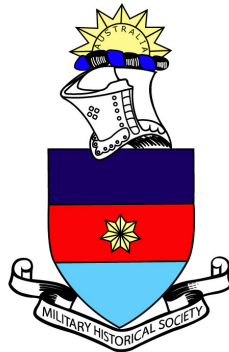


Military Historical Society of Australia  
*Sabretache*



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# SABRETACHE

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# SABRETACHE



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

**JULY - SEPTEMBER 1991**  
**VOLUME XXXII - NUMBER 3**

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Contributions in the form of articles, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note. The annual subscription to *Sabretache* is \$26.

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(FOUNDED 1957)

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★ ★ ★

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★ ★ ★

**Peter Ford**, *59 Variations*, is President of the Shepparton Historical Society. His next article for *Sabretache*, October-December 1991, examines the medals awarded to the late Colonel Geoffrey Cronk.

★ ★ ★



# SABRETACHE

☐ A book, detailing one of the largest and most unusual escapes by RAAF personnel from Japanese occupied territory in the early stages of World War II was launched at Victor Harbor on 26 October.

*Trapped on Timor* is the story of a small group of Australian airmen trapped on their advanced operational base on Timor in 1942 in the path of a Japanese naval invasion force. Taking to the hills the Australians evaded the Japanese for 58 days before being rescued and returned to Australia.

Colin Humphris, then a corporal with 2 Squadron RAAF, began writing his story in hospital in 1942. Now nearly 50 years later the story of the remarkable escape of *Penfoel Pedestrians*, as they were called, is told.

Copies of the book are available for \$15.95 by writing to C. Humphris, 33 Kent Drive, Victor Harbor, SA 5211.

☐ The Albury-Wodonga Branch will host the 1992 Biennial Conference of the Military Historical Society of Australia over the Queen's Birthday weekend, June 1992. Contacts are Branch President, Don Campbell and Branch Secretary, Christine Lytleton. See the advertisement in this issue for further details.

☐ The MHS Membership Directory is published every two years and will next appear with the Jan-Mar 1992 edition of *Sabretache*. Branch Secretaries or the Federal Secretary should be advised as soon as possible of any amendments.

☐ This month Victoria Barracks in Paddington, Sydney, will be 150 years old. When construction began in the area, then known as Surry Hills, the landscape was a series of sandhills, fringed with scrub and rocky outcrops.

The site was chosen by Lieutenant-Colonel George Barney, commander of the Royal Engineers who, on his arrival in Sydney, condemned the old George Street barracks as unsafe and insanitary.

Colonel Barney, who was also responsible for Circular Quay, Fort Denison and Darlinghurst jail, had a choice of sites at Grose Farm (where Sydney University now stands), at Prince Alfred Park near Central or the 30-acre Surry Hills site.

Surry Hills had three advantages: it was hard by a ready source of sandstone, water could be tapped from Busby's Bore and, strategically, it was well placed to command clear views to Botany Bay and to Sydney Harbour.

By late 1840, working parties from the 50th Regiment were clearing the site and building began in February the following year. The results of their labours — much of it carried out by convicts, some by soldiers — now merit a National Trust classification.

If the flagged stone paths are now covered in concrete, the original layout survives and the massive 226-metre (742-foot) main barrack block still bears the scratch-marks along its fourth and fifth stone

courses where hundreds of soldiers habitually struck the wax matches to light their clay pipes.

The trapdoor and metal eyelet on the second-storey verandah attract ghoulish interest but in fact had a more convivial purpose, being used to haul beer kegs up to the adjacent sergeants' mess.

The officers' building — comprising accommodation, servants' quarters, stables, kitchen, mess and a ballroom — is still used as officer quarters.

But the main barracks, which once accommodated 700 men (and sometimes, separated by a curtain, the families chosen by ballot of up to 10 soldiers) is now converted to offices.

☐ The First World War Seminar '92. The Western Front Association and the Great War Society are sponsoring a public, 3-day weekend Seminar in San Francisco on 17-19 July 1992.

The Seminar will be held in the beautiful Cathedral Hill Hotel. A block of rooms have been reserved at \$82 per night.

Twenty plus hours of WWI lectures by a distinguished, international panel of speakers including Alistair Horne (*The Price Of Glory: Verdun 1916*) and Edward Coffman (*The War To End All Wars*).

Seminar will include 'get acquainted' receptions, a Grand Banquet at Fort Mason (Presidio), and a Dinner Cruise on San Francisco Bay.

Seminar cost is \$135 per person. Write for free Seminar program and reservation information to The Western Front Association, PO Box 604, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303, USA.

# *The Australian War Memorial*

## *— Purpose and Mission*

### *Federal Council*

During the controversy over entry charges for the Australian War Memorial (*Sabretache*, October/December 1990 and January/March 1991), the Federal Opposition raised a further issue: that there had apparently been a recasting of the objectives of the Memorial away from commemoration and towards museum activities.

This matter was raised also by the ACT Branch of the RSL in the *RSL National Newsletter*, July 1991 in the following terms:

*"Up to the present time the objectives of the Memorial has been 'To commemorate Australia's War Dead and to preserve the Nation's military heritage'. However, the newly published mission does not mention the word 'commemorate' it reads 'To assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its continuing impact on Australian Society'.*

*The original purpose of the Memorial was to commemorate the sacrifices of our war dead and there should be no divergence from this. Perhaps it is again time to remind the Australian War Memorial Council that there are approximately 0.5 million ex-service persons still alive who should be consulted on these issues."*

Federal Council sought comment from the Australian War Memorial on the Memorial's purpose and objectives and has been provided with a copy of the

Memorial's Corporate Plan 1991-1994, extracts of which are reprinted here for members' information.

### **Extracts from Director's Introduction**

*"... in Australia the National War Memorial was to be more than a shrine or an obelisk; it was to be a collection and a building that would assist the nation to know the reality and the cost of war ... As Bean explicitly recognised, the means of telling the story of Australia at war would change as the generations changed and people grew more remote from the actual experience of war.*

*...The Memorial cannot be a static institution. While its purpose will be unchanged, it is the manner of achieving that purpose that must change over time. Few of the Memorial's visitors have a knowledge of war that might have been presumed 50 years ago when the building in Canberra first opened. And yet their interest in the past is just as intense and their pride in the achievements of those who have gone before them is undiminished ...."*

### **Purpose and Mission**

*"Our purpose is to commemorate the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war."*

*"Our mission is to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society."*

### **Corporate Goals**

*The Memorial's corporate goals in the 1991-1994 Corporate Plan which are of particular interest to military historians are:*

- *To provide and manage a national collection of historical material which is used to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war.*
- *To provide education and information services which foster interpretation and understanding of the Australian experience of war.*
- *To document the official history of Australia's involvement in South-East Asian conflicts 1948-1975.*

## ***Lieutenant-General Edward Kenneth Smart, DSO, MC***

***Warren Perry***

A centenary is a time to turn one's thoughts to past events and to those who have participated in the fashioning of these events. One such person was Lieutenant-General Edward Kenneth Smart of the Australian Military Forces who in 1991 was born a century earlier in the Melbourne suburb of Kew on 23 May 1891. He was the son of a lawyer, Edward Andrew Smart. Melbourne was then a city of hansom cabs, cable trams, and steam trains and telephones had come into use about a decade earlier. Aeroplanes, motor cars, and radio broadcasting were things of the future.

Kenneth Smart was an Old Boy of the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School in South Yarra when he began his Army career as a Militia subaltern on 18 July 1910 in the Corps of Australian Engineers. Sometime earlier, during the period between December 1909 and February 1910, Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener of the British Army had been in Australia inspecting and reporting on the AMF on behalf of the Federal Government, the Prime Minister of which was then Mr Alfred Deakin.

But 2nd Lieutenant E. K. Smart was not to be a lifelong Militia officer as General Monash was. On 1 December 2nd Lieutenant E. K. Smart transferred from the CMF to the PMF, with the rank of Lieutenant in the RAGA which was then the permanent branch of Australia's Garrison Artillery.

The general appearance of the AMF on parade, when the future General Smart began his Army career before the War of 1914-18 was vastly different from what it was when he retired from it as a general officer after the close of the War of 1939-45. A major difference of the AMF before the War of 1914-18 was its division into the two branches of mounted and unmounted troops. Troops of each Branch wore, as appropriate, either a mounted or unmounted pattern of uniform. By the close of the War of 1939-45 these distinctions had disappeared. Moreover, Garrison Artillery in Australia, which was in reality that species of Garrison Artillery known as Coast Artillery, was abandoned towards the close of the War of 1939-45 having been rendered obsolete by the development of air power.

But to return to December 1910 when Lieutenant E. K. Smart became a permanent officer of the AMF and was appointed to the RAGA. At this time the Chief of the Australian General Staff and Military Adviser of the Federal Government was Major-General Sir John Charles Hoad<sup>1</sup> who was to die in office in the following year. The commandant of the Military Forces in the Military District of Victoria was Colonel John Stanley, RAGA. He was to be placed on



the Retired List in April 1912 and then recalled to duty in August 1914 to be Australia's Quartermaster-General for most of the War of 1914-18.<sup>2</sup> The Commanding Officer of the Permanent Artillery in Victoria at this time, under Colonel Stanley, was Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. Clark, RAGA<sup>3</sup> and his headquarters was located in Fort Queenscliff at Port Phillip Heads.

The War of 1914-18 began officially on 4 August 1914 at 11 pm (GMT). The AIF was created officially on 15 August 1914 with Major-General W. T. Bridges as its GOC. In earlier years he had been a permanent Garrison Artillery Officer in NSW. But immediately prior to his secondment to the AIF he had been the Inspector-General of the AMF since 1 June 1914.

Although this War of 1914-18 was one of the great turning points in Australia's military history and it produced pre-eminent field commanders at Corps, Divisional and Infantry Brigade levels, this War is today to most Australians merely a name which belongs to either the forgotten or the unknown past.

The first contingent of the AIF, under the command of Major-General W. T. Bridges, sailed from Albany in Western Australia on 1 November 1914 for active service overseas. Then the second contingent of the AIF, under the command of Brigadier-General John Monash, put to sea from Albany in Western Australia, to proceed on active service overseas, on 28 December 1914.

But still Lieutenant E. K. Smart and the other members of the RAGA stood by waiting and wondering when they would get orders to proceed overseas too on active service.

Then, on or about 21 May 1915, the Australian Siege Artillery Brigade—known officially as the 36th Heavy Artillery Group AIF—was raised as an AIF unit. It was manned originally by permanent officers and other ranks in all its combatant posts. Recruitment was conducted in all Military Districts of Australia and all ranks were concentrated in Melbourne.

The original headquarters staff including the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Coxen<sup>4</sup>; the Adjutant, Captain (later Major) C. St J. F. MacDonald (1882-1918) who was killed on active service in 1918 while commanding a battery of the Brigade; the Quartermaster was Lieutenant (later Major) Charles Morris (1862-1935). The RSM was Warrant Officer (1) James Daniel Jones who in the War of 1939-45 became Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Jones (1881-1953). Lieutenant E. K. Smart was among the original officers selected for regimental duty in this Brigade.

The Farewell March of the Australian Siege Artillery Brigade, AIF through the City of Melbourne took place on Thursday afternoon 15 July 1915.

Two days later the Brigade, including Lieutenant E. K. Smart, now an officer of the AIF, sailed from Melbourne in an HMAT, A67, better known as the RMS *Orsova*, for England. En route this ship called at Adelaide, Suez, Port Said, and Gibraltar. The

Brigade disembarked at Devonport in England on Sunday 29 August 1915.

Brigadier G. E. Manchester (1885-1957), the Brigade's historian, said that from Devonport the Brigade 'proceeded to the Siege Artillery School at Lydd in Kent where it remained till November' 1915. The task of the Siege Artillery School at Lydd was to train 'batteries as quickly as possible' for active service. After leaving Lydd the brigade moved to Taunton in Somerset where all ranks were accommodated in billets. According to Brigadier Manchester the residents of Taunton treated all ranks of the Brigade 'with the greatest kindness'.

On Saturday 26 February 1916 Headquarters of the Australian Siege Artillery Brigade and its 54th Siege Battery moved by train from Taunton to Folkestone in Kent for onward movement to France via Boulogne. It was winter-time. The Brigade's other battery, the 55th Siege Battery, left Taunton on Tuesday 2 March 1916, presumably by the same route, for France to join the rest of the Brigade.

A Supplement of the *London Gazette* of 14 November 1916 announced that Lieutenant E. K. Smart had been awarded a MC 'For conspicuous gallantry in Action. Although wounded he served throughout the day with great courage and skill sending back valuable information'. For good measure the citation closed by saying of Lieutenant E. K. Smart that 'He had previously done fine work'.

Soon Lieutenant E. K. Smart was to experience more good fortune when he and Lieutenant (later Major-General) B. M. Morris, each of the 55th Siege Battery, were promoted, on 13 December 1916, to the rank of Captain. On this same date Captain E. K. Smart was also appointed Adjutant of the Australian Siege Artillery Brigade vice Captain William Tomkinson who was transferred to a newly raised Battery, the 3rd Australian Siege Battery. Its Battery Commander was Captain Arthur William Bates who had been reposted to this 3rd Australian Siege Battery from the 54th Battery.

Another junior officer posted to this new battery, the 3rd Australian Siege Battery, was Lieutenant W. W. Whittle (1892-1964), who was to rise to the rank of Major-General and become the MGO of the AMF from 1946 to 1948.

Captain E. K. Smart relinquished the post of Adjutant of the Australian Siege Artillery Brigade on 31 October 1917. Since the 18 January 1917 this Brigade had been commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (later Colonel) J. H. Hurst (1869-1953) vice Lieutenant-Colonel W.A. Coxen. Lieutenant-Colonel Coxen was transferred to CRA, 1st Australian Division with the ranks of Colonel and Temporary Brigadier-General.

Captain Smart's next posting from 1 November 1917 was to Headquarters, 4th Australian Divisional Artillery. His CRA there was Brigadier-General W. L. H. Burgess. He was a seconded officer

### Abbreviations

AAO—Australian Army Order  
AIF—Australian Imperial Force  
AMF—Australian Military Forces  
CAG—*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*  
CMF—Citizen Military Force  
GOC—General Officer Commanding  
MGO—Master General of the Ordnance  
PMF—Permanent Military Forces of Australia  
QMG—Quartermaster-General  
RAFA—Royal Australian Field Artillery  
RAGA—Royal Australian Garrison Artillery  
RHA—Royal Horse Artillery  
VHJ—*The Victorian Historical Journal*, Melbourne  
VHM—*The Victorian Historical Magazine*, Melbourne.

from the New Zealand Staff Corps and in later years became Major-General Sir W. L. H. Sinclair-Burgess (1880-1964) and sometime Chief of the NZ General Staff.

Captain E. K. Smart relinquished his appointment at Headquarters, at 4th Australian Divisional Artillery on 28 April 1918 to take up a posting as from 29 April 1918 at Headquarters, Australian Corps which was then commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Birdwood of the Indian Army. It is not known what this appointment was that Captain Smart held at the Headquarters of the Australian Corps. Lieutenant-General (later General) Sir John Monash (1865-1931) assumed command of the Australian Corps on 1 June 1918 vice General Birdwood who was appointed to command the Fifth British Army and he took with him from the Australian Corps Major General White<sup>5</sup> to be his MGGS. On 2 June 1918 Captain E. K. Smart relinquished his appointment at the Headquarters of the Australian Corps. From there he returned to regimental duties but this time he went to Field Artillery. He was transferred to the 4th Australian Division where he was posted to the 10th Field Artillery Brigade to command a Battery. In this posting he was promoted on 23 June 1918 to the rank of major.

Armistice Day came on 11 November 1918 and so hostilities ceased in the War of 1914-1918. But before returning to Australia Major Smart attended a course of training at the Artillery College at Woolwich in England which began on 31 May 1919.

Major Smart disembarked in Melbourne possibly on or about 1 October 1919 after an absence on war service of more than four years. His appointment in the AIF was terminated six months later on 12 April 1921.

In the meantime he had resumed duty in the RAGA in 3 MD as OC, No. 6 Company in the ranks of captain and brevet major in the PMF on and after his service in the AIF with the rank of Major had been terminated.

In Australia a new corps was created on 1 October 1920 and it was designated the *Australian Staff Corps*. Henceforth all combatant officers of Australia's Permanent Military Forces were to serve in this corps which had its own corps seniority list.

Major Smart was transferred to this Australian Staff Corps to date 1 October 1920 in the ranks of captain and brevet major. Then on 1 May 1921 he was promoted in the Australian Staff Corps to the substantive rank of major and he was, on the same date, granted the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel.

This date of 1 May 1921 had another significance. On that date Australia's post-war field army - a part-time army - came into existence officially. It was organised on a divisional basis, in conformity with the organisation of the AIF in 1918. Before the outbreak of the War of 1914-18 Australia had not maintained field formations higher than infantry brigades. It should be noted however that this post war field army in 1921 made no provisions

for corps commanded in the field by lieutenant-generals and so Lieutenant-General Monash, originally a Gunner officer of the CMF, was excluded from the scheme. The divisional commanders and commanders of independent mixed brigades were under the direct command of the Military Board which was then located in the Department of Defence in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

The pre-war Military Districts continued to exist after the 1921 re-organisation. The pre war District Commandants continued to exist 'on paper'. But in reality they existed only in their other capacity of District Base Commandants who had no powers of command over field formation etc. commanders in their Military Districts. These field formation etc. commanders were responsible direct to the Military Board in Melbourne. A major duty of these District Base Commandants was to provide L of C services as required to the field formation etc. commanders in their Military Districts.

But while all these changes were taking place in Australia Lieutenant-Colonel E. K. Smart was absent in England attending a Gunnery Staff Course at Woolwich. He had embarked, probably in Melbourne on 11 September 1920 to attend this course. It was of about one year's duration and it ended officially on 23 January 1922.<sup>6</sup>

In his *The History of Coast Artillery in the British Army*<sup>7</sup> (1959) Colonel K. W. Maurice-Jones said: '... the coast gunner had to study electricity and mathematics and to consider the effects of wind, weather, and temperature upon the ballistics of his projectiles'. The author then added that: 'Thus slowly but surely the coast-artillery officer became the pioneer in exact and accurate shooting and the leader in applying scientific methods to solving the problems of gunnery'.

Originally the British School of Gunnery provided instruction for all branches of Artillery. But in 1899 when the Regiment of Artillery was divided into branches the School of Gunnery split into two separate establishments namely one for the RHA and the RFA, and one for the RGA. The main duties of the RGA part of the School was the instruction of officers and other ranks in the theory and practice of coast defence gunnery and the courses it provided included the Gunnery Staff Course for officers. The object of this course was to produce Instructors of Gunnery. The course in General Smart's time probably lasted for one year and included a three months course at the Ordnance College at Woolwich under the Director of Artillery Studies and attendance at a practice camp at Portsmouth plus an inspection of the naval establishments at Portsmouth.<sup>8</sup>

After returning to Australia Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Smart became an Instructor at Artillery Schools of Instruction in the AMF from 24 January 1922 to 24 September 1923.

It was during this tour of duty of Lieutenant-Colonel Smart that a surprising event occurred within the Australian Army. On



10 June 1923 the Chief of the Australian General Staff, Major General Sir C. B. B. White, unexpectedly resigned his appointment and took up employment outside the Army in a civil capacity. He may be regarded as the most distinguished higher level Australian staff officer to have emerged from the War of 1914-18. His departure into civil life in June 1923 was an irreplaceable loss to the Australian Army.

Under these changed post-war conditions Lieutenant-Colonel E. K. Smart continued to serve and to survive. For a regular officer survival alone was an achievement in this era. Indeed the life of a regular officer in Lieutenant-Colonel Smart's time during the inter-war period (1919-39) was arduous beyond the belief of unreflective people. The conditions of service, compared with those of other professions, were not good because rates of pay were low, prospects of promotion were poor, and the uncertainties and uncreativity of Government policy, as revealed in reports of the Inspectors-General of the AMF in the 1920s and 1930s, were indicators of the low average professional calibre of Ministers for Defence of the time. A very few only gave the Department of Defence any stature during the inter-war period in matters of policy, training or in the provision of *materiel*.

The Defence portfolio during the inter-war period (1919-39) seems to have been regarded by most recipients as merely a stepping stone to a more desirable portfolio. When Budgets had to be balanced and estimates had to be reduced 'savage cuts' and retrenchments readily suggested themselves to the 'razor gangs' of the period. Moreover, these reductions in expenditure rarely if ever excited any adverse criticism from a largely uninformed and lethargic public. One informed critic of Defence Policy and Military Training of the time was General Sir John Monash. Another critic was Major-General H. G. Bennett. So in these conditions Lieutenant-Colonel Smart carried on.

Then later in the year, on or about 9 October 1923, Lieutenant-Colonel Smart sailed from Melbourne to attend courses of training in England at the Artillery College in Woolwich and the School of Artillery in Shoeburyness. After the completion of this training Lieutenant-Colonel Smart returned to duty in Australia. he disembarked in Melbourne from the S.S. *Largs Bay* on 8 February 1925.<sup>9</sup>

Lieutenant-Colonel E. K. Smart's next posting was in Melbourne at Army Headquarters as it used to be known then within the Army. It was in reality an integral part of the central administration of the Department of Defence. This posting was that of a Staff Officer in the General Staff Branch for a period of four years from 9 February 1925. The Chief of the Australian General Staff at this time was Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Chauvel. His Director of Military Training was Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Lavarack<sup>10</sup> from 1 March 1925 to 5 December 1927. Lavarack relinquished this post to proceed to England to attend the one calendar year course for 1928 at the Imperial Defence

College, London. Lavarack's successor from 7 December 1927 as Director of Military Training was Colonel (later Lieutenant-General) C. G. N. Miles (1884-1958). It was also to this Directorate of Military Training that Lieutenant-Colonel E. K. Smart had been posted as GSO II (Artillery).

Colonel E. K. Smart's next posting was a temporary one. It was that of Commander of Artillery in 3rd District Base from 1 April 1929 to 29 May 1931. It was during this posting that Colonel Smart was a witness of two events of military significance. The Wall Street Crash which began on 24 October 1929 initiated a world-wide economic depression of the most disastrous character to millions of people some of whom were Australians of all ranks in the Defence forces who suffered retrenchments of a severe character. On 31 October 1929 the Prime Minister, Mr J. H. Scullin, announced the suspension of Universal Military Training throughout Australia and its replacement by a voluntary system of recruitment for the CMF.

Colonel E. K. Smart's record of service will already have plainly indicated that most of his service had hitherto been connected, in one way or another, almost exclusively with Artillery and then even mainly with Garrison Artillery including Coast Artillery. But on 1 October 1932 he was appointed AA & QMG of the 4th Australian Division the headquarters of which was located in Melbourne and in October 1932 the Division was being commanded by Brigadier-General (later Lieutenant-General Sir) C. H. Jess (1884-1948), an officer of the Australian Staff Corps. Jess was an interesting personality of his time in the Australian Army. He had come up the hard way; he had had a good record in the War of 1914-18 in which he rose from a staff-captain to an infantry brigade commander; and in December 1934 he was to become the Adjutant-General of the AMF. Later again his AA & QMG in 1932, Lieutenant-Colonel Smart, was to become the Quartermaster-General of the AMF.<sup>11</sup>

But other events occurred in the meantime. Lieutenant-Colonel Smart relinquished the post of AA & QMG in the 4th Australian Division on 28 February 1933 to become the Director of Ordnance Stores at Army Headquarters, Melbourne – an appointment then in the QMG's Branch. He relinquished this post on 25 November 1935.

Then on 16 January 1936 Brevet Colonel Smart, as he became on 1 July 1937, was posted to the appointment of Liaison Officer at the Office of the Australian High Commissioner, London who was then Mr S. M. Bruce.

In November 1937 an important change occurred in the command of Australia's Department of Defence on the civil side. Mr F. G. Shedden, who was a 'new look' type of Australian civil servant, was appointed Secretary of the Department of Defence.<sup>12</sup> He and Major-General J. D. Lavarack, had attended the 1928 course at the Imperial Defence College, London.

On 17 August 1939 the Minister for Defence, Brigadier G. A. Street (1894-1940) since 7 November 1938, announced that the

Government had adopted a recommendation by the Inspector-General of the AMF, Lieutenant-General E. K. Squires of the British Army, that Australia have superimposed on its geographical organisation of that time, into Military Districts, a geographical system of Commands as then existing in Great Britain. With some overlapping these Commands corresponded roughly to the States of Australia as did the Military Districts. So the new Northern Command had its Headquarters at Victoria Barracks, Brisbane; Eastern Command had its Headquarters in Victoria Barracks, Sydney; Southern Command had its original Headquarters in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. This command took in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Western Command had its Headquarters at Swan Barracks, Perth. These reforms abolished the appointment of Base Commandant. The commandants of the Commands were general officers who also held concurrently 'on paper' the appointment of District Commandant and in this way the Military districts were also retained 'on paper'. The two senior commands were Eastern Command and Southern Command and it will be seen in due course that Brevet Colonel E. K. Smart, as he was at the time of the creation of these geographical commands in 1938, was to become later GOC-in C<sup>13</sup> of Southern Command.

With the coming of August 1939 war seemed imminent to Europe's Foreign Offices. Colonel Smart relinquished his appointment of Liaison Officer on the staff of the Australian High Commissioner in London, Mr S. M. Bruce. The following day 26 August 1939, Colonel Smart and the Chief of the Australian General Staff, Major-General J. D. Lavarack, who had been on a two months official visit to the United Kingdom, sailed from London for Australia.

The War of 1939-45 began for Australia on Sunday 3 September 1939. The official announcement was broadcast by radio that evening by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr R. G. Menzies.

Colonel Smart and Major-General Lavarack arrived in Melbourne by air from Perth on Wednesday 27 September 1939. This was the day also of the Inaugural Meeting of the Australian War Cabinet.<sup>14</sup> Its business included consideration of major changes in allotments for duty, promotions, and related matters in the AMF and the AIF<sup>15</sup> with the results that it concurred in the following recommendations which became effective on 13 October 1939.<sup>16</sup>

- (a) Lieutenant-General Squires was appointed Chief of the Australian General Staff vice Major-General J. D. Lavarack.
- (b) Major-General J. D. Lavarack was promoted to Lieutenant-General in the Australian Staff Corps of the AMF and appointed to command Southern Command in the 3rd Military District.
- (c) Major-General Sir T. A. Blamey was appointed a Lieutenant-General in the AIF and appointed to command

concurrently the 6th Australian Division plus ancillary troops of the AIF.

- (d) Colonel T. R. Williams, Australian Staff Corps was granted the rank of local Major-General and appointed to be Master-General of the Ordnance of the AMF.<sup>17</sup>
- (e) Brevet Colonel E. K. Smart was granted the rank of Quartermaster-General of the AMF vice Major-General O. F. Phillips.

When Major-General Smart became the QMG in October 1939 he assumed a title which the Australian Army had taken over from the British Army. The Office of the QMG in the British Army has had a long and interesting history. This history began in 1686 when Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Maxwell was appointed to that office.<sup>18</sup> Today the title *Quartermaster-General* does not appear in the Australian Army Staff Lists. This deletion is another instance of the practice of 'tearing up' periodically the history of the Australian Army and starting afresh. One may also ask where are the Colour patches today which were first worn in the AIF during the War of 1914-18? 'Surface minded' action of this kind tends to keep the fighting services of a nation in an eternal state of infancy.

It was announced in the press on 16 October 1939<sup>19</sup> that the enlistment of men for the AIF would begin at recruiting depots on Friday 20 October 1939. Things were moving fast at this time for all branches of the Staff at AHQ. On Friday 20 October 1939 the Prime Minister, Mr R. G. Menzies, announced that Compulsory Military Training would begin in January 1940 for all single men who became 21 years of age during the year ending 1 July 1940.<sup>20</sup>

A major reorganisation of the Department of Defence took place officially on 14 November 1939 when the Department of Defence itself was reorganised into four new Departments of State as follows:

- Department of Defence Co-ordination
- Department of the Navy
- Department of the Army
- Department of the Air.

This reorganisation also transferred the Military Board, of which General Smart was the Third Military Member, and the Branch of the QMG, the Head of which was General Smart, to the Department of the Army.

Major-General Smart occupied the appointment of Quartermaster-General of the AMF during a difficult period of the Australian Army's rapid expansion with inadequate stocks of arms, clothing and equipment because of peacetime neglect by governments to maintain adequate stocks.

Nevertheless, Major-General Smart must have performed well as QMG in satisfying a multiplicity of ends with limited means. On 24 October 1940 he was granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant-General and appointed to command Southern Command with its headquarters in Melbourne. He held this command

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> For a biographical sketch see Warren Perry, *The Military Life of Major-General Sir John Charles Hoad, VHM*, August 1959, pp. 141-204.
- <sup>2</sup> No biographical study of Major-General John Stanley's military career has yet been published.
- <sup>3</sup> *Later Brigadier-General Walter John Clark, RAGA*. Born 20 October 1859. Lieutenant Victorian Permanent Artillery 1 July 1889. Retired List (AMF) 1 November 1918. Died 28 November 1943 at Kyneton, Victoria.
- <sup>4</sup> For a biographical sketch see Warren Perry, *Major-General Walter Adams Coxen: A pre-eminent Australian Gunnery Officer: The Australian Army Journal, Canberra, March 1975*, pp. 16-29.
- <sup>5</sup> *Later General Sir Cyril Brudenell Bingham White, KCB, KCMG, KCVO, DSO, psc*. Born 23 September 1876 at St Arnaud, Victoria. Killed in an air crash at Canberra while on duty on 13 August 1940. During the War of 1914-18 he was so indispensable as a staff officer that he could not be spared for a command appointment. No full scale biography of him has been published.
- <sup>6</sup> *Australian Army Lists* record that General Smart attended a Gunnery Staff Course in England from 11 September 1920 to 23 January 1922. But these dates presumably include travelling time between Australian and England.
- <sup>7</sup> Colonel K. W. Maurice-Jones, *The History of Coast Artillery in the British Army*. Royal Artillery Institution, London, 1951, p. 174.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, 175-6.
- <sup>9</sup> AAO No. 85, dated 21 February 1925.



for the next eighteen months and during this time four events of significance took place. First, on the 7/8 December 1941 the Pacific War began when Japanese forces made unprovoked attacks concurrently on Malaya and Pearl Harbour. Second, General MacArthur arrived at Spencer Street Melbourne on 21 March 1942. Third, General Sir Thomas Blamey was appointed on 27 March 1942 the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces. Fourth, on 18 April 1942 General MacArthur established his GHQ, South West Pacific Area in Melbourne.

In the midst of these momentous events General Smart was appointed on 6 April 1942 to the post of Head of the Australian Military Mission to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington.<sup>21</sup>

But General Smart relinquished this post of Head of the Australian Military Mission to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington on 9 September 1942 when he was succeeded by Lieutenant-General Sir V. A. H. Sturdee (1890-1966).

General Smart's next posting was to London which he knew as well as he knew Melbourne where he was born and attended school. In London General Smart was head of the Australian Army Staff; he was as much the Military Adviser of the Australian High Commissioner in London, Mr S. M. Bruce; and he was accommodated in the Australian High Commission Building in London, better known as 'Australia House.'

This posting in London was General Smart's last wartime appointment. There he was to serve through the period of the intensive preparations which culminated in the Allied Landing on the Normandy beaches on 6 June 1944. The landing led to the cessation of hostilities in Europe in the War of 1939-45. The cease fire in Europe on 8 May 1945 was designated VE-Day. The War in the Pacific against Japan did not close until VJ-Day which was 15 August 1945.

Sometime in the latter half of the financial year 1945-46 General Smart relinquished his appointment as Head of the Australian Army Staff at the Australian High Commission, London to return home to Melbourne for demobilisation and retirement.

Major-General Edward Kenneth Smart, DSO, MC, a distinguished general officer of the Australian Staff Corps, was placed on the Retired List of the AMF to date 3 July 1946. His Army career was now closed.

General Smart was in his time one of Australia's pre-eminent soldiers. Physically, he was tall and impressive in appearance. He had an alert mind, he could identify quickly the essential features of a problem, and he paid due attention himself to detail in the planning of schemes under his direction. His military interests were wide and they included the technical features of railways and their employment for military purposes<sup>21</sup> as well as improvements in the theory and practice of gunnery and especially in methods of fire control in major artillery operations. Nevertheless, these interests remained largely of a technical character and more especially of an

<sup>10</sup> For a biographical sketch see Warren Perry, Lieutenant-General Sir John Dudley Lavarack: Australia's 13th Chief of the General Staff. *VHJ*, May 1975, p. 381.

<sup>11</sup> These titles of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General — titles with long histories — were abolished some years ago in the Australian Army. In the future an imaginative and resolute Minister or CGS may arise and have these titles restored on the ground that they were abolished for reasons that were both specious and inadequate.

<sup>12</sup> Warren Perry, Sir Frederick Geoffrey Sheddin (1893-1971): The Making of a Permanent Head for the Department of Defence. *Defence Force Journal*, Canberra, No. 83, July-August 1990, pp. 38-49.

<sup>13</sup> A GOC, such as a Divisional commander, does not have other general officers under his command. A GOC-in-C, such as GOC-in-C, Southern Command, England, has lower ranking general officers under command.

<sup>14</sup> Paul Hasluck, *The Government and the People 1939-1941*. AWM, Canberra, reprinted 1956, p. 151.

<sup>15</sup> On 16 September 1939 the Federal Government announced its decision to form a special force by voluntary recruitment for service as required either in Australia or overseas and to be designated the '2nd AIF' — a designation later changed to AIF. See *Army Chronology* from January 1939 to December 1945. Issued by the Secretary, Department of the Army, Melbourne.

<sup>16</sup> CAG, No. 104, dated 12 October 1939, p. 2130.

<sup>17</sup> The MGO Branch was a new branch of the Staff at the AHQ level. Hitherto MGO functions had been included in those of the QMG Branch.

artillery character. His higher military education and training were not as diversified as those of his mentor and more senior colleague, 'Joe' Lavarack. One of Ken Smart's greatest assets was to be found in his handling of staff. In wartime, especially, the personal relations among staffs are sometimes apt to 'overheat' and even 'to seize up'. Ken Smart's presence in such crises acted as a lubricant. Socially, he was a good host, a good mixer, and a good conversationalist.<sup>23</sup>

Colonel J. P. Buckley who was the Chief Technical Officer on General Smart's Staff in London from March 1944 to September 1945 said: 'The relations between General Smart and the Australian High Commissioner, London on the one hand, and with the War Office, London Staff on the other hand, were good'.<sup>24</sup>

The last scene of all for General Edward Kenneth Smart occurred in Melbourne the City in which he was born 70 years earlier. He died on 2 May 1961. A funeral with full military honours took place three days later. After a service at Christ Church in South Yarra on Friday morning 5 May 1961, the cortege and mourners moved to the Springvale Crematorium.<sup>25</sup>

In life he had combined professional ability with courtesy and good manners in his treatment of others.

<sup>18</sup> The War Office List, *London*, 1922, p. 260.

<sup>19</sup> The Argus, *Melbourne*, 16 October 1939, p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> The Argus, *Melbourne*, 21 October 1939, p. 1.

<sup>21</sup> *The Joint Chiefs of Staff were the heads of the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force. Throughout the War of 1939-45 they were: General George C. Marshal, Chief of the Army; Admiral Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations and General H. H. Arnold, the Head of the Army Air Force; and Admiral Leahy, Chief of Staff to President Roosevelt; and the President of the USA who was Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces, was the Chairman. See Eliot Morrison, American Contributions to the Strategy of World War II, OUP, London, 1958, P. 7.*

<sup>22</sup> *As Quartermaster-General, general Smart was the President of the War Railway Council of the AMF.*

<sup>23</sup> *Based on a discussion with Colonel J. P. Buckley formerly Chief Technical Officer on General Smart's Australian Army Staff, London, 1944-45. See also the late Alfred Stirling's Lord Bruce: The London Years (1974), p. 268 where the author said of General Smart that: 'He had been Bruce's Military Adviser . . . before the War of 1939-45 and he was persona gratissima with the British, as with the Americans'.*

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> The Herald, *Melbourne*, 2 May 1961, p. 2.

## ***Views on the War Memorial's ideas presented in the South African War Gallery***

***Richard Murison***

The first encounter the potentially motivated, or just casually interested visitor has with the South African War Gallery does arouse interest. This story of our past in that war is worth telling; and, after several visits I believe it may widen people's understanding of our attitudes to war in Australia, both at home and on active service. This gallery is narrative oriented, and the sequence is imaginatively conceived: visitors are guided through a display with a refreshing change in style, making good use of space and different floor levels. The panels for the major texts are attractively designed and the 'pyramidal theory' used has large, bold headlines to catch the attention and outline the topic, bold type to summarise the subject, which when necessary is more fully explained in smaller type, with maps and illustrations.

The gallery contains a wealth of real objects, each contributing to one's understanding, and all giving the impression of having been assembled with the serious question in mind of telling a coherent story, without the feeling of wordy 'books on walls', or placing long labels next to objects to distract attention from them. Museum professionals have different views about labels and separate panels: the arguments are well known to them! It is a matter of judgment for any gallery, and with this story the War Memorial successfully draws people into the absorption of information by easy stages, allowing them to stop at any point.

The introduction to the gallery is excellent in the way it presents the different South African inhabitants and types of terrain, the origin of the war, the differences in character between the opposing forces, and the men in them. Having explained this background and then, the impact on Australian of the Black Week's three major defeats, the story continues in themed sections, layed out generally in a chronological sequence, from the recruiting of forces to their homecoming, and restoration of peace by treaty. From a chronological aspect, it is an asset having the gallery for colonial military heritage next door.

The gallery's emphasis is on portraying Australian life and events during the war, including a whole section for our major action of this war at Elands River. There are other sections on attitudes at home, the sense of adventure in those enlisting, news reporting and the influence of newspapers. In between the Australian part in the war, are the sections with explanations for a historical and geographical understanding. After relating that the

Boers would not give up, despite the capture of their capitals, there follow thematic sections on the two year guerilla war. These include the technology available to deal with the great distances involved, and the nature of the warfare with its lines of blockhouses, armoured trains and the use of concentration camps. The War Memorial does not avoid views on the beastly aspects of that guerilla war, and its effect upon soldiers and civilians of all races, as it dragged on and on. The story concludes with the welcomes for returned soldiers; and, importance is placed on the significant cost in lives.

The visitor is invited to think about what Australian do, think, celebrate, fear, experience and actually feel in the past, including death, wounds and disease; and, where and how they took their toll. Prominent to the story is the human experience of the bushmen of the Australian colonies, taking part in the mounted warfare. The roughness on both horses and men is explained (in a panel attracting more interest than most others); and how the bushmen's capability met the need for irregular corps, so essential to open, mobile warfare on the Veldt. This is all an insight into the Australian approach to the Boer War.

As well as being informed, one is entertained throughout this gallery by a variety of successful design ideas, such as a life size creation of a mounted soldier and horse preparing for an early morning move on the Veldt; watch-out and locate the hidden Boer sniper, after the crack and thump of a shot at an unsuspecting visitor; and, a Saturday night magic lantern social back at home, using a very expensive and good audio-visual production. All these ideas cause people to stop, think and more often than not, to comment. Other participative activities are receiving a signal message from the flashing dots and dashes of a heliograph, which works well on pressing a button; however, 'what's your verdict' concerned with the execution of Breaker Morant and Handcock is not so successful. As some people say, 'this interactive device may create an active response' to press a button to record a vote, but there is a tendency for children to press both buttons and for adults either not to read the facts as given, or as they pass by, to press a button out of curiosity. Certainly, no importance should be attached to the numbers of votes recorded in this way, but otherwise as an activity it does interest people. There are numerous appealing design ideas in the gallery conveying an understanding of the conditions and dangers on active service in South Africa, the feelings of the people back at home, both before and after Federation, as well as an atmosphere of the British Empire of this time ninety years ago.

Many visitors may gain an insight into the beginnings of an Australian approach to fighting, forged later on by the ANZAC's. But what exactly is this approach? Where does one look for a definition or understanding: it is a difficult question, and there is certainly room for debate. The traditional view of the virtues displayed by the ANZAC's at Gallipoli, also seen in national



*An exhibit in the South African War Gallery showing an Australian mounted rifleman breaking camp on the Veldt.*




characteristics is namely, to be tough, inventive, sardonic, loyal to one's mates and have courage. Portrayed in this gallery is the spirit of the bushman; a natural fighter, a mate with a lack of awe for rank and position, and an equal of all men. In the First World War some consider that discipline among the Australian was bad, but it depends, as Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig said, on what you mean by discipline. Haig said that he had never called on the Australian Corps to undertake a difficult and hazardous operation 'without the operation in question being carried through with success, and always with good spirit and keen determination. From the top down . . . details have been most carefully worked out, and the plan executed with coolness and courage'. And, that is what Haig and many others call discipline.<sup>1</sup>

In this display one can sense ideas about comradeship, compassion, good sense, daring and sacrifice in South Africa. The courage and fortitude in the twelve day action at Elands River is made memorable, and is in a similar vein to the heroic defence of Isurava by the 39th Battalion; an episode typifying the fighting spirit in New Guinea in the Second World War. A fighting spirit in the tradition of Elands River and Gallipoli.<sup>2</sup>

Finally, it should be recognised that this is a gallery of quality and ideas. The War Memorial have achieved a pleasing way of combining interpretation and display to give an interesting insight into the development of an Australian approach to war — the ANZAC spirit — trying to do the right thing with the torch of Justice and Freedom. In presenting the objects, words and designs in this gallery for instruction and recreation, the War Memorial also presents an opportunity for dialogue between communities, local, national and international — an agreed international objective for museums.

Congratulations to the War Memorial for a task well done. It's far more difficult than it seems to put an understanding of ideas across to the public, so that they can think about them too; and not enough museums in Australia and the British Isles are good at it.



#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> *Field Marshal Lord Birdwood, Khaki and Gown, autobiography, page 309.*

<sup>2</sup> *Victor Austin, To Kokoda and Beyond, Melbourne University Press, page 236.*

## *The 4th Light Trench Mortar Battery at Bullecourt*

*Dale James Blair*

Early in 1916 a regular system of trench mortar batteries was established throughout the British Armies on the Western Front. The AIF, as part of these armies, adopted the new organisation. Four heavy, three medium and twenty-four light mortars were attached to each division. Each infantry brigade was allocated two four gun batteries of light mortars with each battery divided into two gun sections. The light mortar was a newly invented weapon known most commonly as a stokes gun. It was a 3 in mortar capable of rapid fire and weighed approximately 50 kilograms. Its size made it very portable and its high trajectory of fire ideally suited it for use in the trenches. The crews for the Stokes were drawn from the ranks of the infantry.<sup>1</sup>

At the first battle of Bullecourt, on 11 April 1917, an ill-conceived and grossly mismanaged surprise attack left the 4th LTM Battery with a crucial role far in excess of their operating capacity. As the intended plan of battle went awry they became the only active means of 'artillery' support available to the Australian infantry.

Briefly, the attack at Bullecourt emanated from the successful break-in of the Hindenburg Line by the Third Army at Arras on 9 April. In light of that success Gough's Fifth Army, of which the 4th LTM Battery was a part, was to attempt a breach further south at Bullecourt. The archaic planning of the British High Command was illustrated by Haig and Gough's expectation that the 4th Cavalry Division would pour through the breach and create havoc in the enemy's rear. Adding further to this delusion was Gough's sudden acceptance of a plan from a senior tank commander to use his machines, in place of the accepted method of artillery bombardment, to crush the German wire. The Australian leaders protested this move and doubted the success of any such operation but their concerns were overruled when Haig deemed the operation as a necessity.

The attack was planned for dawn on 10 April. Two divisions were to assault the German lines, the 62nd British Division to the west of the village and the 4th Australian Division to the east. The Australians were to use two brigades in the attack, the 12th on the left and the 4th, to which the 4th LTM Battery belonged, on the right.<sup>2</sup> In what proved a portent for the disaster which followed, the attack was postponed when the tanks failed to arrive on time due to the inclement weather. Meanwhile the infantry had laid for hours in the snow awaiting their arrival. A hasty withdrawal was organised.



*Australians moving up into the front line near Bullecourt.*

Not surprisingly the withdrawal of 3000 troops from the German's immediate front did not, despite the Australians fervent hope, go undetected. All hope of surprise had evaporated.

Early next morning the exhausted troops were again marched out to their taped start lines. With the complete reliance on the tanks to crush the heavily belted German wire a preliminary artillery bombardment was dispensed with. At 1 am the 4th LTM Battery began its solitary barrage of Bullecourt deluging the village with gas bombs. Only one of the two batteries had been assigned to the assault but this single battery's fire seemed effective. By the light of the German Very lights sent up in response the Australians could see heavy gas clouds drifting through the village.<sup>3</sup> About 4.30 am the growl of petrol engines could be discerned as the tanks began to move up to their start positions in advance of the infantry. The German guns had remained relatively silent throughout the morning offering only desultory fire. The 4th LTM Battery were sheltering in a sunken road with the infantry as the tanks edged closer to the front when a heavy shell burst among them with disastrous effect. The crews of one section were completely blotted out and their mortars destroyed. In all the blast killed and wounded some thirty to forty men. Adding to the woes of the Battery one of the tanks halted twenty yards short of the infantry line and commenced firing in the direction of the enemy and tragically shot down an NCO and two men engaged in bringing up bombs for the mortars.<sup>4</sup>

The tanks proved themselves woefully inadequate and only three of the twelve assigned to the attack arrived on time. Their mechanical failings, lack of speed and this armour made them an easy prey for the German guns. As the Australian leaders had feared the tanks proved unequal to the task. Rather than wait for the arrival of the other tanks and risk delay the 4th Brigade began its advance.

At 4.45 am the Brigade moved forward. The remaining section of the 4th LTM Battery, led by Lt Reginald Sanders, found itself sandwiched between the two leading battalions, the 14th and 16th. The Brigade presented an awe inspiring spectacle as it moved in snaking lines across the muddied fields of snow toward the enemy wire. The enemy's front seemed the haven for swarms of fire-flies as a constant stream of bullets struck the belts of wire. Above them the sky lit up in an explosion of colour as the Germans sent up sheaths of coloured flares — SOS calls to their artillery. Trailing the infantry and adding a new dimension to the battlefield were the lumbering hulks of the tanks some already rendered motionless and burning.

Despite their general inadequacies the tanks did exert some influence on proceedings in that they drew both artillery and machine gun fire away from the infantry and, the few tanks which did approach the wire, played with such moral effect that the defenders bolted rather than face them. The seizure of the Hindenburg Line however, in this instance, was due primarily to

the gallantry and perseverance of the Australian soldiers. Superbly led by their line officers they picked their way through the wire and gained all their set objectives and proceeded to consolidate their gains. An urgent but confident message was sent back to Headquarters, ending, 'With artillery support we can keep the position till the cows come home.' That support was denied them due to erroneous reports by British airmen and artillery observers. Australian troops were reported in control of Bullecourt and others, led by tanks, were said to be far in advance and entering Hendecourt! These startling reports prompted the High Command to refuse artillery support on account of it endangering friendly troops and left the 4th LTM Battery as the only semblance of such support.

Lt Sanders with the remaining section of mortars was positioned in a cross-trench on the Brigade's left in OG1.<sup>5</sup> This position allowed the mortars to fire upon the enemy attacking the Brigade's left as well as those attacking the right of the 12th Brigade. As the German counterattacks gathered in intensity and the British guns lay silent the Australian line began to crumble. Troops defending OG2 and protecting the mortars front were bombed out of their position. The enemy was now too close to allow the mortars to bring down any effective fire and Sanders withdrew his two guns back along OG1 and concentrated on the Germans attacking the 46th and 48th Battalions.<sup>6</sup>

It is unlikely that the trench mortars fired with any great effect. The losses incurred by the Battery at the outset and subsequent casualties sustained in the advance probably rendered the maintenance of the ammunition supply extremely difficult. According to one account only twenty rounds were available which, if true, would have reduced the impact of the mortars to negligible effect.<sup>7</sup> Complicating the resupply of the front line was a deadly defensive barrage laid down by the enemy across the rear of the Australians. This fire effectively cut off the supply of much needed ammunition and doomed any hopes of a successful defence.

By 11.30am the 4th Brigade position had become untenable with Germans infiltrating flank and rear. With ammunition supplies exhausted and no relief forthcoming the men were offered two choices, surrender or attempt to run the gauntlet to the safety of the Australian lines. Some attempted the latter but few with success. The Germans claimed the capture of 28 officers and 1142 other ranks at Bullecourt. Lt Sanders was among them and his two mortars were listed as captured along with 53 Lewis guns and 4 Vickers machine-guns. The 4th LTM Battery lost 1 officer (Sanders) and 30 other ranks in the battle. In all the 4th Brigade suffered 2339 casualties of 3000 engaged. The total Australian loss for the battle was approximately 3389.

Lt Sanders, in a post-war account of his captivity, related a discussion he had with a German officer who had commanded a brigade of Wurtembergers at Bullecourt. The officer claimed that



*Illustration from C. E. W. Bean, The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume IV, The AIF in France, Angus and Robertson, 1943, p. 310.*



course, the oxidised General Service 'Rising Sun' hat and collar design.

Readers will be familiar with the re-raising of the Infantry component of the CMF from 1948, and introduction of National Service Training in 1951. The numbers thus generated enabled the formation again of a 59th Battalion, Hume Regiment, in December 1952.

And this brings me to the last two variations of Regimental insignia. The first is the well known gilt, Queens Crown, hatbadge which follows earlier counterparts in design (collar badge, however, is of new style, being the centre 'sunburst' and numeral of the hatbadge, without the latter's crown and surrounding motto. Earlier collars were simply miniatures of the hat).

But what are we to make of a Queens Crown hatbadge and companion collar, both of which feature enamel colouring?

They were shown to me recently, with the explanation that they were 'Officer badges' – but I must disagree with this. Firstly, I have no knowledge of any others, and, secondly, the 59th in previous lives had no tradition of separate badging for Officers and O.R's.

The credentials of the enamelled hat and collar are impeccable, however, and they were officially made.

Based on conversations with other collectors, I believe they are, in fact, a Sealed Pattern for general production, which was altered to the familiar gilt finish due to the costs involved.

I could be wrong, of course, for the gilt on the enamelled hatbadge is far superior to that on the 'issue' example, whilst the striking too is much sharper. Or, it could simply be a manufacturers sample of what might be done – although circumstances go against this.

Most readers would know of the oxidised Kings Crown Citizens Military Forces lapel badges that were common up to the early 1970s: but how many have seen the gilt and enamel version that preceeded it? And, might this apparent substitution offer a clue to any of the above?<sup>3</sup>

My last comments concern the colouring used in the enamel hatbadge. It is blue and red – incorrect for the 59th Battalion. But not for the 58th! Perhaps the badge was planned as a deliberate remembrance of the war-time link?

It certainly adds to my feeling that here is a genuine hat and collar badge of the 1948-1960 period, which had not previously been recorded.

*The re-raised Citizens Military Forces regiment contracted somewhat, having:*

*Bn HQ, HQ Coy, and Spt Coy – Shepparton*

*A Coy – Cobram and Numurkah*

*B Coy, Signal Platoon – Camberwell*

*C Coy – Echuca and Kyabram*

*D Coy – Deniliquin*

<sup>2</sup> *Modern day collectors are warned 'butter of antimony' is now on the prohibited for sale list, due to health considerations.*

<sup>3</sup> *Both the gilt and oxi lapels are dated 1950 on the rear, suggesting the original die was re-used. Perhaps the change in finish came with National Service?*

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## ***Commemorating War: The Hawthorn Experience***

***Mark Clayton***

Australian cities, towns and communities all display the scars of war. Not the scars of battle but rather, the soulful reminders of battles fought in distant lands. These scars are everywhere in evidence, in the most likely and unlikely places, and in a seemingly endless variety of forms (remember Grahame Kennedy's memorial barbecue in *Travelling North?*).

Even to the uninitiated, a visitor in this land, it is clear that war – and its memory – occupy a very special place in the Australian consciousness. The European history of Australia is punctuated with military conflicts which, some have even suggested, date back to Captain Cook's arrival in 1770.

War's impact has been profound, pervasive and enduring. It has spawned some of our greatest artists and leaders, and given rise to some of our most ambitious and inspiring architecture. Moreover, it has precipitated a range of influential political and social institutions. Our most popular public holiday and national ceremony relate to the military experience (albeit, a defeat), as does that most cherished and national stereotypes, the digger. And just as war has generated unprecedented displays of national unity, then so too has it been (on occasion) the most divisive of social forces.

Much of course has now been said and written about the Australian war experience. *The One Day of the Year* and C. E. W. Bean's epic *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918* – both considered classics of Australian literature – are typical of the many post-war analyses which have tended to describe events from the personal and national perspectives. Only occasionally have the impacts of war been examined at the community level which is surprising, given that such events were often most visible (eg air raid shelters), most acutely felt (eg rationing), and most hotly debated at this grass roots level.

It's here that the battered emotions and nationalistic sentiments have found their most immediate outlet, and assumed their most potent form. One must look to the urban fringe and beyond to find the most spontaneous, varied and enduring evidence of the Australian war experience. When in 1916, for example, the conscription issue was set to divide the nation and topple the Federal government, it was the communities which first responded, and made their feelings felt. In places like Manly (NSW), there began to appear elaborate memorials to those who had already fallen. Of course, these served also to spur on the 'slackers' and embarrass the anti-conscriptionists.<sup>1</sup> It is these stone signposts which survive today, long after the emotions have subsided and the memories dimmed.

In much the same way, do the thousands of memorial schools, parks, halls and swimming pools—not to mention the RSL sub-branches—speak loudly about a nation that's been to war. They betray our preparedness to fight in foreign lands, our allegiance to Empire, our attachment to democratic ideals and, arguably, our insecurities. In another sense too, they constitute a valuable historical resource, providing demographic, biographic and social insights into the communities that they served. More importantly, they can sometimes represent the expression and construction of popular memory for a recently formed nation . . . 'a way of giving place a memory, rather than giving memory a place'.<sup>2</sup>

War memorials can help to illuminate the past as they tell us *which* memories, exactly, were important. By comparing past and present commemorative practices we can also gain an insight into how attitudes might have changed with time. The fact that some memorials loom larger than others, can also reveal much about a community's prevailing social and political values. The presence (and absence) of symbolism can present further insights in this regard. Similarly, the form of commemoration can sometimes reveal much about changing moves at the community and national levels. Rusting captured howitzers have, in some places (eg Hawthorn), given way to avenues of native Australian trees while for many Australians, Anzac Day has become little more than a national holiday.

Just as military commemoration has mirrored and (to a lesser extent) helped shape community attitudes, then so too has it altered the very appearance of our natural and built environments. As R. S. Merrilless notes in his recent survey of Egyptian influences, the Australian landscape fairly 'bristles' with commemorative obelisks.<sup>3</sup>

Here in Australia, 20,000 kms removed from the European killing fields, there are more than 2,000 monuments commemorating our involvement in the Great War. France has many more memorials to its war dead (almost 30,000) however, these were all subsidised by the central government. The Australian effort, by contrast, was almost entirely voluntary and municipal.<sup>4</sup>

Ken Inglis explains this unique response in terms of our exceedingly high casualty rate, the fact that our soldiers were the only combatants to volunteer, and the fact that our war dead were all buried on the other side of the world.<sup>5</sup> Thus, the stone diggers, obelisks and columns which proliferated here after 1916, served both symbolically and literally as cenotaphs.

This enthusiasm for commemorating military conflict, and preserving popular memories, has persisted through to the present day. Though other forms of commemoration have appeared in response to changing attitudes, these have remained the characteristics of a popular culture.

We would do well then to look to the suburbs to find the battle scars, before asking ourselves what memories do these scars represent, and why have the suburbs been scarred, as they have? In this

manner then, might we begin to understand the true nature of the Australian war experience.

Hawthorn is a most suitable starting point in this regard. Its settlement predates our first overseas military excursion (to New Zealand in the 1850s), and its population is similar (in size) to many other mid-range Melbourne suburbs. Furthermore, its population profile is not too far removed from the national norm. Like many other colonial communities, Hawthorn had shown an early interest in matters military. A volunteer militia (the Hawthorn & Kew Rifles, known also as the Company of Volunteers) had been raised as early as 1862. It was around this time that the Scotch College Cadet Corps also began marching the village streets. In later years there was also a citizens' Naval Cadet Brigade. For those who remained unaffected by these activities there were still the occasional displays of military pomp and ceremony, such as when Lord Hopetoun visited in September 1890. Hawthornians have long been militarily aware, even enthusiastic.

The City's response to war—as expressed through commemoration—is in many ways consistent with reactions in other municipalities, and in other parts of the country. Where Hawthorn has shown itself to be different however, is in relation to the enthusiasm it has demonstrated for commemorating Australia's involvement in military conflict. Hawthornians have installed a remarkable variety of war memorials that embrace almost every popular commemorative form. They have even brought new meaning to the act of commemoration, in suburban terms at least. The scale and quality of the St James Park memorial, for example, are such as to put it on par with some of the state government initiatives erected during the 1920s and 1930s. And yet, for all their enthusiasm, Hawthornians have shown a marked reluctance to take the lead with respect to military commemoration. Its citizens have nearly always followed in the footsteps of other municipalities, sometimes taking decades (as with the St James Park monument) to respond to even the most popular forms of commemoration. Still though, for all its reticence and apparent conservatism, Hawthorn has a tradition of military commemoration that stretches back to even before the Boer War. What better reason then, for putting the Hawthorn experience under the microscope?

In the suburbs, Australians have chosen to commemorate their wars, and preserve their memories in two distinct ways. In the first instance they erected memorials and monuments while later, they instituted commemorative rituals and ceremonies. The former were first to appear in Hawthorn.

Late last century the City Council installed two large naval cannon in the West Hawthorn Reserve. The guns had earlier been removed from *HMVS Victoria* and survived until well after the second world war.<sup>6</sup> Although the Council's action in this instance was by no means unique, it was unusual to find such monuments in the municipalities, at that time.<sup>7</sup> This writer can find nothing to suggest why Hawthorn should have installed such non-specific, yet

potent monuments. There is nothing to indicate, for example, an involvement with either the Maori Wars, the Crimean War, or the Boxer Rebellion.

Victorians had no doubt then, that it was the state government which was responsible for commemorating war. The Boer War memorial in Albert Road speaks unambiguously on behalf of all Victorians and indeed, one has to look very hard to find record of that conflict at the municipal level. The Hawthorn Council even showed a marked reluctance to participate when, in 1901, it was invited to attend a conference (in Brunswick) to consider a proposal to erect a Boer War memorial.<sup>8</sup>

It is difficult to explain therefore why Hawthornians acted so singularly, and so early, to acquire these memorial cannon. However, in one sense at least it was appropriate that these memorials should have been positioned within the Reserve. This parcel of land had, ever since the 1840s, been reserved exclusively for commemorative (albeit, mostly religious) and public purposes.<sup>9</sup> A number of Hawthorn's sons had distinguished themselves militarily during the closing years of the last century but otherwise, there is little else to suggest a heightened sense of military awareness within the community.<sup>10</sup>

Victoria sent just two hundred naval personnel to the Boxer Rebellion. Little wonder then that war should remain distant and abstract for those in (what were later to be called) the suburbs, at least until 1914.

Hawthorn, like most Melbourne municipalities, was profoundly influenced by the events of World War One. As elsewhere, Hawthornians first expressed their grief, then patriotism and nationalism in conventional ways by erecting memorials and monuments. Having already established a precedent – for commemorating war with weaponry – the Council, not surprisingly, readily embraced the War Trophy Commission's offer (in 1921) of a captured German howitzer.<sup>11</sup> These 'spoils of war' were brought back to Australia in their thousands following the Armistice, and allotted to those communities where they were most relevant. Thus, the people of Hawthorn were also offered (and accepted) an MG08 machine gun which had been captured by the 58th Btn AIF during the brilliant night operation on 24th–25th April 1918, which resulted in the capture of Villers-Bretonneux. Many Hawthornians are known to have served with the 58th.<sup>12</sup>

Council accepted these weapons on the basis that they would 'be permanently housed in some public park, garden or building', and 'That a simple ceremony be arranged at which the trophies would be formally taken over'.<sup>13</sup> In this manner, they 'were vested with a sacred significance. Often the site was set apart in a religious ceremony, the themes of remembrance and reverence were repeated in unveiling speeches and dedicatory inscriptions like Lest We Forget'.<sup>14</sup>

The howitzer was placed on a stone plinth at the junction of Burwood Road and Church Street (the City's entrance) while the machine gun was displayed in the Hawthorn Public Library. Significantly, the air of sacredness had evaporated by 1948 when Council determined to find 'some other way of complying with the conditions of the trust (ie the War Trophy Commission) agreement'.<sup>15</sup>

As so often occurs (and seems to have happened in this instance), this meant a trip to the local tip. When in 1956 the Council was publicly criticised for having an empty plinth at the City's entrance, it responded by removing the corresponding plaque.<sup>16</sup> The memories, it seems, were all but extinguished.

A similar fate befell the Turkish howitzer which had been allocated to Scotch College in 1921. 'Great was the excitement on the morning following its arrival, and for the next few days you could depend on seeing a crowd round it'.<sup>17</sup> The gun had pride of place on the lawns in front of the Prep School. In later years, it was displaced by a building expansion program and relocated to the 'horse paddock' where, before long it became a plaything, akin to garden statuary. The wooden wheels had rotted by then and in 1938 it collapsed and killed a student. The College had little choice then but to remove the gun, pride having given way to embarrassment. It was buried where it stood, and today lies buried beneath the Astro-turf.<sup>18</sup> Clearly then, memories of war can fade quickly in even the most ardent of communities, in places like Scotch College where the preservation of tradition and memory are approached with almost religious zeal.

While most Melbourne municipalities were given a single War Trophy, Hawthorn soon ended up with three memorial guns (5 if we include the aforesaid naval cannon). This was a most remarkable display of commemorative spirit, considering that other communities—including the neighbouring Malvern municipality—had actively avoided the acquisition of such weaponry. The latter found that the public display of captured guns 'caused great grief from time to time to soldiers and mothers of deceased soldiers'.<sup>19</sup>

War Trophies were intended to form an integral part of the local memorial, the two often being unveiled simultaneously. In Hawthorn however, the masonry monuments didn't appear until later. First to appear was the Soldiers' Memorial Hall and club-room, which survives today at the corner of Glenferrie and Manningtree Roads. Although the foundation stone was laid by Sir Harry Chauvel on 20 May 1920, it was, in fact, the older building which had been modified for recreational and commemorative purposes. This was an occasion for ceremony and, after having laid the foundation stone with the mandatory silver trowel, the General proceeded to award medals. The citizens had gathered on Glenferrie Oval the previous month to participate in the recently inaugurated Anzac Day ceremony. Again, there was much ceremony however, it is interesting to note that this was seen also as a community social occasion. The formalities were 'followed by a very interesting and



unique cricket match between teams representing the Returned Soldiers', Sailors and Fathers Association and the local branch of the RSSILA'.<sup>20</sup> Anzac Day, it seems, had a completely different complexion at the community level . . . a gathering where friends and neighbours could help each other and forget the remembering.

Thereafter, the secular and religious ceremonies become increasingly aligned, the emphasis shifting from metal to masonry. St Columbus Church unveiled the City's first dedicated war memorial in early November 1920 with similar initiatives being introduced in Preston and Malvern the following year. Whereas metal could turn to rust – and tarnish the memories – in just a few short years, stone, it was felt, could endure for centuries. Stone and sacred ground were an especially potent combination and before long, another Memorial Hall had appeared in the Christ Church grounds which, together with a number of adjoining blocks, had been set aside in the 1840s for the various churches.<sup>21</sup> As was so often the case, there was little more than a foundation stone to suggest the link with war.

The citizens of Hawthorn had, up until then, chosen to commemorate and remember on a collective basis. In what amounted to a notable departure from this practice, the students at the Hawthorn Central School No. 293 elected (in 1921), instead, to plant an avenue of Mahogany Gums, one for each of the thirty (former) students who had died during the Great War.<sup>22</sup> This was by no means an isolated practice, some 128 avenues having been planted in Victoria between 1917 and 1921. A recent study has suggested however that this might have been a uniquely Australian response to war, and one that was most peculiar to Victoria.<sup>23</sup> The study points out that 'These living memorials contrast with the hortatory monuments of the Old World' and as such, symbolise Australian nationalism and egalitarianism. It is significant that the memorial avenue persists today as the only form of commemoration in Hawthorn with broad community support and relevance. The memories, in this instance, seem not to have dimmed.

When the dust of World War Two had settled, and the time was ripe for discussing World War Two memorials, Council turned its attentions once again to the long-forgotten row of gums in Lennox Street. In the space of just a few short months (consider that it took nine years to build that other memorial, just across the road), Council agreed to erect a cairn, bronze plaque and nameplate at the avenue entrance. It also moved to rename that section of Lennox Street (west of Wood Street) as Honour Avenue.<sup>24</sup>

Again, in 1988, as large flakes of stone fell from the nearby obelisk (and a Bicentennial time capsule was planted in its shadow), the community transferred its attentions to replanting the nineteen trees that had died during the intervening period. Plans were also made to install named plaques on the bluestone wall which defines the avenue.

It is interesting to consider why this grass roots, secular act of commemoration should endure and remain relevant, when the more conventional and costly memorials have all but lost their significance. As with the City's memorial churches, there is little to distinguish the avenue other than a metal plaque, high on the school's western wall.

Its cost has been almost negligible, and it is altogether isolated from the suburb's pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Could it be, that even in the 1940s, trees in Hawthorn were seen as a valuable resource? Many citizens of course will have remembered the division and acrimony that preceded the erection of the main memorial in St James Park. The trees might have allowed them to forget all that and yet, still remember?

For more than a century, the West Hawthorn Reserve (formerly known as the Hawthorn Village) has been utilised for commemorative and ceremonial purposes. It was here that the naval cannon were erected, and its here that you'll still find the greatest concentration of war memorials. These trees, guns, plaques, church halls, obelisks and street names, when considered collectively, amount to something of a commemorative precinct. Successive Councils seem to have gone out of their way to try and preserve this pattern of historical land-use, sensitive perhaps to its cohesion and synergy.

The practice of siting war memorials in prominent places was widespread throughout Australia, and no doubt too, the Council wanted to capitalise on the Reserve's suitability in this regard. After all, Hawthornians had far more reason than most for wanting to capitalise on their war record. Though its losses were not significantly high (compared with other Melbourne municipalities), it did contribute many more troops to the war effort. Malvern sent 5.6% of its population to the trenches, Caulfield 4.6%, and Preston 2%. In Hawthorn however, 9.5% (1 in 10) of the population enlisted and fought overseas. Inevitably, the war must have touched more lives here, than it did elsewhere. One should consider also, that Hawthorn was home to the nation's greatest military leader, Sir John Monash. Against this background, commemoration could be seen almost as a matter of civic pride. Although not part of the Hawthorn community in the strictest sense, Scotch College (Monash's Alma Mater) had in fact produced many great military leaders and personalities.<sup>25</sup> It is within the hallowed halls of the College that we find some of Hawthorn's most unique battle scars, a dazzling array of ceremony and monument. 'Each year until the Second World War the names of the Fallen were read by the Headmaster while the School stood in silence with bowed heads. With the addition of the long tragic list of Fallen from the Second World War the Honour Roll became too long to read' and so, in 1950 it was arranged instead 'for the Chapel bell to toll once every three seconds in memory of each of the Fallen. For almost half an hour, immediately before the commencement of the Anzac Service, the toll of the Chapel

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Dr Michael McKernan, *Australian in Wartime (Thomas Nelson), Melbourne, 1980.*

<sup>2</sup> D. Giffedder, *The Mobile Monument: Circulation and the Mobile Art of Memory, Transition, Autumn 1990, No. 32, p. 57. It is important to also note in this regard that Australia in 1914 was a land almost naked of monuments.*

bell sounded over the Glen . . . On the 352nd toll of the bell the Headmaster led the procession of staff into the Memorial Hall and the well known service followed. The Captain of the School placed a wreath below the Memorial Windows, the Last Post rang out, followed by Reveille, while outside the School Flag was raised to the masthead'.<sup>26</sup> These factors help to explain how military commemoration, particularly after World War One, became such an important activity for the people of Hawthorn, and why their memorial should eventually assume such grand proportions.

What it doesn't explain however, is why the City took so long to fall into line with such a popular form of commemoration. The obelisk in St James Park was among the last to be built in Australia, being almost overtaken by the onset of the Depression. Its completion (in 1929) was followed by the production of an elaborate Honour Roll which identified the 2250 citizens who served in the Great War. Installed in the Town Hall in 1931, its pages are still being turned, one each day.

Losses during the Second World War were far less and for this reason, commemoration was approached with less zeal. Still though, the link with religious ceremony persisted and in September 1947, the West Hawthorn Presbyterian Church unveiled its panel of memorial windows.<sup>27</sup> Importantly, there had been a shift too in social attitudes with the emphasis focusing now on the community, rather than the individual effort. Personalised memorials had by then, mostly become a thing of the past.

What best distinguishes the post-WWII memorials (from pre-WWII memorials) is their utilitarian and functional emphases. As the poet Geoff Page has so eloquently put it . . . 'The next bequeathed us Parks and pools. But something in that first demanded stone'.<sup>28</sup> Hawthornians, by and large, chose to commemorate the Second World War in more practical ways. In 1953 they opened the Anderson Park Memorial Hall which, from the outset, was as much a community resource as a refuge for returned soldiers. Gone too were the overt trappings of militaria, the only clue to its origin and function being a nondescript metal plaque. The citizens, having again taken ages to 'remember', were content now to forget.

Nearby stands a small concrete memorial with an unusual 'A' platform path, its inscription speaking about 'All those who gave their lives', in every military conflict. Close by there stands a gnarled tree . . . 'grown from a seed of the original Lone Pine on Gallipoli' and 'dedicated to the memory of J. T. Roberts MM, 1893-1969'. Though clearly a military hero, Mr Roberts is remembered in the manner of 'All those' other Hawthornians, a name without a rank.

Where the citizens had previously gone out of their way to parade their battle scars, they choose now not to do so in silent seclusion. Anderson Park is far removed from the sacred prominence of St James Park, and altogether isolated from the hubbub of the suburb. Later conflicts have been remembered without pomp

<sup>3</sup> R. S. Merrillees, *Living with Egypt's Past in Australia* (Melbourne, 1990), p. 58.

<sup>4</sup> The Australian Encyclopaedia (Australian Geographic Pty Ltd), Vol. 8, p. 2985.

<sup>5</sup> K. S. Inglis, *Memories of the Great War, Australian Cultural History (ANU)*, No. 6, 1987, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup> These were 32 Pdr Pallister guns built by Armstrongs in 1862, and commissioned in 1867. Although the Victory was broken up in 1895, the guns could have been acquired as early as 1878 when the ship was rearmed with 64 Pdrs. See correspondence from N. W. Hall to J. N. Green (2 February 1981) on Council file A/16/7, and Council Minutes for 21 January 1948.

<sup>7</sup> Bacchus Marsh Council acquired a ML 64 Pdr gun from HMSV Nelson in 1898. See Working Paper on Photography, No. 9, July 1983, p. 19. While colonial weapons can still be seen in parks at South Yarra and Elsternwick, these are both thought to have been acquired this century.

<sup>8</sup> Council Minutes, 2 October 1901. Coincidentally, the co-designer of the Boer War monument in Albert Road (Mr Stephenson) was a partner in the firm (Hudson and Wardrop) which later built the Hawthorn memorial in St James Park.

<sup>9</sup> G. McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns* (Melbourne, 1978), p. 32.

<sup>10</sup> See p. 84 of C. G. A. Colles (compiler), *History of Hawthorn* (Melbourne, 1910), for a summary of those Hawthorn citizens who distinguished themselves in the arms profession.

<sup>11</sup> *The Commission's Record Sheets, held at the Australian War Memorial, identify this as a 150mm gun, serial number 2993.*

<sup>12</sup> *Australian War Memorial War Trophy Record Sheet for MG08 serial number 1826a.*

and ceremony and, in some instances, almost forgotten. Only in 1972 did the Council get around to remembering World War Two, Korea and Borneo and only then, as a footnote on the St James Park obelisk. Moreover, it was not until 1980, after a concerned citizen had complained to Council, that the words Malaya and Vietnam were also added. The memories might have dimmed – as with earlier conflicts – but I suspect too, that many just wanted to forget.

In 1983 the Council arranged for a bugler to play *The Last Post* and *Reveille* on the steps of the Town Hall, so as to draw attention to the observance of two minutes silence on Remembrance Day. It was not long after that the Anzac Day march ceased altogether.

What meanings and memories of war still linger in Hawthorn, as the century draws to an end? I went to the RSL one wet Friday night to try and find out. I passed through the Community Chest offices (which now occupy much of the building) and went on into the huge central hall. The walls, which had recently been repainted, pastel pink, were festooned with images of Empire and battle. Seated in the centre of this vast arena, Leunig-like, were the President and one other . . . 'not a good turn out tonight'. They offered me a beer. But I'd come to find out about war memorials, memories, and marches. They apologised, it was so long ago now. So I drank their beer and listened while they extolled the virtues of their new microwave, all the while remembering what Lord Somers had said in 1929, when he unveiled the new Hawthorn memorial . . . 'This beautifully simple memorial will stand here for many years, and gradually, possibly, the full significance of it – which was so apparent to them now – would be lost, and it would become just one other memorial. Passing it by, some of the older ones would remember and the younger ones might forget' until finally, it becomes 'just one (other) piece of architectural furniture belonging to the citizens of Hawthorn'.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>13</sup> H. A. Smith, *War Trophies in Public Parks Etc, loose folio in the Council Archives, dated 21 January 1948.*

<sup>14</sup> J. McKay & R. Allom, *Lest We Forget: A Guide to the Conservation of War Memorials (Qld RSL, 1984), p. 3.*

<sup>15</sup> Hawthorn City Council Minutes, 21 January 1948.

<sup>16</sup> *The Age*, 23 January 1956. *The empty plinth is still extant.*

<sup>17</sup> *Scotch Collegian*, August 1921, p. 141.

<sup>18</sup> *Information supplied to author by the College Archivist, Keith Tolsen, on 15 January 1991.*

<sup>19</sup> L. Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern (Melbourne, 1989), p. 171.*

<sup>20</sup> Hawthorn, Kew & Camberwell Citizen, 30 April 1920.

<sup>21</sup> *Herald*, 17 November 1923.

<sup>22</sup> Hawthorn West Newsletter, 11 October 1988.

<sup>23</sup> J. Haddow, *Avenues of Honour, A Victorian Cultural Landscape, Landscape Australia, March 1988, p. 306.*

<sup>24</sup> Hawthorn City Council Minutes, 26 April 1947, 17 December 1947 and 28 April 1948.

<sup>25</sup> *These include Brig-Gen Robert Smith, Maj-Gen Sir James McCay, Maj-Gen Sir Julius Bruche, and the AIF poet James Burns whose life and work are described in This England, Autumn 1989.*

<sup>26</sup> G. Hawey Nicholson (ed), *First One Hundred Years of Scotch College 1851-1951 (Melbourne 1952), p. 304.*

<sup>27</sup> *Herald*, 17 September 1947.

<sup>28</sup> G. Page, *Smalltown memorials, Smalltown Memorials (UQP, 1975), Paperback Poets, Second Series 5, p. 13.*

<sup>29</sup> *The Age*, 11 March 1929, p. 10.

**The Military Historical Society of Australia — Federal Council**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1991**

	1990/91	1989/90
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING ACCOUNT</b>		
Balance 1 July	5890	6296
Subscriptions	9556	9809
<i>less Capitation</i>	<u>204</u>	<u>208</u>
Bank Interest	280	289
Advertising	40	56
Sales	136	253
<i>Sabretache</i>	61	65
Sudan Book	45	83
Sudan Figure	30	35
Regimental Medals	<u>—</u>	<u>70</u>
Special Interest Group	120	89
Sundry Income	<u>—</u>	<u>17</u>
	<u><u>15818</u></u>	<u><u>16601</u></u>
<b>INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS</b>		
<b>No. 1 ACCOUNT</b>		
Balance 1 July	354	4308
Interest Received	<u>18</u>	<u>46</u>
	<u><u>372</u></u>	<u><u>4354</u></u>
<b>No. 2 ACCOUNT</b>		
Balance 1 July	5445	—
Transfer from No. 1 Account	—	4000
Transfer from Operating Account	—	1000
Interest Received	<u>825</u>	<u>447</u>
	<u><u>6270</u></u>	<u><u>5447</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

N. S. Foldi  
Hon. Treasurer  
7 August 1991

**The Military Historical Society of Australia — Federal Council**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1991**

	1990/91		1989/90	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Publication of <i>Sabretache</i>		9084		7310
Postage		189		773
Special Interest Group		108		298
Sudan Figure		141		—
Publications		288		800
Federal Council Expenses		144		530
Stationery	30		339	
Sundries	114		95	
Address List	—		96	
Balance 30 June		<u>5864</u>		<u>5890</u>
		<u>15818</u>		<u>16601</u>
Transfer to No. 2 Account		—		4000
Balance 30 June		<u>372</u>		<u>354</u>
		<u>372</u>		<u>4354</u>
Financial Institutions Duty		—		2
Balance 30 June		<u>6270</u>		<u>5445</u>
		<u>6270</u>		<u>5447</u>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

In my opinion the accompanying accounts of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as at 30 June 1991 and of the surplus of the Society for the year ended on that date.

L. G. Carder, FASA CPA  
Auditor  
5 September 1991



**The Military Historical Society of Australia — Federal Council**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1991**

**Notes to and forming part of Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 1991**

	1990/91 \$	1989/90 \$
1. Funds Surplus/Deficit		
Operating Balance 1 July	5890	6296
Operating Balance 30 June	<u>5864</u>	<u>5890</u>
	(26)	(406)
plus Interest on Investments	<u>843</u>	<u>493</u>
	817	87
plus Transfer to No. 2 Investment Account	<u>—</u>	<u>1000</u>
	817	1087
plus Subscriptions in Advance Previous Year	<u>27</u>	<u>54</u>
	844	1141
less Subscriptions in Advance Current Year	<u>264</u>	<u>27</u>
Surplus	<u><u>580</u></u>	<u><u>1114</u></u>
	1990/91 \$	1989/90 \$
2. The value of stock on hand (at cost) on 30 June was		
Sudan Book	616	915
Sudan Figure	204	2478
Regimental Medals	—	32

By decision of Federal Council dated 26 October 1990 each Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia was given, free of charge, ten (10) Sudan Figures to sell or use for their own purposes. The figures were despatched to Branches on 27 February 1991. By the same decision one hundred (100) copies of the Sudan Book and the three remaining copies of Regimental Medals were given to MHSA books and handed to the Secretary of the ACT Branch.

3. As reported last year the printers of *Sabretache*, Koomarri Printers, are also responsible for distribution to members, including postage. The costs will in future be reported as a combined figure with printing costs, under the heading Publication of *Sabretache*. Also the heading Postage will cover costs associated with Federal Council administration and will appear under the sub-heading Federal Council Expenses.

N. S. Foldi  
 Hon. Treasurer  
 7 August 1991

# *MHSA Constitution*

## *Federal Council*

**I**n *Sabretache* Vol XXIX October/December 1988 at pages 28-36, the Constitution and Rules of MHSA dated 1 June 1973 was reproduced in full for the information of members. At page 36 of that issue, some proposed amendments were notified by Federal Council. There having been no objections received, Federal Council has amended the Constitution in accordance with sub-section 17.1 and had intended to again publish the full Constitution, as amended, during 1991. However, a matter has now arisen which Council believes warrants a further amendment. details are set out below.

In accordance with the Society's Constitution, membership "shall comprise Ordinary Members, Corresponding Members, Branch Cadets and may include Honorary Members". The Constitution provides for Honorary Members as follows:

6(a)(iv). "Honorary Members shall be persons nominated by Branch Committees in exceptional circumstances for Honorary Membership of the Society and a Branch. If the Federal Council confirms the nomination, the Honorary Member shall receive the Society's Journal gratis".

Two Branches have recently nominated members for Honorary Membership. In considering these nominations, Federal Council noted that, while both met criteria set by Federal Council for the grant of Honorary Membership as described in the Constitution, there is an anomaly in making provision for Honorary Membership without a corresponding but different provision for "Life Membership". In Federal Council's view, Honorary Membership is an appropriate recognition for non-members of MHSA who have, for example, made a significant contribution in some field towards the attainment of the Society's aims. They should receive all the benefits of membership including free copies of *Sabretache* but should not have voting rights nor the right to hold office at Branch or Federal level. On the other hand, members of the Society whose services should receive special recognition should receive it in a form which gives them free membership for life but preserves their voting rights and their ability to hold office. An appropriate form of recognition in these cases is "Life Membership" but there is, at present, no provision for this in the Constitution.

Federal Council therefore proposes to amend the Society's Constitution as follows:

a. Delete sub-sub-section 6(a)(iv) as quoted above.

b. Insert new 6(a)(iv) as follows:

"(iv) Honorary Members shall be non-members of the Society nominated by Branch Committees in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the Rules. If Federal Council

confirms the nomination, Honorary Membership will be conferred for life. Honorary Members shall receive the Society's Journal *gratis* but shall have no vote and are not eligible to hold Society Offices."

c. Insert new 6(a)(v) as follows:

"(v) Life Members shall be members of the Society nominated by Branch Committees in accordance with the Rules. Life Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Ordinary or Corresponding Members of the Society (as appropriate), without subscription, from the date of confirmation of Life Membership by Federal Council.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Constitution, if no objection to these proposed amendments is received by Federal Council at the expiry of three months from their publication in *Sabretache*, the Constitution shall be amended as shown. Federal Council will then consider the current nominations for Honorary Membership as nominations for Life Membership.

*Subject to approval of the above amendment, and to some minor rewriting resulting from this and earlier amendments approved in 1989, the revised Constitution and Rules of the Society will be republished in Sabretache during 1992.*

## Society Notes

### ***Wanted to Buy or Trade***

WW II colour patches and post war patches and titles.

John Landers  
Box 126  
Oneida, Ill. 61467  
USA

### ***Wanted to Buy or Trade***

Require WW I BMW and Victory Medals to:

700 Edwards J. A. P. 7th Btn.

Please contact:

Tony Peck  
'Lochiel'  
615 Jones Street  
Albury NSW 2640  
Phone: (060) 21 8219

### ***Letter to the Editor***

Dear Sir,

I have recently obtained a document appointing Chief Wardmaster P. M. Wells to be a Warrant Officer in the Commonwealth Militia Forces. Signed by Colonel G. I. Wallack, Commandant, CMF, S. Aus. Dated Adelaide, 22nd January 1904.

Can anyone inform me what the position of Wardmaster entailed. I assume it was in connection with the Medical Corps. Wells became a Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps in 1908. As he was a chemist in Adelaide, I would also appreciate information on his

further military career post 1914 when he was still listed as Lieutenant in the Intelligence.

The only mention of Wardmaster I have found is on page 163 of *Tommy Cornstalk* by J. H. M. Abbott where the position is described as being held usually by a sergeant. This would correspond with promotion to W.O.

Yours sincerely,  
D. W. Pedler  
24 Richmond Road  
Keswick, SA 5035

## ***Book Reviews***



**P. V. Vernon (ed), *The Royal New South Wales Lancers 1885-1985***

This book was published in 1986 to mark the centenary of the formation of the Lancers. It both updates and revises the earlier edition produced for the Seventy-fifth Anniversary and now out of print.

It is an account of a regiment in which the early enrolments were in the volunteer days of the colonial era and which has had a continuous record, through many changes of organisation, role and arm, with service in three wars, up to its current task as a mechanised cavalry regiment.

From first to last the account is set in the wider story of the development of the Australian Army and the Light Horse formations in particular. Those with this interest will find it's thoroughly researched material invaluable.

A narrative of the 1st Light Horse Regiment, AIF, 1914-1919 is incorporated — the only complete account of that unit published to date.

The Regiment has much to be proud of, and well deserves to have recorded such matters as its early origins and the enthusiastic public support it generated in those days, the pre-1900 contingents sent to England for tournaments and training, their arrival in Capetown as the first Colonial troops to participate in the South African War, their gaining the title 'Royal' in 1935, their being the first armoured troops to use the Matilda tank and to be the only armoured regiment to have been employed in the South West Pacific campaigns. But these are a few highlights — the detail of so many other events is fascinating also.

A chapter is devoted to the history of the 15 Northern River Lancers who have been linked with the Regiment since 1956. All this is chronicled clearly and objectively by Colonel Vernon who, as a military historian, has the added and doubtless unique advantage of being the third generation of his family to serve as Commander of the Regiment. The records and papers of his father and grandfather give an added dimension to the standard archival resources normally employed.

The book, hard backed, cloth bound, runs to 446 pages containing maps, photographs (some colour), tables, dress details,

lineage charts, locality lists and roll calls and, thankfully, an excellent, reliable index. The price is \$35 including postage within Australia. Available from Royal NSW Lancers Museum, Lancers Barracks, Smith Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150.

R. G. NICHOLSON

**Dennis Pillinger and Anthony Staunton, *Victoria Cross Locator*, Highland Press, Queanbeyan, 1991, pages iii+58 including appendices. Price \$A12.00 (paperback).**

Rarely, I would venture, is it possible to describe any book, and particularly in the field of military history, as unique — unique in purpose, unique in content and perhaps just unique. Well, in my view, Dennis Pillinger and Anthony Staunton have written that book. You might even say their own collaboration, one an Australian and the other an Englishman, and both experts on the Victoria Cross, was unique.

Interest in the Victoria Cross continues unabated by the general public as well as military historians and medal enthusiasts. Victoria Crosses, singly or as part of a medal group, regularly come up for auction but more and more of these highly regarded decorations have been finding their way by bequest, sale or loan to national, regimental and local museums and other public bodies. There has been a demand for some time for information on the location of Victoria Cross groups and this is an attempt to answer that demand.

The authors are Dennis Pillinger, member of the Committee of the Military Historical Society and Custodian of the Society's Lummis VC & GC Files and Anthony Staunton, a member of the Military Historical Society and Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia. Although this work is published by the authors themselves, it is believed to be the first joint publication by committee members of the United Kingdom and Australian Military Historical Societies. Both authors are also members of the Orders and Medals Research Society.

In writing such a reference volume the authors were mindful of the privacy of recipients, the families of recipients and of private collectors. Secondly, it is not obvious, even for a Victoria Cross group on display at a national museum, as to whom is the owner. It may be owned by the institution or it may be on either temporary or long term loan by the recipient, the recipient's family or even another institution. In order to respect privacy and to refrain from commenting on the issue of ownership the phrase *publicly held* is used to indicate location and does not necessarily imply ownership. Where the Victoria Cross is held by the recipient, the family of a recipients, a private collector or where no information is available as to the whereabouts of a particular medal, the phrase *not publicly held* is used. The phrase *see auctions and sales* indicates a medal that is *not publicly held* but has at some stage been offered at a public auction or has appeared on a dealer's list.



Dennis Pillinger & Anthony Staunton

The *Victoria Cross Locator* indicates the location of *publicly held* Victoria Crosses. It lists all recipients alphabetically and regimentally as well as listing public bodies that hold one or more Victoria Crosses. The *Victoria Cross Locator* leaves it to other publications, which are already available, to list citations and details of each award and the background of recipients. Some medals are listed as stolen, but further research is required on stolen, lost and destroyed medals. Some material has been collected on Victoria Crosses that have been officially replaced but the interesting questions of official and unofficial replacement medals as well as fraudulent medals is beyond the scope of the present volume.

Certainly well worth the \$12 and essential for the shelf of every serious military historian's study. Copies may be obtained by contacting Anthony Staunton, PO Box 354, Woden, A.C.T. 2606.

BARRY CLISSOLD

**Geoffrey Ballard, *On Ultra Active Services, The Story of Australia's Signals Intelligence Operations During World War II*, Spectrum, Richmond, Victoria, 1991, 312 pages, illustrated, colour and black and white and maps. Cost \$50.**

This book is a combination of a personal narrative, unit histories and general history of Australian Signals Intelligence during WW II. One of the motivations of the author was to tell the Australian story of signals intelligence.

The book is not about any particular Signals Intelligence Unit. The narrative describes a great variety of small groups, often ad-hoc and variable structures, operating under secret conditions. The book goes a long way to providing those involved in Signals Intelligence with the recognition they deserve.

The book covers the different fields of service, Middle East, Australia and South West Pacific; the various operations, technical matters and equipment and the organisations.

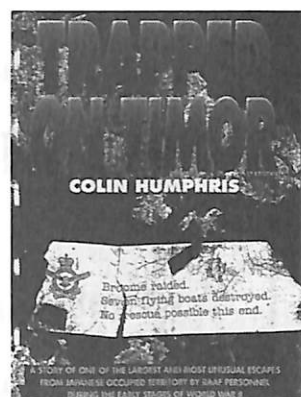
It also covers the personalities; the impressions of the author and his comrades; their ideals, motivations and experience. They produced quite a share of commentary, poetry and ditties. Some which is reproduced for the book.

The author has thoroughly researched the topic. Having interviewed many of those involved in wartime SIGINT, and received access to some previously sensitive material. This along with his personal involvement has meant a comprehensive coverage.

Overall the book is eminently readable and doesn't assume any in-depth knowledge of the war. Young people could be happily referred to the book.

It was notable that the book's forward was written by the Deputy Prime Minister, Brian Howe, who also launched the book.

RUSSELL MILES



For details of *Trapped on Timor*, see page 3 this issue.



**Military Historical Society of Australia**

## **1992 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

to be hosted by

***Albury-Wodonga Branch***

**Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 1992**

*Contacts:*

**Branch President**  
Don Campbell  
1/10 Chifley Street  
Wodonga West  
Victoria 3690

**Branch Secretary**  
Christine Lyttleton  
1/283 Weidner Crescent  
East Albury  
NSW 2640

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### ***The Royal New South Wales Lancers 1885-1985***

**Edited by Philip V. Vernon, OBE, ED**

100 years of history of the Regiment, incorporating narrative of  
**1st Light Horse Regiment, AIF.**  
Maps, illustrations, indexed.

**\$35.00** including Australian postage.

RNSWL MUSEUM  
1/15 RNSWL Lancer Barracks  
Parramatta NSW 2150

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**Military Historical Society of Australia**

**Editor of *Sabretache***

**1992**

The position of editor of *Sabretache* is appointed by  
Federal Council.

Barry Clissold was appointed until the end of 1991.

Enquiries should be directed to the  
Federal Secretary.

The MHSA Membership Directory is published every two years and will next appear with the January-March 1992 edition of *Sabretache*. Branch Secretaries or the Federal Secretary should be advised as soon as possible of any amendments.

## 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 the title page.

### SABRETACHE

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

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

July-Sept. edition mailed last week of September  
Oct.-Dec. edition mailed last week of December

### ADVERTISING

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

Commercial advertising rate is \$150 per full page; \$80 per half page; and \$40 per quarter page. Contract rates applicable at reduced rates. Apply Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 30, Garran, A.C.T. 2605.

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

1 January for January-March edition  
1 April for April-June edition

1 July for July-September edition  
1 October for October-December edition

### QUERIES

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

### SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Society publications advertised in *Sabretache* are available from:  
Anthony Staunton, P.O. Box 354, Woden, A.C.T. 2606  
Orders and remittances should be forwarded to this address.

## THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Please address all correspondence to:

The Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 30, Garran, A.C.T. 2605, Australia.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We ..... of .....  
(Name, Rank, etc.) (Address)

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

..... Branch  
\*(Strike out non-applicable alternative)

My main interests are .....  
I/We enclose my/our remittance for \$26.00 (Aust.) being annual subscription, due 1st July each year.





