the legal jurisdiction of the New South Wales Government cuts out at the 145th degree of Longitude, the Lord Howe Island Board administers the island.

It is crescent shaped and 12 kilometres long, in a north-south direction, being no more than 2 kilometres at its widest point. Geologically volcanic in origin: generally of the late tertiary period. The twin peaks of Mount Gower—866 metres—and Mount Lidgbird—765 metres—dominate the southern end. From there the topography drops, irregularly, until it reaches the 158 metre peak of Mount Eliza, at the island's north-western tip. The inhabited portion, however, is at sea level.

It is at Malabar, the most northerly section, that our story unfolds.

In the late afternoon of 28 September 1948, a Royal Australian Air Force Consolidated Catalina, No. A24-381*, of 11 Squadron—based at Rathmines, near Newcastle, New South Wales—was working in conjunction with H.M.A.S. Australia, which was

carrying out manoeuvres in the Tasman Sea. The aircraft's captain, Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Donald Smith, of Cremorne, had set a course south from the island, when a leak in the hydraulic system was discovered. He turned the aeroplane back towards the lagoon, the established flying-boat anchorage, and circled the northern part of the island for some thirty minutes: before commencing the run in. As the Catalina lost height—in fading light—a wing clipped the 218 metre summit of Malabar. The aircraft hit a tree, near Peg Lookout, and cascaded down the hillside. As it skidded to a halt, pontoons and external structures were sheared off, the wreckage being strewn roughly one kilometre down the slope, towards Old Settlement Beach.

There were nine crew members on board, eight of whom were New South Welshmen. The co-pilot was Pilot Officer Sidney Lionel Piercey, of Wangi Wangi. The two navigators were Flight Lieutenants William David Keller, of Toronto, and James Baker McCoy, of Cronulla. Two flight engineers, Warrant officers Sidney Howard Bacon, of Wangi Wangi, and Donald Edward Salis, of Willoughby. Three wireless operators completed the team, Flight Lieutenants Bert Raymond Bradley, of Leichhardt, and Alex McKenzie, of Kilaben Bay, whilst Warrant Officer John Dean Lea was the only 'foreigner', he hailed from Ardrossan, in South Australia.

First on the scene, after the impact, was islander Roy Wilson, co-proprietor of nearby Ocean View Guest House, who rushed to the tail of the aircraft, which was burning fiercely, and dragged clear one of the survivors; who was severely injured. He extinguished the burning clothing of the airman. Whilst doing this he was joined by William Davis, also from Ocean View. Both men had served with the R.A.A.F., during the Second World War, so were well aware of the dangers of a petrol explosion. Between them they removed the injured man, and another survivor, from the vicinity of the blazing machine. Immediately afterwards the second tank exploded. Whilst this was happening, islanders and tourists arrived on the scene, but there was nothing anyone could do.



Roy Lance Wilson, G.M., holding his George Medal and citation outside his home at Leanda Lei Guest House, Lord Howe Island.

Both survivors suffered fractures of the left leg, extensive burns and abrasions.

They were returned to the mainland, in the Catalina which had brought in air force medical staff, and technical personnel. Smith, McCoy, Keller, McKenzie, and Bacon were buried in Rookwood Cemetery, after a service at Sydney's St Andrew's Cathedral. Piercey and Salis were buried privately.

For their gallantry and initiative, William Ernest Davis was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division), whilst Roy Lance Wilson received the George Medal from the State Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant General Sir John Northcott, at Government House, Sydney.

A memorial service was held at Old Settlement Beach, on the 7th February 1978, to honour those killed in the Catalina crash, and a tablet was placed at Peg Lookout.

When the writer was holidaying on the island, in 1981, there was still plenty of wreckage to be seen, although it was difficult to ascertain the exact crash pattern as, through the passage of time, much had been shifted: by weather, sightseers, or farmers. During conversations, many residents mentioned—with an element of concern—that items had been removed, although I never found out if this had been done by souvenir hunters, or officials.

Whilst there is an atmosphere of rubble scarring the verdant landscape, it was a poignant reminder of the place where seven men lost their lives, during a brief episode in Royal Australian Air Force history.

Notes and Sources

- * No registration letters have been discovered.
 - 1. Mr R.L. Wilson, G.M. Lord Howe Island.
 - 2. Corporal K. Kurtz, R.A.A.F. Museum, Point Cook, Victoria.
 - 3. R.A.A.F. Historical Records, Dept of Defence, Canberra.
 - 4. Staff of the Latrobe Library, Melbourne.
- 'Sydney Morning Herald'. Several issues 1948-1949.
 Discovering Lord Howe Island. J. Edgecombe & I. Bennett, Pacific Maps & Guides, Surry Hills, N.S.W.
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 Encyclopedia of Australia (1 volume) A.T.A. & A.M. Learmonth. Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd., London, 1968.
 Fourth Supplement to the London Gazette (36607) 10 May 1949, p. 2300.

ENSIGN HAMILTON'S LETTER

Ensign William Hamilton probably of the 12th Regiment of Foot was detailed to take a detachment of troops from Sydney to Calcutta early in 1859. A letter he wrote to his father Dr William Hamilton in Sligo, Ireland, survives as part of the Donated Records Collection of the Australian War Memorial. It is reproduced here as a record of ship-board life in the mid-Victorian British army. Ensign Hamilton had just turned 26 at the time of this voyage, and died of sunstroke on 2 May 1859 only months after his arrival in India.

Ship "Glen Isla".
14th Feby. 1859.

My dearest Father,

You have heard before this my being appointed to take charge of a detachment of the 77th Regt. going to India. It will be interesting for you and Ellen to have an account of our voyage. The Surgeon, a Dr Lynch, is a very nice person, there are two other passengers and a Mr Burtt who chartered the vessel and has 61 hours on board. I will commence from the 12th, the day we embarked, left the Victoria Barracks at 7 a.m. with 23 men of the 77th Regt. accompanied by Colonel Percival and Adjutant Fitzgerald of the 12th Regt., got on board at 9, had breakfast the Col. & Adj. remaining for Luncheon, which was very nicely got up. After several healths were drunk including those of Col, Adjt. Lynch and myself, the Col. and Adjt. left cheered by the men of the 77th Regt. Sunday 13th, nearly all the men attended Divine Service. Monday 14th, complaint made by the soldiers of their meat it was changed immediately by the Purcer (sic). Tuesday 15th Burtts men refused to work. I allowed him 10 Soldiers, they will be well paid on their arrival in Calcutta if they behave themselves. Wednesday 16th nothing particular transpired. Thursday 17th. One of the troops threw his boots overboard, stopped his grog for 7 days. Friday 18th. Same man refused to appear on Parade. Used improper language. Put him in Irons for 48 hours. Saturday 19th. Burtt called his men aft and asked them if they would return to their work refused, kept on bread and water till they turn to. Sunday 20th. The Troops attended divine service after which Capt. Parker lent them books from his library, came on to blow hard towards evening. Close reafed (sic) all night. Monday 21st. Going our course at the rate of 10 knotts an hour, caught two Albitrosses, one measured 16 feet across the wings. We are 100 miles south of Adelaide, came on blow

about 10 O.C. lasted all night with very heavy rain. Tuesday 22nd. Nothing particular till one o.c. when it came on to blow, one of the troops met with a severe accident, fell down the main hatch was senseless for about half an hour. Wednesday 23rd. Going out course at about 9.5 knotts. Chief Mate got quoits made, we will amuse ourselves when the weather permits. One of the apprentices sent aloft for 6 hours for stealing biscuits. Thursday 24th. Nothing particular transpired. Friday 25th. Burtts men returned to work, the ten I allowed him broke into the store room, two brought before me for drunkenness (sic). Stopped their grog for 10 days. Same men used insolent language to me put them in Irons for 48 hours. One of them got the irons off in the prison. I ordered them on again, he said he would see the officer and Sergt. damned before he would leave them on again, he was got in irons but not before he did damage and got himself fearfully cut about the head, the Sergt. complained of a pain in his side. Lynch examined him and found one of his ribs broke from a kick he got from the prisoner. I will have him tried by Court Martial when I get to Calcutta. Saturday. 26th. Going our course at about 12 knotts an hour. Chief Mate drunk. Capt. Parker had him put in irons for abusive and insolent language. Sunday 27th. Going out course about 10 knotts very wet which prevents divine service. Monday 28th. The Corporal of the Guard, over the prisoner, drunk, placed him under arrest going our course. Capt expects to get round Cape Leeuwin during the night. Tuesday 1st March. Going along nicely got round the Cape about 4 o.c. this morning. The Corporal who was drunk yesterday was brought before me this morning. I found by the Defaulters Sheets he had not been drunk for better than two years and his conduct during that time was very good, had I punished him for being drunk on duty he would have lost his stripes when he got to Calcutta being a married man I let him off with a caution. Chief

Mate still confined to his room does not seem to care whether he returns to his duty or not. Wednesday 2nd. Going our course about 10 knots nothing particular. Thursday 3rd. A vessel in sight supposed to be Golcoud. She left three days before us with horses and passengers for Madras. Friday 4th. A vessel in sight homeward bound caught a shark about 14 feet long lost him in consequence of the rope breaking. Saturday 5th. Going our course very slowly about 2 knots saw the shark we hooked yesterday with our tackle in his mouth. Kept with us for three or four hours. Sunday 6th. Sailors hooked a large shark. They had him about halfway up the side of the vessel he got clear of the hook and bid them farewell. Had Divine Service on the poop a good number of the troops attended becalmed all day. Monday 7th. I went on deck about 6 o.c. to have (a bath) a few buckets of water thrown over me they were speaking a vessel in about half an hour, we saw the other vessel lower one of her boats. Capt Parker lay to. About 8 a whale boat came alongside with the Capt. and Mate of an American Whaler the "Julia" 29 months out. Capt. Stuart, he gave us 19 letters to post for him in Calcutta. After he left one of our passengers, an American discovered amongst these letters one directed to his brother in America, and the handwriting of another brother who bought a whaler about 2.5 years ago he thinks this was his brother's vessel. It came onto blow which prevented Capt. Parker lowering a boat for him to go on board. This young man's name is Lawrence he went out to Australia about 5 years ago. Was making about 2000 a year. His partners got him into difficulties, so with what money he had left he bought some horses intends selling them in India and returning to America. Tuesday 8th. Going our course about 7 knots nothing particular. Wednesday 9th. Becalmed all day. Amused ourselves playing quoits. Saw a large shark but could not succeed in catching him. Thursday 10th. Going our course 7 knots nothing particular. Friday 11th. Going our course becalmed towards evening. Caught a shark 12 feet long, the Capt. harpooned him we got a rope round his fins and succeeded in bringing him on board. Some of the troops and sailors cooked part of his tail for supper. Saturday 12th. Going our course about 10 knots. A row amongst the sailors very soon put a stop to by the Capt. and Mate, the mate returned to his duty. Friday evening. Sunday 13th. Very wet going our course at about 7 knots no divine service in consequence of the rain. Monday 14th. Going our course about 6 knots very warm. Lynch and myself wish ourselves in Calcutta. Lynch was a pupil of Doctor Bellingham's and knew Mrs B family intimately. Knew Robt Gore in the Crimea looks on him as a fearful coward. He (Lynch) was formerly in the 7th Hussars. Tuesday 15th. Very warm nothing particular. Wednesday 16th. Going our course some of the passengers fishing others reading. Nothing particular. Thursday 17th. Chief Mate quite drunk and very abusive. Lynch

and myself played quoits today. We are very fairly matched. His father was a brother student of Bellingham's. You must have known him he often heard his father speak of a Hamilton, a student. Saturday 19th. Blowing very hard. Capt. Parker looking out for his masts. Sunday 20th. Fine. No damage done from the wind yesterday. Chief Mate drunk and abusive. Capt. Parker very properly sent him forward to do the duty of an A.B. Seaman. Made the 2nd Mate 1st; 3rd 2nd & Boatswain 3rd Mate. Monday 21st. Nothing particular. Ship going her course. Tuesday 22nd. Looks very squally wind gone round to the north sending us right back to Sydney. Wind round to South towards evening. Wednesday 23rd. Going our course one of the passengers fishing caught a Boneto. Thursday 24th. Going our course at about 6 knots. Got Dr Lynch to vaccinate me. Friday 25th. Capt. Parker lowered one of the boats we were becalmed one of the passengers went with him for a row. Saturday 26th. Becalmed. Nothing particular. Sunday 27th. Becalmed. Had Divine Service on the Poop. Monday 28th. Going our course at about 7 knots. Becalmed towards evening. Tuesday 29th. Going our course. Spoke a vessel homeward bound too far off to send letters by her. Wednesday 30th. Spoke another vessel homeward bound she was also rather far from us. Thursday 31st. Going our course about 4 knots. Spoke a vessel but could not make out her name. Friday 1st April. One of the cabin passengers made a great fool of my Sergt. told him I wanted the men in marching order at 10. The Sergt. came down to me at that hour and said the men were all ready. I went on deck and found them in heavy marching order. When they found out it was the 1st April and they were made fools of they were not very well pleased as it took them about an hour to clean their accoutrements. Saturday 2nd. Spoke another vessel "Clemence Leonie" from Calcutta. Saw two other vessels but could not make out their names. Sunday 3rd. Spoke another before breakfast the "Granger" Capt. Gurner from Table Bay going to Calcutta with horses. Capt. Parker knew the Capt of the "Granger". He was signalled for Gurner to come on board the 2nd Mate came. Capt. Parker two of the passengers and myself went on board the "Granger" after breakfast. We met the Revd. John Vaughan and his wife and a Capt. Thomas of the 3rd Bengal Fusiliers. Capt. Parker asked them to spend the day on board the "Glen Isla". They came off in our boat. Mr Vaughan had service in the afternoon. Gave us a very nice sermon. I had all my men in uniform and of course I was the same. They distributed a number of tracts amongst the troops and crew. I lent Mr Vaughan books and got the loan of some in return. They were very nicely entertained and left about 7 o.c. Monday 4th. The "Granger" still alongside. Capt. Gurner wants us to go on board to dinner looks too windy. Tuesday 5th. Granger still alongside. Mr Burtt put one of his men in irons for threatening language. Capt. Parker gave one of the crew the nicest

thrashing I ever saw a man get. It appears this fellow refused to work and struck the Capt. the Capt. gave him one blow and tumbled him down the stairs into the saloon, there was then a nice stand up fight the Capt. punishing him severely he then put him in irons. Some of the sailors came aft and said they would not work the ship unless he released their comrade. He said if they did not work he would put them all in irons. They defied him and said he had no one to do it. He said the troops would do it. He (Capt. Parker) then called on me for assistance. I paraded all my men on the Poop. They said they did not wish to interfere. I then read the Mutiny Act for them which is very strict. They then said they would do as ordered. Put one of the crew in irons for attempting to strike the Capt. The rest returned to their work. Wednesday 6th. Becalmed. The crew getting on very well since they found out my men would be compelled to assist the Capt. Thursday 7th. Lost sight of the "Granger". Nothing particular. Friday 8th. Becalmed. Troops provisions getting short. Nothing particular. Saturday 9th. "Granger" again in sight. Nothing particular. Sunday 10th. "Granger" still in sight. Came on to blow about 10 o.c. lasted all night with thunder and lightning. Monday 11th. Blew very hard till about 4 o.c. this morning. "Granger" alongside lost her Fore top Gallant Mast, troops biscuits out. Giving them flour and oatmeal instead. Capt. Parker went on board got a bag of rice 1/2 bag of sugar for the troops. Tuesday 12th. Capt. Parker, Dr Lynch and one of the passengers boarded the "Anne Mitchell" from Calcutta got 1 Barrel of Biscuits. 2 bags Rice, met on board a Mr Nettles of the 31st Regt. he is quarter master and ensign, his family live in Enniskillen. E. Neynor may know him, he had his wife and sister in law on board, he was ordered to join his regt. in Calcutta, on his arrival there he found they were in Bombay. Wednesday 13th. Nothing particular Thursday 14th. Nothing particular. Becalmed all day. Friday 15th. One of the crew died of Asiatic Cholera never saw a poor fellow suffer so much in my life. Saturday 16th. Going our course. Sighted two vessels. Calm towards evening. Sunday 17th. Very wet which prevented Divine Service, going our course about 3 knots. Provisions short not more than 10 days on board. Capt. Parker talking of going into Madras. Lynch wants medical comforts, intends going on shore for them. I can't go ashore, being the only officer aboard. Thursday 19th. Boarded the "Hydaspes" from Liverpool to Madras. Got biscuits & tea. Entertained us very handsomely champagne claret etc. Made me a present of 1 doz Claret did not charge Parker for the biscuits or tea. Gave Lynch your address intends writing to you. Got his father's address which I will send you. Wednesday 20th. Going our course about 3 knots. Nothing particular. Thursday 21st. Becalmed all day 3 vessels in sight. Friday 22nd. Going our course about 7 knots about 120 miles from Madras. Parker not going in if the wind lasts. Saturday 23rd. Blowing hard, close reefed.

Going 10 knots past Madras expect to get to Calcutta in five days. Sunday 24th. Going our course about 6 1/2, lay to for a small vessel thought he was in distress came along side asked the course to Madras all on board were blacks and quite naked. Divine Service on the Poop. I am longing to see an Army list to see how I stand. I expect I am well up in the Ensigns. Monday 25th. Nothing particular. Tuesday 26th. Going our course about 8 knots. Wednesday 27th. Capt. Parker expects he will get to the Pilot Station today some time only 50 miles from the station. The mail steamer from Sydney insight. Thursday 28th. Took the pilot on board. Nothing particular. Friday 29th. Capt. Parker boarded the "Morayshire" Capt. Kemp going to Calcutta got sugar and ale from him for the use of the cabine. Saturday 30th. Going along nicely just 9 o.c. and only 40 miles from Calcutta. I have great work with the men to prevent them buying the fruit from the natives there are 7 boats filled with natives alongside. Sunday 1st May 1859. A native came on board this morning with papers from Calcutta. Poor Lynch the first thing he saw was the death of his brother poor fellow you never saw any person grieved, he intended to get a month's leave to go up the country and see him, but as he said to me, my hopes are blasted. We were just 12 miles from Calcutta when he the melancholy intelligence. You may fancy what a good hearted fellow he is when I tell you he offered me the loan (in sovereigns) of £50 which I refused as I hope I have sufficient to get my uniform.

Sabretache is indebted to Peter Stanley, Australian War Memorial, for permission to publish Ensign Hamilton's letter.

Christopher Fagg

MEDALS FOR THE FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL—1982



South Atlantic Medal.

The South Atlantic Medal was approved by the Queen for award to military and civilian personnel who served in the Falkland Islands Campaign, 1st April—15th June 1982.

The medal is circular, with a straight bar suspender. It is made of cupro-nickel. The obverse of the medal is the same as that for the Rhodesia Medal 1980. A crowned effigy of Queen Elizabeth II, facing right, and wearing a slightly out of proportion St Edwards Crown, surrounded by the inscription "Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina Fid Def". The reverse depicts the Falkland Islands Coat of Arms—a shield with a ram facing left standing on tussock at the top, with a sailing ship, 'The Desire' below. Underneath, on a scroll is the Islands' motto—Desire the Right. Round the edge of the medal in the upper half is the wording "South Atlantic Medal", while the bottom has two crossed laurel branches.

The ribbon is blue, white, green, vertically striped and watered. It is similar to the Atlantic Star of W.W.II. The ribbon has two (2) blue, 1 central green, and two (2) white strips.

The conditions of eligibility for the medal are, service of:—

- (i) 30 days or more in the South Atlantic, south of 7 degrees south, and north of 35 degrees south. (The support area, Ascension Islands.)
- (ii) 1 day in the South Atlantic, south of 35 degrees south, and north of 60 degrees south.
- (iii) Any operational sortie south of Ascension Islands.
- (iv) 1 day in the Falkland Islands or their dependancies. (South Georgia Islands, Sandwich Islands.)

Service in the actual Falklands or dependancies, is denoted by the wearing of a silver rosette on the ribbon of the medal.

The medal is open for award to both male and female persons.

Any M.I.D.'s awarded are worn on the medals ribbon, after the silver rosette, if applicable. Thus making the ribbon fairly crowded.

The usual conditions covering termination of service due to death, wounds, sickness, etc. apply.

The medal is issued, in accordance with the existing British policy since W.W.II, of being issued unnamed.

The first 1200 medals were issued in time for the victory parade in London on 12th October 1982. At this stage, information concerning the total number to be awarded is not available, but it is believed to be in the vicinity of 20,000.

It appears that only one (1) Australian is eligible for the award, a civilian hairdresser who served on the Q.E.II.

To complete the full picture of awards for the Falklands Campaign, a detailed summary of all gallantry and Orders of Chivalry awarded follows, together with information about the numbers awarded to respective army units.

Summary of Gallantry Awards

Award	Navy	Army	Air Force	M/Nav	Totals
VC		2P			2
DSO	*17	4			21
DSC	*24 3P	1	1	1P	30
MC	5	10 1P			16
DFC		2P 2	5		9
AFC	2		4		6
DCM	1	5 2P			8
CGM			1P		1
GM	1 1P				2
DSM	*10 2P				12
MM	10	22 2P			34
DFM	1				1
QGM	6 1P		2	1	10
Queens Com for Brave Con	10		2		12
Queens Com for v/service in air			15		15
MID	*176	123	14		313

NOTE: * Totals are inclusive of those awarded for the Defence of, and recapture of South Georgia Islands.
P Posthumous Awards.

Summary of Order of Chivalry Awards

Award	Military	Civil	Totals
Life Peerage		1	1
Order of Bath			
KCB	2		2
CB	5	1	6
Order of Brit. Empire			
GBE	1		1
KBE	2		2
CBE	17	9	26
OBE	52	28	80
MBE	67	52	119
BEM	55	48	103
Knight Batch.		1	
Order of St Michael and St George		1	1

NOTE: These totals are not inclusive of awards granted in the Queens New Year Honours List for 1983. In that list a further 306 awards were made.

Summary of Total Gallantry Awards to Individual British Military Units

Royal Marines	26
Parachute Regiment	27
Special Air Service	3
Scots Guard	7
Welsh Guard	4
Corps of Royal Engineers	4
Royal Regiment of Artillery	2
Royal Corps of Transport	2
Royal Army Medical Corps	1
Army Air Corps	1
Royal Signals Corps	2

NOTE: These totals are not inclusive of any Orders of Chivalry or M.I.D.'s awarded.

Notes

Daily Telegraph—British Newspaper
Daily Mail—British Newspaper
Daily Mirror—British Newspaper
The London Gazette—No 48999
The London Gazette—No 49134
Sea Breezes Shipping Journal
British Dept of Defence
Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations,
and Medals U.K.

FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN — CHRONOLOGY — AWARDS

2 April	Argentine invasion of Falkland Islands. Royal Marines surrender	DSC 1 DSM 1
3 April	First House of Commons Saturday sitting since Suez crisis. U.N. Resolution 502 calling for withdrawal of Argentine troops.	
5 April	Lord Carrington resigns as Foreign Secretary. HMS HERMES first British Task Force ship sails.	
6 April	Major part of British Task Force sails from Portsmouth U.K.	
7 April	Britain declares 200 mile military exclusion zone around Falklands. (M.E.Z.) Mr Alexander HAIG begins his diplomatic mediation role. SS CANBERRA with troops sails.	
10 April	E.E.C. approves economic sanctions against Argentina.	
19 April	Mr Haig's peace attempts fail.	
25 April	Britain re-captures Sth Georgia Island	DSO 2 DSC 1
30 April	U.S.A. openly supports Britain.	
1 May	Harriers and a Vulcan attack Port Stanley for first time.	DFC 2 AFC 3
2 May	Argentine cruiser GENERAL BELGRANO is sunk with loss of 301 lives	DSO 1
4 May	HMS SHEFFIELD hit and destroyed by an Argentine exocet missile. 20 lives lost. 1 British Harrier shot down over Goose Green.	DSC 3 QGM 1 DSM 1
6 May	2 Harriers collide in bad weather.	
7 May	U.N. Peace talks begin. Britain declares 200 mile war zone around Falkland Islands. (T.E.Z.) 1 British Sea King helicopter ditched.	
9 May	Falklands attacked by sea and air. Argentine patrol vessel NARWAL sunk by air. 1 Argentine Puma helicopter shot down over Port Stanley.	
11 May	Argentine supply vessel ISLAS de LOS ESTADOS sunk in Falkland Sound.	
12 May	2 Argentine Skyhawks shot down. 1 British Sea King helicopter ditched.	
13 May	1st Argentine massed air attack. 3 Skyhawks shot down.	
15 May	British troops land on Peeble Island and destroy 11 Argentine aircraft.	DSO 1 MC 1
17 May	Armed Argentine tug COMODORO SOMELLERA sunk, and supply vessel ALFEREZ SOBRAL damaged by British.	
19 May	1 British Sea King helicopter ditched.	
20 May	U.N. Peace Talks fail. British Task Force ordered into battle.	
21 May	British troops land and establish a beach head at San Carlos. HMS ARDENT sunk by air attack. 17 Argentine aircraft shot down. 1 British Harrier shot down. 3 British helicopters shot down, 1 Sea King, 2 Gazelle. HMS ANTRIM damaged by air attack. HMS ARGONAUT damaged by air attack.	DSC 1 GM 1 QGM 1 DSM 1 DSC 1 DSO 2 DSC 2 CGM 1 DSM 1

22 May	Beach head consolidated. 1 Argentine Skyhawk shot down.	
23 May	HMS ANTELOPE damaged by air attack. 7 Argentine aircraft shot down.	DSC 1 QGM 1 DSM 1
24 May	HMS ANTELOPE sinks after an unexploded bomb explodes. 8 Argentine aircraft shot down. 1 British Harrier shot down.	
25 May	HMS COVENTRY sunk by air attack. SS ATLANTIC CONVEYOR sunk by exocet missile. 5 Argentine aircraft shot down.	DSM 1 DSC 2 QGM 2
27 May	Attack on Port Darwin/Goose Green begins. 9 Argentine aircraft shot down.	
28/29 May	Port Darwin/Goose Green surrender. 250 Argentine dead. 17 British dead. Lt Col H. JONES killed. 4 Argentine Pucarras shot down.	VC 1 DSO 1 MC 2 DFC 2 QGM 1 DCM 3 MM10 DFM 1
1 June	Britain repeats cease fire terms. 1 Argentine Hercules transport plane shot down.	
2 June	1 British Harrier shot down. British troops capture Mt KENT.	DSO 1
4 June	Britain vetoes Panamanian/Spanish cease fire resolution in the U.N. Security Council.	
5 June	1 British Gazelle helicopter crashes.	
6 June	Versailles summit supports British position on Falklands.	
8 June	Argentine air attack on RFA SIR GALAHAD and SIR TRISTRAM causing loss of both craft. 50 British dead. HMS PLYMOUTH damaged by air attack. 4 Argentine aircraft shot down.	DSO 1 DSC 3 GM 1 QGM 4 DSM 1 MM 5 DSO 1
9 June	1 British Lynx helicopter shot down.	
11/12 June	HMS GLAMORGAN damaged by air attack. British troops capture MT LONGDON. British Troops capture MT HARRIET. British Troops capture MT KENT. British Troops capture TWO SISTERS.	DSO 1 VC 1 DSO 1 MC 5 DCM 2 MM 3 MC 4 MM 3 DSO 1 DSO 1 MC 3 DCM 1 MM 4
13/14 June	British Troops capture MT TUMBLEDOWN. Vulcan bomber impounded by Brazil is released.	DSO 1 MC 2 DFC 1 MM 5 DCM 2
15 June	British Troops enter PORT STANLEY and Argentine forces surrender. 9000 odd prisoners taken.	
16 June	Argentine General MENENDEZ signs an unconditional surrender of all Argentine forces in Falklands.	
18 June	Britain commences repatriation of all Argentine POWs. Argentine President General Leopoldo GALTIERI resigns.	
19 June	Major-General Cristino NICOLAIDES is sworn in as head of the new Argentine military junta.	
21 June	Britain re-captures South SANDWICH ISLANDS.	
12 October	Victory Parade in London.	

George Ward

A SAPPER IN THE R.A.N.B.T.

While in a bookstore in Melbourne last year I noticed a rather sprightly gentleman wearing an Anzac Lapel Badge. On enquiring about his unit, he told me his name was George Parker and had served at Suvla with the R.A.N.B.T. Later while visiting him, I learned that over the last 18 months he had been compiling from memory, a list of all the other members of the unit. In addition to the names, he had included casualties and also what other units the person transferred to after the train was disbanded. What I have attempted to do is write a brief history of the unit including the more significant characters.



Private (later Lieutenant) George Parker, R.A.N.B.T.

George H. Parker was born in Ceylon, his father Charlie being a soldier in the 2 Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment. On his discharge he brought his family to Australia, settling in Maitland, N.S.W.

At the age of 18 George Parker joined 8 Fld. Coy. R.A.E. (Militia) whose depot was near the Yarra River. Upon hearing that the R.A.N.B.T. camped almost opposite in the Domain Gardens were recruiting, he and other sappers enlisted.

At this time the train was undergoing vigorous training under the command of Lieutenant Bracegirdle, later Lieutenant Commander, with Lieutenant (granny) Bond as 2I.C. In early June they disembarked for England where further instruction on the handling of pontoons was to take place.

The force consisted of 7 Officers, 278 N.C.O.'s and men, plus 26 reinforcements. In addition to the men there were horses, pontoons waggons etc. Owing to tropical weather conditions taking a toll on the horses, they were instructed to discharge them at Bombay, by this time 79 had died. The horses were delivered to the Bengal Lancer and two of the delivering party deserted and stayed behind in Bombay. Four days were spent in Bombay cleaning ship. The train was then detoured to the Dardanelles and placed under the control of the British Army.

After spending five days and nights on Imbros being instructed in the use of pontoons, the unit arrived at Suvla on 6 August, 1915. While at Suvla the train acted in many capacities including pier building, landing stores, water supply, and in some cases, wireless operators, draughtmen, and field engineers. While on Suvla the unit sustained a number of casualties from shelling and bombing. To list a few



The 1st R.A.N.B.T. on parade in Melbourne, 1 June 1915. Private George Parker is mounted on lead horse.

C.P.O. E. Perkins—killed, A.B. C. Schanke—killed, A.B. C. Aitkinson—wounded (lost a leg), A.B. P. Le Suer—wounded, as well as a number with jaundice and malaria. The men found this very frustrating as they were powerless to retaliate.

The train was evacuated in mid December and after a month on Mudros they moved onto the Suez Canal. Here they were employed on bridge building and maintenance, as well as operating punts and ferries and pumping stations at L.H. H.Q. etc. They also manned the Steam Tug 'Daphne' which was commanded by P.O. W. Hunter. Control of the unit now came under the 1 Anzac Corp. It was while working in this area that A.B. R. Armstrong fell overboard from the 'Daphne' one night and drowned.

In January 1917 it was decided that the train would be relieved of canal work and attached to the forces advancing into Palestine for duty along the beaches. However in February they were informed that not all personnel would be required. This and further decisions resulted in the unit being disbanded on 20 March 1917.

Further to this a new unit, Army Troop Coy., Aust. Eng. was formed using 84 members of the defunct R.A.N.B.T. The remainder were given the option of going home and joining the Australian Navy or joining the A.I.F. 153 joined the Australian Navy and almost all of the remainder enlisted in the A.I.F. Some interesting ones are, A.B. A. Kempton, A.B. F.C. Aitkinson, A.B. I. Watkins joined the A.F.C., and C.P.O. J. Harvey became a Major in the 56th Batt. and won M.C.

Most of the men joined the Engineers or Artillery with a few going to the Provost Corp. etc. The only exceptions noted are A.B. T. Aldington received a Commission in the Egypt Labour Corp. and two others joined the Royal Navy. It is interesting to note that at least four men never left Australia, owing to being medically unfit, and another four deserted while on active service.

A.B. G. Parker transferred to the Aust. Fld. Arty. and then to 8th. Fld. Coy. Eng. and went on to see service in France and Belgium with the 5th Div. He returned home and was discharged on 9 August,



R.A.N.B.T. Stores on Suva Beach.

1919. He served a total of four years and one week. With the commencement of WWII he joined the 5th Batt. V.D.C. He was posted to D Coy. and in 1942 he was promoted to Lieutenant in charge of the Engineer Platoon. In this capacity part of the time was spent in charge of the searchlights at Fort Nepean. He was discharged from the V.D.C. on 31 October, 1945. Between the Wars he regularly attended the Melbourne Anzac March and also several Dawn Services. On these occasions he always wore his old R.A.N.B.T. uniform.

His brother Arthur, married with two children, enlisted in the 21st. Batt. and was killed on Ambon with the illfated 'Gull Force' in February 1942. (age 41).

Charles Parker (the father) continued his military career in Australia. Shortly after arriving he joined up, serving as a W.O.2 and later W.O.1 in the Australian Instruction Corp. This continued until his death at the Caulfield Military Hospital in 1921. The Army gave him a full Military Funeral Service. He was refused overseas service in WW1 because of his rank and position.

Jennifer Amess

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: 11 NOVEMBER

Eleven November was called Remembrance Day in my youth, just as it is today. Some of my older friends refer to it as Armistice Day. Confusion now seems to surround the purpose of Remembrance and the reason Armistice Day became Remembrance Day. A recent visit to the Australian Archives Office clarified the subject and I thought others might be interested in this important aspect of Australia's history.

In 1919 His Majesty King George V expressed a wish that on Tuesday 11 November for a period of two minutes commencing at 11 a.m. local time all work and all sound and all locomotion should cease. The intention was to commemorate the first anniversary of the signing of the armistice—so that in perfect stillness the thoughts of everyone might be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead. The King's wishes were conveyed to the Governor-General in Australia who suggested that a short ceremony on Parliament House steps, Melbourne, should be held where he could read the King's message. The Governor-General, with the consent of the Commonwealth Government, sent the King the following message:

"Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson presents his humble duty to Your Majesty and on behalf of the people of Australia conveys their grateful thanks for Your Majesty's gracious message inviting the peoples of the Empire to unite in a universal celebration of the first anniversary of the armistice. Your Majesty's wishes will be loyally carried out and on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month we shall remember in silence and with heart felt gratitude the men who fell in the great war."

In 1920 the Secretary of State for the Colonies advised the Governor-General of Australia that the ceremony in commemoration of Armistice Day in Great Britain, on Thursday 11 November, would include the unveiling of a cenotaph in Whitehall and the burial in Westminster Abbey of an unknown British soldier taken from amongst those buried in France. His Majesty the King and representatives of the whole Empire were to be in attendance. The King subsequently by telegram to the Governor-General expressed the hope that on Armistice Day there would once again be a complete suspension of all normal business, work and locomotion throughout the British Empire during the two minutes' silence commencing at 11 a.m. on 11 November 1920. All

State Premiers were notified of the King's wishes by the Prime Minister and a short ceremony was again held on the steps of the Federal Parliament House in Melbourne.

Thus tradition was established and continued until January 1946 when the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs sought the views of His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions concerning the fixing in the future of a Day of Remembrance to commemorate those who fell both in the 1939-45 war and the war of 1914-18. The Secretary proposed that:

- "(a) National Remembrance, Thanksgiving and Dedication should in future be concentrated on a Sunday.
- (b) This Sunday should be that before 11th November (unless either 11th November or 12th November is a Sunday), and it should still be known as Remembrance Sunday."

The main departure in the British Government's proposal was that Remembrance Day would always be celebrated on a Sunday and not necessarily on 11 November. It had been the practice in the United Kingdom, but not in Australia, to observe the nearest Sunday to Armistice Day as a day of remembrance and dedication. Anzac Day had been the day set aside for such observance in Australia.

The Commonwealth Government agreed to the United Kingdom proposal in March 1946. The Prime Minister the Right Hon. Ben Chifley, P.C., M.P., issued a press statement on 25 October 1946 on the subject of Remembrance Sunday which read:

"In accordance with the approval given by His Majesty the King in respect of the future commemoration of Armistice Day, the Commonwealth Government proposed that similar arrangements to those of the past will be made in Australia for the observance of Remembrance Sunday on 10th November, 1946,

as a day of remembrance for those who gave their lives both in the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45.

In March, 1946, the Commonwealth Government indicated its agreement with the procedure suggested by the British Government that national remembrance, thanksgiving and dedication should in future be concentrated on a Sunday and that this Sunday should be that before 11th November (unless either 11th November or 12th November is a Sunday) and that it should be known as Remembrance Sunday. This will take the place of the observance of Armistice Day on 11th November, which has been the practice in the past.

It is the Government's desire that full opportunity be afforded those persons who wish to lay wreaths at cenotaphs or war memorials. Doubtless, where it is customary, memorial church services will be held and churches are invited so to arrange services to enable where practicable the observance of the period of two minutes' silence between 11 a.m. and 11.2 a.m.

In accordance with the established practice, State Governments have been asked to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in ensuring the appropriate observance of Remembrance Sunday."

It appears that this decision by the Commonwealth Government was reached without reference to the State Governments or the Australian Church authorities. This was due to the practice followed of inquiring each year through the Australian High Commissioner's Office as to the King's decision concerning the observance of Armistice Day in the United Kingdom.

At the 34th Annual Congress of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. (now the Returned Services League) in 1949 the following Resolution was passed:

"That representations be made to the Commonwealth Government to have the two minutes' silence at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year reintroduced, and that Remembrance Sunday be still retained."

In support of this Resolution it was stated that with the substitution of Remembrance Day for Armistice Day the League felt that the Nation had really lost something of great spiritual significance in the discarding of the simple ceremony of two minutes' silence which was the principal feature of Armistice Day gatherings.

In February 1950, the Premier of New South Wales suggested, in view of representations which had been made to the State Governments, that the purpose of Remembrance Day would be best served by holding the official ceremony on 11 November instead of on the preceding Sunday and that the views of the other

States should be ascertained on this question. In March 1950 the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. R.G. Menzies, P.C., K.T., M.P., therefore addressed the other Premiers seeking their views on the matters raised by the Government of New South Wales together with any comments offered by the Churches in each State.

The replies show that the views of the Government of New South Wales in favour of reverting to the observance on 11 November were supported by three States. Tasmania recommended that no change be made and Victoria suggested as an alternative that the ceremony might be held on the Sunday in the afternoon in lieu of at 11 a.m.

The Commonwealth Government therefore informed the United Kingdom Government in October 1950 that it was proposed in future to revert to the procedure followed prior to 1946 and that Remembrance Day would be observed in Australia on 11 November, the ceremony of two minutes' silence taking place at 11 a.m. This would not however preclude services of commemoration being held in the Churches on the appropriate Sunday. It appears that this is still the current policy although actual practice of the observance has declined considerably.

Sources:

1. Prime Minister's Department, Correspondence Files, Multiple Number Series, Second System, 1919-1924: "Armistice Day to 1924". Australian Archives: CRS A458, item A306/1 Part 1, unfoliated.
2. Prime Minister's Department, Correspondence Files, Multi Number Series, Third Systems, 1934-1950: "Armistice Day, 1946 to 1950". Australian Archives: CRS A461, item F317/1/2 Part 4, unfoliated.
3. *Digest of decisions and announcements and important speeches by the Prime Minister (The Right Hon. J.B. Chifley). No. 120: 28 September 1946 to 6 November 1946*. Canberra, Commonwealth Government Printer. pp. 15-16.

OBITUARY

Colonel Peter Kaye, OBE, ED

With the death on 20 May 1983 in the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg, Victoria, of Peter Kaye, the MHSA has lost one of its most respected founding members. Peter Kaye was one of the small group of enthusiasts, mainly model soldier collectors, who met in Melbourne in 1957 to form what has become the Military Historical Society of Australia. As a modelmaker his work, displayed at some of the early Society functions in Melbourne, set a standard which few others in those days hoped to reach. But his interests were much wider than model making. He had a long and abiding interest in the service, history and traditions of his Corps, in which he served in war and peace from 1941 to 1975.

Following completion of his medical course at Melbourne University and a period of residency at Warrnambool Base Hospital, he joined the 2nd AIF in July 1941 and served in the Middle East as an RMO with 2/15 Battalion and with 2/8 Field Ambulance. On return to Australia he was with 2/32 Battalion at Milne Bay, later being posted to a medical staff appointment with HQ 1 Aust. Army.

On his discharge Peter was a Medical Officer at the RGH, Heidelberg for two years and then entered private practice in McKinnon. It was here that he became known to the future members of the Society and remained for many years the medical advisor to a large number of our Melbourne members. In spite of his commitment to a large solo practice he joined the Citizen Military Force in 1954 and was Assistant Director Medical Services, 3rd Division from 1963 to 1968. He was awarded the OBE in 1965 and the Efficiency Decoration in 1967. From 1969 to 1975 he held the senior CMF medical appointment as Colonel on the staff of the Directorate of Army Health, Army Headquarters. At the time of his death, having retired from general practice in 1978, Peter Kaye was again working with the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Peter Kaye was an enthusiastic supporter of the establishment of a Corps museum at the School of Army Health and, I believe, constructed a Middle East diorama for display there.

Because of his commitments Peter was never able to take an active part in the affairs of the Society but since 1957 his subscription was one of the first received each year. Many of us met him for the first time at the 1983 AWM Conference where he stamped his personality on the Conference with lively discussion, particularly of those papers on which he was able to bring his wide practical military medical experience to bear. Those of us who spoke with him there will regret that we will be unable to enjoy his company at future conferences.

Peter Kaye's last contribution to the affairs of the MHSA appears in this issue of Sabretache—it is a review of "Recollections of a Regimental Medical Officer", a book which he enjoyed reviewing as so many of the experiences had been shared by Peter himself.

The MHSA has lost a staunch support and those who knew him, a kindly and considerate fellow. To his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

T. C. S.

FLANDERS TO THE FALKLANDS

A new permanent gallery in the National Army Museum in Britain will open in June 1983. It will follow the fighting men of Britain and the Commonwealth from the outbreak of the Great War to victory in the South Atlantic. The life of the soldier in barracks and on the battlefield is retold in reconstructions, specially commissioned models and dramatic audio-visual displays.

Most striking are the 25 life-size reconstructions featuring fully equipped, uniformed figures against realistic backgrounds. Highlights include a First World War trench, a national service barrack room of the 1950s, a Bren Gun Carrier at the edge of a minefield in the Western Desert and a captured Argentine position of Mount Tumbledown overlooking Port Stanley.

Four 1:35 scale dioramas show the battle of Mons 1914, tanks in action 1917, the D Day assault on the Normandy beaches 1944 and street-fighting in Europe 1945.

The new gallery continues the Story of the Army told up to 1914 in the first phase of the building which was opened in 1971. It is housed in an extension built at a cost of £800,000, raised from private sources by the museum's building appeal.

Clem Sargent

THE 1983 AWM HISTORY CONFERENCE

As reported in Sabretache Vol XXIV No. 1, Jan-Mar 1983, one morning of the 1983 AWM History Conference was devoted to short presentations on work in progress by seventeen researchers, outlining the topics of their research. The aim of the presentations was to allow researchers to bring the subjects of their research to the notice of as wide an audience as possible and to enable them to take advantage of any additional information which might be offered by members of the audience.

An immediate response occurred after the session and many notes and promises of further information were exchanged. So that members of our Society can be aware of research work which is progress and so that they also can assist the researchers with information they may have, a list of the work in progress presentations is given below. Where possible a short synopsis of the work is included, along with the names and addresses of the researchers.

Army Bands in Australia

Brigadier J.J. Shelton DSO MC, 7 Endeavour Street, Red Hill, ACT, 2603

The significant contribution Army Bands have made to the esprit de corps of the Australian Army and to the stimulation of patriotism within the Nation is not well recorded. A research project has commenced to gather what can be found of our musical heritage. The study is in three parts, 1788-1901, 1901-1945 and 1945-1988.

The Scottish Horse—The Australian Connection

Mr John E. Price, 7/16 Barrett Street, Cheltenham, Vic. 3192.

Covers the period 1900-1902 when the Scottish Horse was raised by the Marquis of Tullibardine for service in South Africa. Some 1000 Australians, mostly Victorians, were recruited.

Australian War Artists

Ms K.B. Martini, Flat 8, 7-9 Wellington Street, Windsor, Vic 3181.

The Australian fighting man as perceived by artists of WWI.

An Atlas of Australia showing the social impact of war

Mr John McQuilton, Dept of History, UNSW, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW, 2033.

Part of a Bi-Centennial project.

Australian Prose Literature of World Wars I and II

Robin Gerster, 3/31 Walpole Street, Kew, Vic., 3101

The promotion of an heroic theme in Australian prose literature of the two World Wars is to be examined.

Australian POWs in Turkey in WWI

Noel Brackenbury, 10 Benmerrin Avenue, Baulkham Hills, NSW, 2153.

The experience of Australians held by the Turks in WWI from capture to repatriation.

Sites of Military Historical Interest in Australia

Rod Tier, Heritage Commission, Casey House, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600

Relates to a proposed Heritage Commission listing of these sites.

Impressment of Civil Aircraft in Australia for Military Use in WWII

Clive Lynch, 2/16 Gurner Street, St Kilda, Vic., 3182

The identification of aircraft impressed for RAAF use.

Command and Control of the RAAF

Air Commodore A.D. Garrison, OBE, 2 Gosse Street, Kingston, ACT, 2604.

An examination of command and control, particularly related to the RAAF, from just prior to Federation to the present day.

External Studies Conducted by the Uni of Qld for Servicemen during WWII

John Stanford, Div of External Studies, Uni of Qld, St Lucia, Qld, 4067.

The effect of the external studies program on universities, servicemen and units and the effectiveness of the courses.

Australian—British Relations During WWII

David Day, Churchill College, Cambridge CB3 0D5, UK

An examination of the collapse of the Anzac image in British eyes during 1941-42.

1, 8, 21 and 453 Sqns RAAF in Malaya 1941-42.
Frank Lonie, 11 Kalgoorlie Crescent, Fisher, ACT,
2611

Research for a book on the service of the four
squadrons and their personnel.

General Sir John Wilton 1910-1981

Ian McNeill, 37 Rene Street, Chapman, ACT, 2611

A biographical study of a previous Patron of the
MHSA.

*A Social Profile of 700 000 Australians in the Army in
WWII*

Professor Roger Joyce, Dept of History, Latrobe
University, Dundoora, Vic, 3083.

A questionnaire being administered to 70,000 ex-
servicemen.

*Post-War Reconstruction Training for Members of
the AWAS*

Elsie Solly, Canberra College of Advanced
Education, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

Transport and Australia's Security

Lt Col Alan Howes, 7 Truscott Street, Campbell,
ACT, 2601

A Defence Fellowship study of transport's
involvement in Australia's security including
surveillance, disaster relief and conflict and war
situations.

The Albuera Regiments in Australia

Clem Sargent, PO Box 30, Garran, ACT, 2605

Research on the 48th Regiment in Australia 1817-
1823.

Membership Directory, 1983

The Membership Directory of The Military Histor-
ical Society of Australia was updated in the October-
December 1982 issue of *Sabretache*.

The interests of new members are as
follows:

Mr R. Allen

Artillery

Mr T. Bell

AA01, UE01

Lt Col. J. Benton

MH01

Mr R. Bergman

MH10, 14; PBM

Mr B. J. Carr

OM10

Mr G. Child

MH01

Lt Col. B. Cloughley

Aust. Part in Forces, Mil. Hist.

Indian Sub. Continent

Captain G. Cole

OM01

Mr S. Danaher

OM10, 20

Mr A. Duncombe

AA01; UE01

Mr G. Edwards

MH01

Maj. K. Evans

MH01

Air Cdre A. D. Garrison

MH15

Dr R. Goodman

MH01 (Medical)

Mr I. Gordon

OM01, OM20, AA01

Mrs D. Hart

MH01, 10, 60

AC Q. P. Harris

MH50, 60; AA01

Mr A. Hastings

MH40

Mrs H. Hayes

MH10

Mr J. Heafield

AA01

Mr R. G. Henderson

MH40 (Rlwy Tpt)

Pte K. Herkes

MH40, 50

Col. N. Hillier

MH01

Mr D. Lovell

MH20, B20

Mr H. Macdermott

MH01, MH14

Mr R. Mansell

OM01; MH40

Mr P. Melmutts

OM10

Mr D. Parkin

AA01, OM01

Mr E. Parkin

AA01

Mr G. Philipson

OM01; AA20; UE01; MH20-21

Mr A. Organ

OM01

Mr G. Ross

OM01; AA01; UE01

Ms B. Self

MH10

Mr M. Sheehan

MH01

Mr A. Simpson

MH01; AA20

Mr C. Simpson

MH30, 20; AA20, 30

Major J. Stone

MH10, B10

Mr J. Thompson

B10, B20, PBM

Mr G. Verney

MH10

Mr L. Walsh

B20, UE20, 1902-22

Mr N. Webster

MH10, 20, 30; PBM

Mr A. White

MH01, F

Mr A. Williams

OM01

Mr R. Winiarski

MH40, 50, B01; OM01, PBM

CODE KEY

Military History MH

- MH 01 General
- 10 Australian General
- 11 British Regiments in
Australia and New Zealand
- 12 Australian Forces pre
Federation
- 13 Australian Army post
Federation
- 14 RAN
- 15 RAAF
- 20 British, Empire and Com
monwealth pre 1900
- 21 British, Empire and Common
wealth post 1900
- 30 South African War
- 40 WWI
- 50 WWII
- 60 Post WWII
- 70 Other (specify)

Badges and Insignia B

- B 01 General
- 10 Australian
- 11 RAN
- 12 Australian Army
- 13 RAAF
- 20 British and Commonwealth
- 70 Other (specify)

Orders, Decorations and Medals OM

- OM 01 General
- 10 Australian
- 20 British and Commonwealth
- 70 Other (specify)

Arms and Ammunition AA

- AA 01 General
- 10 Australian
- 20 British and Commonwealth
- 30 Antique
- 70 Other (specify)

Uniforms and Equipment UE

- UE 01 General
- 10 Australian
- 20 British and Commonwealth
- 70 Other (specify)

Prints, Books and Memorabilia PBM

PBM

Models F

F

BOOK REVIEWS

Steward, H.D.: *Recollections of a Regimental Medical Officer*, Melbourne University Press

Every so often a new publication dealing with the Second World War appears on the bookshelves. The subject matter is so often a reiteration or a differing interpretation of episodes long forgotten, and of dubious general interest, except for the student of military history.

Official medical histories, biographies of well known and famous senior medical officers, their achievements and hardships, especially in prisoner-of-war camps, are well known and adequately documented. Regretfully at the lowly but "sharp end" of the military machine little has been written about that rather solitary medico-military figure, familiar to all soldiers—"the MO" or the "Doc"—his Regimental Medical Officer.

Doctor (Major) Steward however, in his publication—*Recollections of a Regimental Medical Officer*, has produced a volume, albeit small, excellently compiled and in a narrative style readable by all, including military historians and in particular members of his own medical profession. It fills a long needed gap in recording the experiences, the heartbreaks and the various duties of an often-forgotten, but a very essential member of the combat team—the RMO, frequently working in medical isolation and sharing the dangers and discomforts of his fellow infantry men. Within its pages, lies a fascinating story of tragedy and humour of the Australian soldier under stress and adversity, experiences similarly shared by many other RMOs'.

His early experiences as a young medical graduate without prior medical experience (except in the school cadets), eager to join the AIF, suddenly thrust from the sterility of the hospital wards into the unfamiliar military environment of an artillery field regiment with the exalted rank of Captain, expected to become an "instant" "officer and gentlemen" was a situation shared by many others. Most survived the ordeal, to ultimately develop the humanistic touch of his profession, with empathy for his fellow men and the qualities of a good officer Dr Steward so aptly describes in his book.

One of the main thrusts of this work—(and I suspect his main purpose in publishing the first hand facts after so many years), is his vindication of the terrible and dramatic fighting withdrawal of the 21st Brigade group along the nefarious Kokoda Trail from Isurava-Abuari to Ioribaiwa Ridge in New Guinea in August to September, 1942. Involved were his own unit 2/16 Battalion, 2/14 Battalion and the luckless, poorly equipped and inadequately trained youngsters of the 39th and 53rd Militia Battalions who had been virtually press-ganged into fighting against regular and experienced Japanese troops in overwhelming numbers.

His masterly description of this tactical withdrawal, the horrific conditions of the jungle growth and entanglement, the ever present and hazardous mud, the torrential tropical rain, the sickening wounds, the dysentery, and the ever present clamour of gun fire, leaves little to the imagination. It evokes in the experienced similar unpleasant memories, enlivened only by the recollection of the outstanding courage of the Australian soldier in battle, and the inherent fortitude of the wounded which he so aptly describes.

His anger and chagrin at General Blamey's unforgiveable and tactless remarks in his address to the battle worn survivors of the Brigade is understandable and added not to the low esteem in which he was already held by the rank and file of the AIF. A photograph of the thin emaciated and combat stressed troops, being addressed by the portly, rotund General makes Dr Steward's deep resentment all the more pertinent.

The author also describes the conflict that often confronted the RMO, with brushes between himself and the combatant officers of his unit relating to the fitness of men for duty. Every man who could shoulder a rifle was wanted in the line despite disability. Conversely, the moral obligation of the young in medicine, battalion doctor, dictated that the medical care and welfare of his patients was the prime consideration, the tactical situation notwithstanding. Unfortunately a compromise was often difficult to reach, for in reality the preservation of the fighting strength of the unit was the prime consideration, responsibility for which decision ultimately rested with the Commanding Officer.

The malaria outbreak in the 6th Division at Aitape-Wewak area in 1945 described by the author gave rise to great concern. The allegation that the troops in the area were not taking suppressive Atebrin, despite the stringent disciplinary measures caused deep resentment by all ranks particularly as this division was the first and probably the most experienced of all formations raised during the war. Contrary to Dr Steward's

assumption that this assertion of poor discipline came from the “Brass Hats at Army Headquarters” in truth it was the confirmed opinion stated in this reviewer’s presence in New Guinea by a member of the medical profession—Brigadier Neil Hamilton Fairley the Consultant Malariologist. He was adamant and self-convinced in his assertion that the—“troops in the 6th Division were not taking their Atebrin!”. He would not countenance the fact that it was an Atebrin-resistant strain of parasite as was later proven.

Lesser men have been known to admit to error.

Dr Steward’s book is well compiled, simple and understandable in literary style with clear and readable maps. Perhaps it is the best narrative of the retreat from Kokoda that has yet been written. It is a fitting tribute to the men he served and to his fellow Regimental Medical Officers.

He has achieved his purpose in accepting the advice of his fellow medical officer Bill Gove who said “the story ought to be told—why don’t you write a book?”

Peter Kaye

Michael Barthorp: *The North-West Frontier: British India and Afghanistan. A pictorial history, 1839-1947*, Blandford Press, Poole, 1982 184 pages, \$17.95, distributed in Australia by ANZ Book Company.

Michael Barthorp’s name is a relatively new one in the field of British and imperial military history, but since *To Face the Daring Maoris* appeared in 1979 he has gained wide recognition and now seems to be in the envious position of being commissioned to write books on colonial military history. *The North-West Frontier* fully justifies the confidence of his publishers, Blandford Press, which is itself to be congratulated for continuing to produce excellent and reasonably priced works on British military history.

The North-West Frontier demonstrates once again the old saw of history repeating itself. In 1979 the Russians, like the British over 100 and 140 years before, invaded Afghanistan and are paying the price for rousing the enmity of the fierce and proud inhabitants of the mountain valleys west of Hindu Kush. It is striking to be reminded that the border which the *Mujahadeen* ignore today is the illogical and, arbitrary one which was set by Sir Mortimer Durand in 1893. If the Pathans of Russia’s south-east frontier fight for their independence with as much ferocity as their grandfathers fought on British India’s north-west, the Soviet Union will be involved in a very nasty war for some time yet.

Barthorp’s book evokes all the great names and incidents which have made it an object of fascination since Napier seized Sind. We read of Dr Brydon riding into Jalalabad, the sole survivor of the Army of the Indus; the 44th’s stand at Bandamak; the 66th at Maiwand; the Gordons at Dargai and of the siege and relief of Chitral. The great figures of the frontier appear; Jacob, the Lawrences, Lumsden, Edwardes, Hodson and Nicholson, as well as the major figures of the series of expeditions mounted on the frontier during the late Victorian years.

But the book is detailed history as well as romantic evocation. Barthorp reveals the reasons for the commitment of troops to the *kotals* and *maidans* of the frontier, explaining what the ‘forward’ policy or the ‘close border’ policy of the various viceregal governments entailed. He gives an adequate background into the circumstances and outcome of the major historical and military developments against which the frontier wars were fought; the Sikh wars, the great mutiny or the re-organisations of the Presidency armies, to give but three examples. Barthorp presents the complex history of the region in a thoughtful and concise way, introducing the tribes (as well as the regiments) involved for the benefit of readers approaching the subject for the first time.

The military historian is well served. Parthorp informs his readers of the well-established precepts of frontier warfare which the sahibs learned through bitter experience; march discipline, the guarding of flanks, the necessity to seize the heights and the sacred rule of never abandoning wounded to an enemy who gave no quarter. Nor do his descriptions of fighting—which are clear and accurate—fall into Douglas Fairbanks-style clichés of thin red lines and *ghazi* fanatics. For example, Barthorp is careful to point out that the introduction of magazine rifles ended the *tulwar* charges of the period before 1890 and forced the Pathans to adopt tactics based on firepower. The advent of AK-47s, helicopter gunships and hand-held rocket launchers have probably introduced similar revisions.

It is pleasing, too, to note that much ignored regiments of Bedfords and Dogras are given space alongside the more exciting Sikhs, Gurkhas and those ubiquitous highlanders, though the latter inevitably appear on the cover. Nor is the book a panegyric on the stout county regiments, plucky sahibs and loyal sepoy of much frontier legend. The author devotes considerable space to the great outbreak of 1896-98, when the whole frontier erupted and the British lost control of the Khyber Pass for four months in 1897. This section includes a description of the somewhat neglected Tirah campaign (memorable for Piper Findlater’s V.C.—those bloody highlanders again) which was in fact the largest expedition ever mounted from the North West Frontier Province.

Rather than closing at the end of the romantic age of the frontier Barthorp carries his story on to the end of the Raj, dealing with the introduction of armoured cars and aircraft, and even tanks. Even Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the 'frontier Gandhi' gets a mention, a sign of the breadth of Barthorp's perspective.

The North-West Frontier is an admirable companion to Boris Mollo's *The Indian Army* which was recently reviewed in *Sabretache*. Like this Blandford publication, Barthorp's book is generously illustrated with well-chosen illustrations, all in black and white. Many of the illustrations, a mixture of photographs and drawings, representing places, persons and incidents, depict Queens and Company troops in action.

Only one aspect of the book deserves adverse comment, and strong comment at that. The maps accompanying the text are appalling, being badly proportioned and ill-drawn using a mixture of hand lettering and poorly placed rub-on letters. They are insufficient in quantity—there should have been maps illustrating the major expeditions—and deficient in quality, and mar what would otherwise have been a first-class book.

In spite of this imperfection, Michael Barthorp's *The North-West Frontier* is an excellent military history which covers a difficult subject in commendable detail and with admirable clarity. If you are interested in the frontier, buy this book; if you are not, you will become interested after buying it.

Peter Stanley

R. H. Mathams. *Sub Rosa: Memoirs of an Australian Intelligence Analyst*. George Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1982. 123 pp, index, hardback \$15.95 (ISBN 0 86861 380 0), paperback \$7.95 (ISBN 0 86861 388 6).

Until his retirement in 1979 the author was head of scientific intelligence in the Joint Intelligence Organisation and its predecessor, the Joint Intelligence Bureau. The publisher's cover blurb states that his is 'the first Australian book on strategic and national intelligence written by a senior professional', and goes on to claim that it 'presents an insider's story of how the Australian intelligence system operates; sheds light on the growth of Australia's national intelligence organisations from their beginnings during World War II until the end of the 1970's; describes, with examples drawn from his own experience, how intelligence analysts practice their craft; and reveals how and why Australian intelligence organisations share information with overseas counterparts'.

This description probably creates expectations which are greater than one could realistically hope to find in a book of such length, though one can hardly blame an author for the language his publisher employs to promote his wares. No doubt Mathams' claims for his own work would give greater emphasis to balance and precision, the stock-in-trade for intelligence assessments. It would be true to say that a reader interested in any of the aspects listed above will find something to satisfy and sustain their interest but if, as the blurb also claims, Mathams' account 'offers a window into the world inhabited by members of Australia's intelligence organisations', it must be acknowledged that the view provided is often only in broad detail and some parts are still obscured. Quite simply, many matters must remain *sub rosa* (that is, in secret or strict confidence) if Australia's intelligence apparatus is to retain its effectiveness.

These qualifications aside, this account has the distinct merit of having been written by someone with real knowledge; if it does not reveal all at least it does not propagate the half-truth or the outright misconception. As such it is a book which one of the media's so-called "experts" could not possibly have written. The intelligence "coups" which he cites as having contributed to the comparative high standing of Australia's small strategic intelligence community with her allies are ones with which he was personally associated. Yet the book is more than a record of events written from first-hand experience, because Mathams turns his analytical skills of his own profession to reach some conclusions regarding Australia's national intelligence structure and requirements. A number of his themes have been developed further and are elaborated in a subsequent article in the *Pacific Defence Reporter*, written with Paul Dibb, a former Deputy Director of JIO now at the Australian National University. Some are commonsense. The new Labor government, apparently separately, has recently arrived at the same conclusion that some form of 'national security council' was necessary to oversee Federal intelligence operations. Others, such as the proposal for an intelligence training institution, have been suggested by others in the field over the years but gain fresh advocacy. As such, *Sub Rosa* is deserving of attention as an indicator of how at least one body of thought within the intelligence community views Australia's national intelligence needs.

Chris Coulthard-Clark

George Forty. *The XIVth Army At War*. Ian Allan Printers Ltd, 1982. 144 pages. Recommended price \$33.00.

Many years ago, before Battle Honours for the Second World War had been determined and approved, I

arrived at Fulford in York to join the West Yorkshire Regiment. The headquarters to which I reported was named Impfal Barracks. Thus one Regiment remembered so well its involvement in the Burma Campaign that it named its Regimental Depot after the battle that has been described as the turning point of the war in Burma. Furthermore, mandatory reading for new arrivals at that time was a book about the Regiment entitled "From Pyramid to Pagoda". This is one of the references upon which George Forty has drawn largely in order to give the reader of "The XIVth Army at War" the feel of what it was like to be a member of that Army in Burma. He has certainly achieved his aim in this regard, but I feel there is too much concern with minor tactics at unit and sub-unit level. The result is a tendency to ignore the problems encountered at division and corps and gloss over the overall strategy of the Army. However, this is a minor criticism as "The XIVth Army At War" is basically a pictorial account of the campaign in Burma. It follows the same presentations as other books in the "At War" series with which many readers will be familiar.

The photographic presentation is good and well organised. I was a little disappointed that the author had not made better use of maps. I found them generally lacking in detail, and they are not the easiest to follow. A more liberal and graphic presentation of maps would have assisted the reader in following the author's narrative. This is a combination of excerpts from published works by people who participated in the campaign, and a summerization of the various phases of the war. As the author stated, it was his intention that the narrative would serve to link the whole book together, and he has succeeded in achieving this.

The dominating link throughout the book, as it was during the campaign, is of course the Commander XIV Army, Bill Slim. George Forty quite rightly devotes much attention to Slim, and also to that other great figure of the campaign, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and the relationship between those two leaders. In a fitting conclusion to the book he includes a section on the Burma Star Association, which was, and probably still is, a strong Association, and indicative of the pride and camaraderie of the XIV Army. It is a well presented book with an attractive cover and equitably priced.

M. P. Casey

Bryan Perrett. *Weapons of the Falklands Conflict*. Blandford Press, 1982, pp 152, illustrations. Our copy from Australia and New Zealand Book Co. Pty Ltd. Recommended price \$11.95.

The book is a jewel, because it contains a lot of factual information on relatively few pages, is well illustrated, except for the map material, and because of the tight organisation of the contents. The author who has had twenty years service experience with the Royal Armoured Corps and who has contributed extensively to the literature of that arm, was able to organise the book into six major parts: the naval battle, the air battle—helicopters, the air battle—fixed wing aircraft, the land battle, missile systems and finally a section on electronic and signal intelligence plus a few pages on the psy-war. Each of the first four parts is subdivided into *hardware* and *action*. The hardware sections look almost like entries from *Janes* and contain in handbook fashion data relating to designation, engines, speed, operating ranges, capacity, crew requirements and armament of the equipment being discussed and which side employed it.

The description of the actions relating to any of the battles, missile systems or the intelligence aspects rarely occupies more than ten to fifteen pages. The battle accounts are quite easy to follow but their value would have been significantly enhanced if the author had provided detailed foldout maps.

The introduction to the book is a factual thumbnail sketch of what happened between 2 April and 14 June, 1982. There is a total absence of any political comments or speculations, and no historical background is given. Somehow this seems to be a good thing because it assists the author in achieving his aim as indicated by the title of the book. The conclusion contains some mild value judgements of the higher Argentine leadership—the Junta had not thought through in sufficient detail what they were about to do. An interesting observation is that had the Argentinians only waited a few more months, the UK would have had the *Hermes* and *Invincible* and, therefore, would not have been able to bring the superiority of the Harriers to bear on the conflict. Some of the lessons of the naval and air battles, mentioned by the author, include the need to re-examine certain aspects of ship construction and damage control. In the Falkland Sound the Royal Navy had no difficulty in defeating mass air attacks, but the ships were probably inadequately armed against low flying targets.

Full credit is given to the valour of the Argentinian pilots who seemed to have "fought with their hearts and not with their heads". Probably the most telling comment in the whole book is the very last sentence: ". . . the one lesson which applied to sea, air and land operations alike . . . was that simple courage and good equipment alone are no longer enough—in the end it is professionalism which wins" (p 144).

There are very few criticisms that could be levelled against the book. On page 126 the nature of the ships construction had contributed to the loss of the ship, but the author did not indicate what the nature was. The

comments on the absence of organised British propaganda (p 138) are somewhat unsatisfactory, because the author does not say what should have been done.

In summary, *Weapons of the Falklands Conflict* is excellent fare for any student of contemporary military affairs who wants to acquire a professionally oriented overview of what happened in the South Atlantic in 1982. The style of the book is such that the reader picks the book up and does not put it down until he has finished reading it, something one can only rarely say of a reference book, which this text, in fact, is. The recommended price is more than reasonable.

H. J. Zwillenberg

Barthrop, Michael. *British Infantry Uniforms since 1660*. Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset, U.K. 1982, 160 pages, illustrated, appendix, index. Review copy from A.N.Z. Book Co. Pty Ltd. Recommended price \$32.50.

My first impressions of this book were that it was just another 'coffee table' publication with plenty of coloured pictures and numerous photographs. I did not believe that it was possible to put 300 years of changes to military uniform, accoutrements and weapons into one book, but after reading the first chapter I realized that this was not a general publication. The author has obviously undertaken a vast amount of research into military fashion of nearly all British infantry regiments. The 96 coloured illustrations by Pierre Turner are masterly executed and capture the features as well as mannerisms of each period. After 1860 he has brought many old photographs back to life by reproducing them as coloured prints and adding the minute details lost on the original.

The text is arranged by chapters in sections corresponding to the major dress changes. Each chapter deals with a century and the first section in a brief consideration of the organisational and tactical developments in the century that follows. Except for the more recent periods, when modern conditions have required greater uniformity of appearance, both between officers, N.C.O.'s and men, and between regiments, each section deals first with the uniform and equipment of the bulk of the Line infantry, the rank and file, and then attempts to explain where this differed in the case of officers, sergeants and musicians. It also deals with those regiments which enjoyed special dress distinctions, such as Guards, Fusiliers, Highlanders, Light Infantry and Rifles.

This is, however, a subject that has been dealt with in a broad way and it is surprising that there are very few inaccuracies especially as many regiments had special idiosyncrasies. Where the text lacks detail, which is not often, the appendices more than make up for it. The appendices are worth mentioning and are as follows: 1. Regimental Facings and Lace Patterns of the Guards and Line According to the Regulations of 1742, 1751, 1768 and 1802. 2. Distinctions and Tartans for Guards, Fusiliers, Rifles and Scottish Regiments, 1881-1914. 3. Numbered Regiments and Facings Prior to 1881, Their Subsequent Territorial Titles with Facings as at 1914, and their Present (1980) Titles. 4. Infantry Weapons 1660-1980. 5. Colours.

I recommend this publication as a quick reference guide to the researcher, model maker and military enthusiast. It is well worth purchasing and will be an asset to any library either public or private.

R. C. H. Courtney

SOCIETY NOTES

Society Pocket Badges

The Victorian Branch has produced a limited number of bullion Society badges for wear on reefer or blazer pockets or for mounting as a shield. The badge on a black felt background is embroidered in the Society colours and with gold and silver bullion. The badge is 12.5 x 10 cm (about 5 x 4 inches). They may be ordered from Mr Ian Wilkie, 4 Gidgee Court, Forest Hill, Victoria, 3131, at a cost of \$10.00 plus 27 cents postage. As stocks are limited those interested in obtaining one of these attractive badges should not delay in forwarding their remittance to Ian Wilkie.

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The Victorian Branch are planning an exhibition of Militaria and related topics. The theme will be '*Two Hundred Years of Australian Military History*' for a week-end in June 1984. The location will be near Melbourne city.

Events will include a Dinner, Seminars on Collecting and Military Historical Research. There is proposed to have a souvenir envelope with a special commemorative postmark.

Interstate members who might be interested in attending the function please contact the Vicmixel '84 Chairman. John E. Price, Villa 7, 16 Barrett Street, Cheltenham, Victoria 3192. Telephone (03) 583 8870.

CORRECTIONS

Sabretache apologises for the following errors printed in the article HORSES AND (FLYING) COURSES in Vol. XXIII No. 2:

- Page 4, Biographical note
aerohistorical not aerostorical
- Page 5, first col. third para. 11th line
his not this
- Page 5, second col. third para. third line
analogy not analogy
- Page 6, second col. third para. first line
AFC not RFC
- Page 6, second col. fourth para. first line
AFC not RFC
- Page 7, first col. second para. 10th line
AFC not RFC
- Page 9, second col. second para. 12th line
Richthofen not Richhofen
- Page 10, first col. first para. 4th line
distinctions not destinations
- Page 10, second col. first para.
first line, the not th
fifth line, county not country

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.

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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:

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Apr.-Jun. edition mailed in the last week of June Oct.-Dec. edition mailed in the last week of December.

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1 April for April-June edition 1 October for October-December edition

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