

**Patron**

LTGEN P.H. Leahy, AC (Retd)

**President**

Nigel Webster

**Vice President**LTCOL Russell Linwood,  
ASM (Retd)**Secretary**LTCOL Russell Linwood,  
ASM (Retd)**Treasurer**

Rod Bird

**Membership Officer**David Kemp  
members@mhsa.org.au**Councillors**Pat Hall  
Diane Melloy  
Anthony Staunton**Editor**Justin Chadwick  
editor@mhsa.org.au  
2a Alpha St  
KENSINGTON PARK  
SA 5066**Society Website**

www.mhsa.org.au

**Webmaster**Paul Sutton  
paul.sutton@jvkasia.com

# SABRETACHE

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

---

**MARCH 2020**


---

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.

### **Constitution and Rules**

---

The Constitution and Rules of the Society are printed in the January-March 1993 and April-June 1997 issues of *Sabretache* respectively. Section 12 of the Constitution was amended in the June 2010 issue of *Sabretache*.

### ***Sabretache***

---

The Federal Council is responsible for the publication of the Society Journal, *Sabretache*, which is mailed to each member of the Society quarterly.

### **Membership subscription**

---

The annual membership subscription, due on 1 July each year, is \$40 plus branch subscription. Details of subscriptions and meetings are available from branch secretaries. Non-branch members should contact the Membership Officer.

### **Federal Council**

---

PO Box 5030, Garran ACT 2605

### **Branch Secretaries**

---

ACT: James Smith, c/o 165 Belconnen Way, Hawker ACT 2614  
Queensland: David Geck, 106 Wharf St, Maryborough QLD 4650  
South Australia: Elizabeth Hobbs, PO Box 1209, Littlehampton SA 5250  
Tasmania: John Presser, PO Box 309, Glenorchy TAS 7010  
Victoria: George Ward, PO Box 854, Croydon VIC 3136  
Western Australia: Richard Farrar, 2a Zamia St,  
Mt Claremont WA 6010

## Fellows of the Military Historical Society of Australia

Mr Tony Harris	1992	SA
Mr Peter Shaw	1992	WA
Mr Peter Epps	2000	WA
Major Ian Barnes OAM RFD ED KStJ (Retd) (dec)	2002	VIC
Brigadier A.R. 'Tan' Roberts (Retd) (dec)	2002	ACT
Mr Pat Hall	2008	WA
Mrs Rhonda Grande	2008	WA
Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (Retd)	2009	SA
Mr Don Wright	2011	QLD
Mr John Meyers	2018	QLD
Mr Anthony Staunton	2018	QLD
Dr Paul Skrebels	2019	SA
Colin Simpson	2019	ACT

## Editorial

This edition of *Sabretache* is a somewhat different one from the usual. Following an in-depth review of the Society's Constitution the Federal Council has drafted a revised document for the better running of the Society. This is an important change and one that ensures that the Society reflects current legislation and the needs of the Society and its members.

It is with great pleasure to announce the award of the Fraser Coast Tourism – Land Based Award to the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum. Many members are well aware of John Meyers and his contribution to the museum and it is a pleasure to hear of the award as recognition of the tireless work that he and his band have done.

**Justin Chadwick**

## **MARCH 2020**

**VOLUME LX1 — NUMBER 1**

**ISSN 0048 8933**

## **CONTENTS**

---

- 4 Learning Behind the Line:  
The Australian Corps School  
Lynne Sumsion
- 23 Compulsory Military Service  
Dr JK Haken
- 26 Reviews
- 34 Society Matters
- 35 Two Significant Trucks of World War Two  
Michael Firth
- 40 Proposed Revision to the MHSA Constitution
- 41 Constitution of the Military Historical Society of Australia  
Draft 2019

# Learning Behind the Line The Australian Corps School

Lynne Sumsion

Infantry students marched in – they are a likely looking lot. Though all have had a very hard time; they are very cheerful.<sup>1</sup>

A new student intake was about to start intensive training at the Australian Corps School in World War I France.<sup>2</sup> Operating behind the lines, the School delivered a program of infantry, specialist weaponry, signals, intelligence and cookery training. It formed part of a training effort at divisional and corps levels that contributed importantly to Australian troops' growing effectiveness. This article is the largely untold story of the School: the first part looks at its establishment as I ANZAC Corps School in the context of the Corps' evolving training strategy; the second examines its composition, and what and who it taught. It is drawn from official war records (including C.E.W. Bean's *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 - 1918*<sup>3</sup> and Australian Imperial Force Unit War Diaries;<sup>4</sup> British and Australian policy and training documents;<sup>5</sup> and broader historical analyses of the war.<sup>6</sup> It also draws on letters of two school instructors – Captain William Scurry<sup>7</sup> and Lieutenant Aldred Baldry.<sup>8</sup> An architectural modeller and militia member before the war, Scurry served on Gallipoli, inventing the self-firing 'drip rifle' used during the evacuation. Fighting

---

1 Australian Corps School War Diary entry 24 August 1918, AWM 4/32/2/12.

2 Note the singular School is used. The official records use both School and Schools to describe the single entity bringing together pre-existing schools under one Commandant.

3 C.E.W. Bean, *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 - 1918*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra (1942); particularly Vols. III, IV and V.

4 Australian Imperial Force Unit War Diaries, particularly, General Staff, Headquarters I ANZAC Corps, AWM 4/1/29; Australian Corps Schools, AWM 4/32/2; and Australian Corps Technical School, AWM 4/32/3.

5 AWM 25/937, AWM 25/943 and AWM 25/947 relating to Training of the Australian Imperial Force in the UK and France.

6 Including: Peter Dennis and Jeffrey Grey (eds), *1917 Tactics, Training and Technology: The 2007 Chief of Army Military History Conference*, Australian Military History Publications, Loftus (2007); Aimee Fox, *Learning to Fight: Innovation and Change in the British Army, 1914-1918*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2019); Jeffrey Grey, *The Australian Army, Volume 1*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne (2001); and Lucas Jordan, *Stealth Raiders: A Few Daring Men in 1918*, Random House, Sydney (2017).

7 A.J. McAleer, *Scurry, The Man Who Got Them Safely Off Gallipoli*, Mt Evelyn RSL, Mt Evelyn (2017).

in France with the 58th Infantry Battalion, he also commanded the 25th Light Trench Mortar Battery, winning the Military Cross. Formerly a station manager and militia member, Baldry fought in France with the 54th Infantry Battalion.

The focus here is on training developments at the corps level and particularly the School. What happened at the divisional and unit levels is a crucial part of the bigger picture and is considered to varying degrees in treatments of divisions' experience.<sup>9</sup> Understanding the impact of the overall training effort would be aided by further research drawing together such analyses and associated material from official records.

## Background

After the Gallipoli evacuation, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) underwent major reorganisation and expansion in the face of major challenges. Its troops, particularly reinforcements from Australia, were insufficiently trained and lacked the necessary skills and understanding of army doctrine and tactics to fight effectively as part of the AIF and within the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Skilled officers and specialists were relatively thin on the ground. Profound changes were occurring in the conduct of warfare and weaponry. The Australians would be encountering different trench systems, new weapons, changes in tactics and formations, the threat of gas and new communications technology and requirements.

Training was a priority, with a tiered set of arrangements set in place to deliver instruction consistent with British policy. Training depots were set up initially in Egypt, moving from mid-1916 to Salisbury Plain in Britain. Together with a chief training centre, depots were established for the different branches of the AIF. Reinforcements from Australia received three months' basic training in their divisional (later brigade) groups to build fundamental military skills and attributes. Officers underwent targeted training - Baldry, for example, going to a three-month officers' course at Tidworth. Specialists, such as engineers, machine-gunners and signallers, received dedicated training, with some being sent initially to other areas of England for training in conjunction with British units and instructors. Arriving in the UK from July 1916, the newly-formed 3rd Australian Division started a separate process of organisation and comprehensive training, becoming part of the broader reinforcement depot system after its November 1916 deployment to France.

---

8 Letters of Aldred Baldry, Mackay Family Papers, NLA MS 10290.

9 Including: Robert Stevenson, 'The 1st Australian Division 1917: A Snapshot' in Dennis and Grey, *917 Tactics, Training and Technology*, pp. 23-42; and Lewis Frederickson, 'The Development of Australian Infantry on the Western Front: An Imperial Model of Training Tactics and Technology', PhD thesis, UNSW, 2015.

On arrival in France, troops went to one of the large BEF reinforcement camps at Etaples or Le Havre, for at least another ten days' training, preparing them for the rigours of trench warfare. Delivered mostly by British instructors notorious for their severity, the training was gruelling – the grounds being dubbed the Bull Rings. After this training, the first Australian units arriving in France in March 1916 were initially placed in quieter sectors to learn the ropes. By July they were in heavy fighting in the Somme, suffering severe casualties. The experience highlighted organisational, capacity and tactical shortcomings and triggered a comprehensive rethink of BEF formation, tactics and doctrine.



Figure 1: Lieutenant Colonel Heritage, commanding the 1st Anzac Corps' School at Aveluy, in France, addressing the students in the Lecture Room on 29 November 1917.  
Source: AWM E01297.

### **Part 1: I ANZAC's developing training approach**

I ANZAC stepped up its focus on training, progressively framing a systematic and coordinated approach informed by experience and army policy. Its commander, Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood, supported by chief of staff, Brigadier General Cyril Brudenell White, used a series of General Staff Circulars to expound priorities, principles and organisational arrangements and to provide guidance on the training required. The circulars had an impact beyond the Corps, being used as

a template by the 3rd Division in preparing its own training circular.<sup>10</sup>

The circulars set immediate priorities and built a framework for continuing training. Two objectives were at play. On the one hand, divisions were regarded as the largest training units and divisional commanders as responsible for their training. On the other, consistency of approach was seen as vital to ensuring a concerted approach and common operating practice across the BEF. In September 1916, Birdwood directed divisional commanders to make every effort to 'effect a progressive training of officers and men'.<sup>11</sup> Selected officers were to attend courses (in staff duties and for company and artillery officers) while candidates for commission (12 per division) were to receive four-month cadet training in the UK. Given casualties and the long lead time for such training, Birdwood highlighted the need to be able to commission officers from the ranks, noting that British assistance was being sought – an instructor shortage at that point preventing the preferred approach of establishing a Corps school. Specialists, in the Lewis gun, Stokes mortar, bombers and signallers, were to be trained at dedicated army schools and divisional arrangements made for graduates to instruct others. Divisions were to implement general training: improving officers' theoretical and practical knowledge through lectures, tactical exercises and special exercises with small bodies of troops; drill; and specialist and musketry training. They were to train larger bodies in the Corps manoeuvre area.

In November 1916, with winter coming, a further circular reinforced the need for divisions not in the line to concentrate on training, with as many men as possible attending courses at General Headquarters (GHQ) and army-controlled schools.<sup>12</sup> AIF schools were also established. To train instructors for divisions, I ANZAC Corps set up Lewis gun, Stokes mortar, bombing and intelligence schools (operating on a 'subjoined' basis under one commandant as I ANZAC Corps School) and a separate Corps Signals School. Divisions had to fill allocated course places at these schools and establish divisional schools, specialist gas schools and a small artillery school. They were to give particular attention to training in signalling, physical and bayonet training and musketry to address a deterioration identified in rifle skills and a tendency to use rifle or hand grenades when rifle fire could be more appropriate.<sup>13</sup>

---

10 Fox, *Learning to Fight*, p. 236.

11 'General Staff Circular No 16 Training', General Staff, Headquarters, 1st ANZAC Corps War Diary, 13 September 1916, AWM 4/1/29/8.

12 'General Staff Circular No 29 Training – Preliminary Instructions', 1st ANZAC Corps War Diary, 10 November 1916, AWM 4/1/29/10.

13 'General Staff Circular No 33 Trench Mortar and Musketry Work', 1st ANZAC Corps War Diary, 26 November 1916, AWM 4/1/29/10.

December 1916 instructions required a staged approach for divisions moving out of the line.<sup>14</sup> The initial rest stage was for administrative matters and ‘the care of the men and the improvement of their conditions’ through initial hardening and fitness work. They would also do preparatory work on the selection and training of specialists, settle school nominations and prepare detailed training programs for expected periods in rear areas. The focus of the next stage would be on physical fitness exercises and short drills for discipline and cohesion, specialists’ training, officers’ tactical training, and training of the company and then the battalion in attack and defence. Lectures on staff duties and administration were to be given to young officers and NCOs, errors having arisen because of their lack of previous knowledge of military organisation and administration.

Changing thinking on unit formation and tactics influenced I ANZAC’s emerging approach. Experience had shown a concerning degree of variation in unit organisation, training and fighting approaches,<sup>15</sup> but also the potential of weapons like Lewis guns and grenades for small unit tactics. In a critical move, Birdwood directed, in December 1916, that infantry battalions be organised and



Figure 2: Group portrait of the students in front of the buildings at the Bombing Section of the Australian Corps School at Aveluy. Source: AWM E01645.

14 ‘General Staff Circular No 35 Training – Divisional Programmes’, 1st ANZAC Corps War Diary, 10 December 1916 AWM 4/1/29/11.

15 Stevenson, ‘The 1st Australian Division 1917’, p. 38.

trained according to new principles.<sup>16</sup> The platoon was to be the ‘fighting unit’, self-contained and with platoon leaders having greater responsibility in decisions about deployment of men and weapons. Platoon specialists and riflemen would ‘live and work together’.

Released the same month, a British pamphlet, *SS 135: Training of Divisions for Offensive Action*, detailed the stages, organisation and tactics for attacks and responsibilities for related training at different levels.<sup>17</sup> It referred to the platoon as ‘the ultimate unit in the assault’ needing to be organised and trained as a self-contained unit. In February 1917, the British *SS 143: Training of Platoons for Offensive Action* was issued to assist platoon commanders in this task, setting out attack formations to be used and the training to be provided.<sup>18</sup>

Such shifts in organisational and tactical thinking required building the organisational, leadership and tactical abilities of (current and potential) platoon leaders; increased skills in the use of weapons individually and together; and wider capability in the use of specialist weapons. Building reserve capacity enabling men to step up in the case of casualties and assume leadership or to operate specialist weapons, was also necessary. At the same time, increased skill and training requirements were flowing from other developments including the massed use of artillery and changing tactics particularly the creeping barrage, the light trench mortar, new communication technology and the use of tanks and aeroplanes.

## I ANZAC Corps School

Although 1917 started with a stronger training framework in place, but consistency remained of concern. Divisional implementation of new approaches varied in speed and level, depending on which British units they were attached to<sup>19</sup> and the quality and experience of their leaders. Consistency had been a long-standing issue in the British Army, where numerous schools existed at different levels with little uniformity in approach.<sup>20</sup> It led to the establishment, in January 1917, of a GHQ Training Directorate to enforce uniformity of doctrine and standardise its teaching. To this end, the Directorate issued a comprehensive series of seminal pamphlets detailing technical, tactical and training requirements. General Staff Officer 2 Training positions were allocated to each Army and Corps across the BEF.

---

16 ‘General Staff Circular No 16, Organisation, Training and Fighting of Infantry Battalions’, General Staff, Headquarters, I ANZAC Corps War Diary, December 1916, AWM 4/1/29/11.

17 *SS 135: Instructions for the Training of Divisions in Offensive Action*, His Majesty’s Stationary Office, London (1916), pp. 5-6.

18 *SS 143: Instructions for the Training of Platoons for Offensive Action*, HMSO, London (1917).

19 Frederickson, ‘The Development of Australian Infantry on the Western Front’, p. 87.

20 Fox, *Learning to Fight*, p. 86.

Aiming for greater consistency of approach across Corps Divisional schools, Birdwood had issued directions in December 1916 ‘to bring the whole of the schools into line’.<sup>21</sup> He specified their purpose as to train young officers and NCOs so their tactical knowledge was increased and they could be leaders and capable of training their unit effectively, and officers and NCOs and men as instructors of specialists. He set minimum attendance numbers for each course (two officers and eight NCOs per battalion) and standardised their length (18 working days).

Birdwood then went further, centralising key elements into an expanded I Anzac Corps School.<sup>22</sup> Commencing in May 1917, the new school brought together the then four divisional infantry schools (1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th), the existing corps subjoined specialist schools (Lewis gun, Stokes mortar, bombing and intelligence), and its signalling school. Cookery was also added. The School’s focus was now encapsulated as ‘to train Infantry Students to become Platoon Commanders and Sergeants and fit them as candidates for Commissioned Rank; and, in the technical specialist areas to train the students to become instructors’.<sup>23</sup>

Issues about the level of such schools had been under broader BEF consideration. They were on the agenda of a March 1917 GHQ conference of GSO2 Training Officers, with Birdwood seeking division commanders’ comments on this and other agenda items (musketry camps, divisional reinforcement training and training for offensive action).<sup>24</sup> His decision to consolidate the schools was broadly in anticipation of instructions contained in the June 1917 *SS 152: The Training of the British Armies in France*.<sup>25</sup> This detailed principles for individual and collective training in units as well as requirements for schools – their structure, courses and instruction methods.

The new approach involved a rebalancing of responsibilities.<sup>26</sup> Corps level responsibilities – bolstered by its GSO2 Training position - were now defined as policy setting, inspection, reinforcement camps and the new combined school (and anti-gas and mounted troops schools as required). Divisions were responsible for selecting students to maintain one wing at the School, the training of units in accordance with *Field Service Regulation*, and running their anti-gas school and special classes in new signalling methods.

The move brought a number of potential benefits. In addition to administrative and infrastructure efficiencies, it supported a more concerted and consistent focus on purpose, content and methods of instruction. It provided the

21 ‘General Staff Circular No 37, Divisional Schools’, General Staff, Headquarters, I ANZAC Corps War Diary, 4 December 1916, AWM 4/1/29/11.

22 AIF Order, ‘Schools’, I ANZAC Corps Schools War Diary, 8 May 1917, AWM 4/32/2/1.

23 ‘Review’, I ANZAC Corps Schools War Diary, May-September 1917, AWM 4/32/2/1.

24 I ANZAC Corps memorandum ‘Training Conference’, 5 March 1917; and 2nd Division response, 12 March 1917, AWM 25/947/76.

25 *SS 152: The Training of the British Armies in France*, HMSO, London (1917).

26 I ANZAC Corps Schools War Diary, May-September 1917, AWM 4/32/2/1.

opportunity to observe those seen as having potential for advancement and enabled a concentration of skilled instructors. The School was well-situated for tactical exercises and demonstrations, having appropriate ground and a mix of infantry and specialist students together with experienced officers to lead them. It was also well-placed to support the new platoon arrangements.

## **PART 2: The School in operation**

By 1917, the I ANZAC Corps School was a substantial entity, with an initial staffing establishment of 213 which grew over time. The Commandant/Chief Instructor, a lieutenant colonel, was supported by an Assistant Commandant/Instructor and an adjutant, with a headquarters initially of some 58 personnel.<sup>27</sup> The School comprised separate, division-based, infantry wings (four each with 24 personnel at commencement) together accounting for the majority of teaching staff and providing administration support and messing for technical areas. Specialist components comprised Lewis gun (23), Stokes mortar and bombing (23), signals (12) and intelligence (1). Some 155 other staff maintained the campus and supported the training activity.

With the establishment of the Australian Corps in January 1918, it became the Australian Corps School, welcoming 3rd division students and now covering all Australian troops. An official war correspondent visiting the School around the time described it as a 'magnificent institution' with 'the proportion of a small military college'.<sup>28</sup> From March 1918, it also incorporated a gas school. In May, the School came under the new corps command of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash whose intensive approach to training and preparation had been a feature of his leadership of the 3rd Division.

The School's facilities were extensive. In addition to its headquarters, it comprised accommodation, messes and bath houses, training facilities, theatres, drill and parade areas, a medical centre, and an armoury. All connected by the ubiquitous duckboards. Practice grounds included firing ranges, bayonet courses, bombing trenches, Stokes mortar pits, musketry parapets and demonstration areas. There were sports grounds for football, cricket, rounders and bomb ball (a game based on soccer rules but with players throwing a grenade-sized, sand-filled canvas bag) and facilities for gymnastics and boxing, as well as a Gymkhana area. Staff and students enjoyed recreation and writing rooms and a canteen, shoemaker, tailor, hairdresser, watchmaker and church services.

---

27 I ANZAC Corps Schools War Diary, May–September 1917, AWM 4/32/2/1.

28 'Australian Corps School', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 January 1918, p. 7.

## School location

The school was located nearby to Corps and Divisional areas. Initially established at Aveluy (near Albert and around 40 kilometres from the front), the School was erected on the old battlefields of the Somme surrounded by ‘old tumbled in trenches, deep mine dug-outs, broken rifles, heaps of tangled wire ... and the little white crosses to mark the last rest of hundreds of brave men’.<sup>29</sup> Visits to nearby Amiens were popular. Winter was ‘absolutely abominable’, with ‘plenty of mud – always mud’.<sup>30</sup> Packing up ‘lock stock and barrel’ to move in February 1918, instructors were sad to leave after their hard work developing a splendid site on a place that had cost the British and Australians dearly.<sup>31</sup> The move was timely – the Germans overtaking the area the following month.

The School moved north to the Merckeghem-Volkerinckhove area in French Flanders (around 51 kilometres west of Ypres and the front). An active farming area, the site overlooked squared off fields, villages, church spires and winding canals, instructors enjoying exploring the surrounding areas. Military pressures caused delays in construction, then the School’s temporary disbanding in late March 1918. A nucleus of staff remained. Instructors undergoing refresher training while students and other staff returned to their units or were formed into a composite company and deployed to the front. By late April, the School reopened and was preparing for new students.

The School had a final move in June 1918, returning to the Somme region, but near Rue and the coast at Champneuf Farm. Further away from the front (around 95 kilometres), the location was ‘reminiscent of anything but war’ and staff enjoyed exploring the nearby beach, river and forest areas, ‘quaint old villages’ and historic sites.<sup>32</sup> Scurry took his students to an historic 1346 battlefield at Crecy, lecturing them on the decisive role of missile action. Popular for swimming, part of the beach was made to represent a sector of trenches for exercises. The proximity of towns and increased interaction with civilian activities were a welcome reminder of normal life.

Construction was a major activity as the School moved and grew. At times, it operated under canvas while more ‘permanent’ arrangements – Nissen huts – were erected. Where feasible, pioneer personnel undertook major tasks. Batmen and staff pitched in. Labour was also provided by prisoners of war and Chinese workers.<sup>33</sup>

---

29 Scurry, Letter, 25 February 1918, in McAleer, *The Man*, pp. 157 and 158.

30 Baldry, Letter, 30 October 1917, NLA MS10290/36.

31 Baldry, Letter, 15 February 1918, NLA MS10290/37.

32 Scurry, Letter, 26 June 1918, *The Man*, pp. 204-205.

33 Members of the Chinese Labour Corps recruited by the British to provide manual labour.

## Staff of the School

School commandants brought considerable military experience and standing and played an active leadership and instructional role. They were connected into broader BEF and Corps training arrangements and considerations. First in charge (until September 1917) was the British Army's Lt Col Arthur Murray Ross, previously head of the subjoined specialist Corps Schools. A Boer War veteran and staff officer at the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon at war's outbreak, Ross was attached to the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade fighting on Gallipoli and France, becoming Commanding Officer of the 51st Infantry Battalion. Subsequent commandants were Australian: Lt Col Francis Bede Heritage (September 1917 to February 1918); Lt Col Charles Joseph Conway Mason (February to September 1918); and Lt Col Robert John Allwright Massie (September 1918 to December 1918).



Figure 3: Students at the Lewis Gun Section of the Australian Corps School of Instruction at Aveluy. Source: AWM E01643.

Both Heritage and Mason had significant military training experience in Australia and France. Heritage, a career soldier, had fought in the Boer War and was a staff officer with the 2nd and 4th Divisions and would later become commandant of the RMC. Mason, was wounded on Gallipoli, invalided to Australia and then fought in France with the 59th Infantry Battalion. Coming from an attachment to 3rd Division HQ, Massie had fought on Gallipoli with the 4th Infantry Battalion and later in France with the 33rd. Formerly a top-grade cricket and rugby union player, he became the Australian Corps' organiser of sport after the Armistice as part of demobilisation arrangements.

Infantry wings and specialist areas were headed by a captain, supported by a lieutenant and senior sergeant/sergeant instructors. A senior sergeant took charge of cookery which also drew on infantry mess personnel. Instructors received training in instruction and were chosen for their infantry and/or specialist skills and experience, a number having been injured, including Scurry. Most were Australian, with some British personnel drawn on particularly for specialist positions. As well as training students in their own area, instructors ran sessions for other courses, for example Lewis gun instructors demonstrating their weapons' use across the curriculum, and were involved in joint school activities such as tactical exercises, demonstrations and sports and recreational training.

Instructors taught for varying periods, generally for at least six months, and were expected to keep abreast of military and training policy developments, Field Service Regulations and the latest instructions. Assimilating the continuous flow of official pamphlets, training notes and instructions as well as reports on lessons from the front was no easy task. The documents often amended sections of, or had to be read in conjunction with, other material. This led to differences in interpretation and confusion, and, in some cases, the subsequent issue of further, clarificatory, advice.<sup>34</sup>

To help stay up to date, instructors visited their battalions on the front for briefing on new lessons from recent fighting to incorporate into their instruction. As part of a small group of Army and Corps instructors, Scurry was also attached to a tank company for a fortnight in February 1918 so he could lecture effectively on cooperation with the tank arm.<sup>35</sup>

Instructors' work was demanding. Through the day and often into the evening, they gave lectures, supervised practice and sports training, ran tactical exercises, conducted demonstrations and helped run recreational activities, then prepared for the next day. They had to be versatile; as Scurry wrote: 'last night I worked the pictures, tonight I am time-keeper for the boxing, and in between I have given four lectures, two on maps, one on signals and one on Psychological Sequence of a Soldier's Training'.<sup>36</sup>

Heading the 5th Instructional Wing and with some instruction experience in Cairo, Scurry was one of the longer-term instructors (June 1917 to November 1918). A student at the School in late 1917 and earmarked for development as an instructor, Baldry taught at the school from January to November 1918 and was second in charge to Scurry in the 5th Instructional Wing.

Their letters home depict a strong camaraderie among instructors. Close knit groups and relationships cemented through communal routines and sharing,

---

34 Including: Letter from I ANZAC Corps, 8 May, dealing with the relationship between instructions such as *SS 135* and *SSI43* and pre-war manuals, AWM 25/947/76.

35 Article by Scurry for *Reveille* magazine, 30 August 1930, cited in McAleer, *The Man*, p. 204.

36 Scurry, Letter, 10 July 1918, in McAleer, *The Man*, pp. 210-211.

news, treasured photographs, packages from home of food, tobacco and magazines, celebrations of missed family birthdays and christenings, bridge evenings, sing-alongs, expeditions to nearby towns, villages and country areas, engagement in camp entertainment, humour, and the rivalry of inter-wing sports competitions. Home-baked goods were particularly popular, their communal devouring depicted by Scurry as a rite of sharing a bit of home.<sup>37</sup> They had mixed feelings about being away from their units and a sense of guilt for not being in the thick of things with their men, Scurry feeling like ‘a man in a grandstand’.<sup>38</sup> Baldry acknowledged that, not facing danger in the line, instructors were not given much credit by other soldiers, accepting this as ‘only right’.<sup>39</sup>

The School attracted many visitors, mostly senior officers from British and Australian units, conferring on training developments and directions and, at times, giving lectures and participating in demonstrations and tests. These included officers with GHQ and Corps HQ responsibilities for training and education as well as commandants and senior instructors from other British and Australian Schools. Also included were senior Corps officers and Divisional commanders and their staff as well as trench warfare, geological, gas and chemical experts.

## Students

Students were a mix of officers, NCOs and other ranks, selected for attendance by divisions for their leadership and/or instructional potential. Around 600 students were in attendance with the standard curriculum in progress. Most were in the infantry course, with an average of 78 officers and 186 other ranks at each regular course. Around 24 officers and 135 other ranks would have been at one of the three weaponry courses, 17 and 78 respectively at signals and 10 and 24 respectively at intelligence. Cookery drew an average of 32 other ranks.<sup>40</sup> The officer to other ranks ratio was highest in intelligence (30%) and infantry (29%), ranging in other courses from 11% to 18%, with the exception of cookery (other ranks only).

Overall numbers increased with the introduction of gas and other courses, for example physical and bayonet training in the School’s later stages. By October 1918 there were over 700 students attending at any one time and around 1100 over the month.<sup>41</sup> Over the life of the school, more than 8000 students attended an infantry or specialist course, with over 10,000 students overall going through the School.

---

37 Scurry, Letter, 18 September 1918, in McAleer, *The Man*, pp. 221-222.

38 Scurry, Letter, 18 September 1918, in McAleer, *The Man*, p. 221.

39 Baldry, Letter, 28 June 1918, NLA MS 10290/37.

40 Averages derived from attendance data, where recorded, in official War Diary entries.

41 In some months (including October 1918) two specialist courses were run spanning one infantry course. Figures exclude American and AROD students.

Although training was intensive, students welcomed the opportunity for ‘a spell and a change’ in a relatively secure environment, albeit with war rumbling in the distance.<sup>42</sup> They mixed with men from other units, used the services available, enjoyed regular meals, caught up on their letter writing, had medical problems seen to and enjoyed the organised sports and entertainment. However, it was not totally danger-free. Accidents happened with the use of live ammunition and captured weapons, for instance, a September 1918 accident with a German trench mortar caused two deaths and three injuries. Enemy aeroplanes occasionally dropped a bomb over the school – although the view was that you would have to be most unlucky to be hit.<sup>43</sup>



Figure 4: Group portrait of the Headquarters Staff of the Australian Corps School.  
Source: AWM E01644.

The condition of intakes varied, worsening over time. October 1918 saw over 100 health-related evacuations, mostly from influenza. Disciplinary problems also increased later in the war, including theft, poor behaviour during the sounding of the Retreat, interaction with POWs, allowing French civilians into the camp, inappropriate souvenir hunting, and poor maintenance standards.

At times, the School catered for different students, most notably when, with

42 Baldry, Letter, 20 October 1917, NLA MS10290/36.

43 Scurry, Letter, 22 May 1918, in McAleer, *The Man*, p. 195.

the X Corps School, it trained American soldiers drawn from the 77th, 4th and 28th Divisions in late April to early June 1918. Their training comprised infantry, Lewis gun, bombing and intelligence, a gas course and evening lectures on military conditions, cooperation of arms, night operations, musketry and morale and discipline. They did tactical exercises involving company relief and taking trenches with all arms. The training emphasised aggressive patrolling. Inexperienced in the line, instructors found the Americans 'slow' in movement and needing much improvement in drill, but 'all wonderfully keen and quite ready to learn'.<sup>44</sup>

A small intake of Australian Railway Operating Division (AROD) students also attended the School at this time. Coming with little experience of soldiering beyond their railway roles, they were learning how to defend themselves if necessary.

### **The Curriculum**

The standard curriculum comprised a program of regular infantry and specialist courses run on a rolling basis, except for the mid-1918 period when the School was disbanded and then focused on training American and AROD students. Courses ranged in length. Signals was the longest (36 training days) followed by infantry (28). Specialist courses ran for 18 or 19 training days. Course scheduling provided for some weekly half-day holidays and Sundays off and was coordinated to allow for joint activities and exercises across the School. The teaching method was based on explanation, demonstration and practice, with courses comprising drills, lectures, discussions, practice sessions (including with captured German weapons), demonstrations and tactical exercises, together with physical and recreational training.

Courses were structured sequentially, basic building blocks leading to more complex issues of application and tactics. Briefings were provided on the latest military conditions, lessons from experience and technological and tactical developments. As well as developing their operational, tactical and leadership skills, students also learned how to instruct others through lectures, practice sessions and drills which doubled as exercises in effectively drilling others. Considerable preparatory work was expected of students, including study of texts and written work on responses to questions and essays. Progress was tested, examinations held on course completion and individual assessment reports issued. The syllabus for each course reflected priorities and approaches set out in directions, training manuals and advice from the front. All courses maintained a fairly standard format and approach, with adjustments responding to changing tactics, technology and military conditions. There was a common emphasis across areas on combined arm tactics and the various stages of attack and defence.

---

<sup>44</sup> Scurry, Letter, 22 May 1918, in McAleer, *The Man*, p. 193.

Infantry courses covered 'a little bit of everything'<sup>45</sup> including weaponry, field engineering and logistics, consolidation, map reading and the use of aerial photographs, discipline, morale and customs, signalling, intelligence, messages and reports, tactics, and regular drill, physical and bayonet training and weapons practice. Leadership encompassed individuals' roles and responsibilities; together with the command, organisation, deployment and training of the platoon. Syllabus changes over time suggest an increasing focus on the different stages and aspects of attack, night operations, dealing with points of resistance, and the role of patrols, outposts and raiding, as well as more intensive programming of tactical exercises. Aggressive harassment of the enemy was stressed. Dedicated lectures and demonstrations on raiding started to appear on the syllabus for some courses in mid-1918. A student at the September 1918 course referred to Scurry 'teaching a new tactic in contrast to the old doctrine of formal or forced raids' - the use of stealth raids.<sup>46</sup> Students in Lewis gun, trench mortar and bombing courses trained in their weapons' technical aspects (individually and in combined use), the role and allocation of specialists within platoons, and tactical approaches. They had lectures and demonstrations on weaponry developments and applications. Officers trained in map reading and use of the prismatic compass. Syllabus adjustments suggest an increased focus on tactical weapons handling in attack and raids, the use of Stokes mortar and Lewis guns in anti-aircraft defence, and, for bombers, smoke barrages and flares.

Students at intelligence courses studied British and German systems and technology and undertook practical sessions on skills and techniques including map reading, identification, observation, the prismatic compass and tape laying. They studied the duties and responsibilities of intelligence officers in different conditions, procedures relating to enemy documents, reporting, and tactical skills in relation to reconnaissance, cooperation of arms, traversing, and scouting and patrols. Syllabus changes included more emphasis on the Barr Stroud range finder, the role of intelligence in raids and attack and taking over a new front.

Signalling students had to have passed set standards to attend the School and undergo more extensive testing than other students. Subjects covered a range of approaches, technologies and equipment from a theoretical and practical point of view. Practical exercises brought together different aspects of signals work, such as forward intercommunication and aeroplane contact work. Some courses were more advanced, providing in-depth theoretical grounding, detailed sessions on different techniques, equipment and map reading, and coverage of testing and problem solving and tactical training.

Cookery students trained in nutrition, economy, safety, use of equipment and improvisation, food preparation, transport of food to the front and their duties in billets and in the field and practised by messing for the technical groups.

---

45 Baldry, Letter, 30 January 1918, NLA MS10290/36.

46 Diary entry by Lance Sergeant James Rafferty, cited in Jordan, *Stealth Raiders*, p. 208.

Batmen accompanying their officers could be required to attend 11-day courses on the highly dangerous runners' role. Regarded as the one form of communication that could be relied on when all others failed, *SS 135* stressed runners' training and organisation by commanders and specified that platoon leaders required their own runner.<sup>47</sup> Batmen learned semaphore, message carrying, map reading, pigeons, observation of landmarks and staff badges, key locations and runners' duties and performed drill and rifle practice.

Basic gas measures, the use of respirators, were part of regular courses. With the incorporation of a gas school, more specialised courses covered the use of gas, responsibilities within the platoon, assessment techniques and protective approaches against attacks. Introduced in September 1918, a 14-day physical and bayonet training course covered physical and brain stimulation exercises, drill, bayonet and bullet practice and lectures on operational and tactical issues.



Figure 5: A trench mortar demonstration at the Australian Corps School, at Aveluy.  
Source: AWM E01693.

## **Demonstrations, Tactical Exercises and Trials**

Demonstrations dealt with particular aspects of different weapons, such as hip firing of Lewis guns and long-range firing of trench mortars, the cooperation of arms for different objectives and use of captured German weapons. They also covered operational and tactical issues such as posting of guards and sentries, fire orders and

---

<sup>47</sup> *SS 135: Instructions for the Training of Divisions in Offensive Action*, p. 51.

the model platoon. More elaborate demonstrations occurred at the Champneuf Farm beach trench sector. In August 1918, the use of different weapons separately and together was demonstrated in a scenario of the infantry being held up and unable to advance. This was followed up by a 'night op' demonstration of an assault party raiding enemy trenches to highlight points for attention before, during and after such an operation and the combined use of weapons in a raid.

Varying in length and coverage, tactical exercises were conducted within disciplines and as joint exercises involving infantry and specialist students. Relatively short exercises focused on set objectives such as establishing patrols or advanced guards and clearing a trench. Lengthier exercises, including some 'night ops', used more elaborate and changing scenarios on such themes as semi-open warfare dealing with points of resistance. Cooperation of arms was a major theme. In bad weather, schemes were adapted to sand trays indoors, including on outposts, fire directions and rear guards.

Exercises incorporated discussion of key tactical problems, critiquing of responses and comparison with school solutions. Students could be required to compile situational assessments, unit strength and formation and battle diagrams, weaponry deployment plans, orders and reports for commanding officers. Students were also learnt how to run such exercises for their own men and, to assist with this, were provided with prepared schemes outlining scenarios, tactical issues and problems to be addressed.

The School also carried out experiments and trials. Processes and practices, such as rapid night wiring, were tested to identify issues to be addressed in training. Weaponry applications were tried and results fed into the line. Experiments in November 1917, for example, tested trench mortar use against low flying aircraft, with resultant suggestions on ring charges, mortar placement and round numbers proving effective in the field. Stokes mortar experiments tested perpendicular barrages in December 1917 and, with a Trench Warfare Department expert attending, the use of new propellants in July 1918.

## **Sporting and Recreational Syllabus**

The School's comprehensive sports program aimed to lift morale, physical fitness and skills. Baldry was impressed by the impact of organised sport, restoring and freshening war-tired men and bolstering their interest in schoolwork.<sup>48</sup> Student committees presided over by instructors supervised the activity. Games and competitions – bomb ball and rapid wiring, Lewis gun assembly and bayonet competitions - helped sharpen soldierly skills. Gymnastic training, boxing and sports

---

48 Baldry, Letter, 12 February 1918, NLA MS10290/37.

like football (all codes), cricket, rounders, athletics, badminton, baseball for the American students, and, where feasible, swimming fostered their fitness and morale. Students also learned how to organise sport for their men. School wings competed fiercely for points in different activities throughout their courses and at a Gymkhana, with trophies awarded by the Commandant. Staff and students occasionally played football and other matches with nearby BEF units and French sides.

Programmed entertainment included picture nights, concerts and band recitals, with equipment, films and Pierrot costumes acquired with canteen proceeds. Towards the end of the war, interaction with the local French community increased, with a growing number of French visitors to School picture nights and visits to Rue and other nearby towns for concerts and other events. Highlights were a packed performance by a YMCA concert party organised by actress, suffragette and touring group leader, Lena Ashwell and attendance at a variety performance by the 'Anzac Coves' troupe.



Figure 6: The Engineers Class being instructed in wiring at the Australian Corps School at Aveluy. Source: AWM E01692.

**‘Sunny weather. Armistice signed... Training as per schedule’<sup>49</sup>**

Education featured prominently in demobilisation processes. From May 1918, a new Corps Directorate of Education had been devising a scheme for professional,

<sup>49</sup> Australian Corps School War Diary, November 1918, AWM 4/32/2/15.

general and technical training to be implemented at cessation of hostilities. From November, specially-trained Education Service Officers were placed in divisions. The immediate focus in France was on opportunities for men waiting to be sent to the UK. The School quickly reorganised to become the Australian Corps Central School and a training centre for matriculation (English, French, German, Latin, Greek, history and mathematics), professional (commercial law, commerce and accountancy, business principles, bookkeeping and shorthand) and civil service examination preparation. Lieutenant Robert Wallace, formerly Professor of English at Melbourne University, became director of studies with a teaching staff drawn from men with relevant academic and/or professional experience. In January 1919, around 400 students started their courses.

At the Corps Workshop Company's instigation, an Australian Technical School was established at Jeumont to provide refresher trades training. After refurbishing a war-scarred glass factory, from January 1919 it ran four to six-week courses in 18 trades plus mathematics, as well as sport and entertainment. Around 2000 students passed through the School.<sup>50</sup> Both schools closed in May, their students embarking together for the UK.

## Conclusion

From a handicapped start, the AIF developed into an effective fighting force supported by an increasingly concerted training effort at corps and divisional levels. The foundational work of I ANZAC and the operation of the Australian Corps School provided important impetus and support to the divisions. The complex logistics, organisation and leadership behind the School's operation, the progressive nature of the training provided and the ability to adapt to changing pressures were noteworthy. The School's span of potential influence extended beyond its students to the men they instructed. It played an active role in transferring lessons from the line and developments in weaponry and tactics into practice, as well as supporting innovation through its demonstrations and trials. The School formed a significant component of the AIF's approach to addressing the challenges faced early in the war and developing the necessary skills and tactical understanding within its forces. Its story is also a reminder of the role of effective behind-the-line organisation in supporting success in the field.<sup>51</sup>

---

50 Australian Corps Technical School War Diary, October 1918 to June 1919, AWM 4/32/3.

51 I am grateful for the comments of Prof. Peter Stanley of UNSW Canberra in the preparation of this article.

# Compulsory Military Service

**Dr J.K. Haken**

Compulsory Military Service has been employed since ancient times and is currently the practice in some countries. Australia was the sole English-speaking nation to introduce compulsory military service before World War I. The system, called the Universal Service Scheme, was introduced by the Labor Prime Minister Alfred Deakin in 1909 and passed into law<sup>1</sup> in 1911 by his successor Andrew Fisher. The principal defence legislation was the Defence Act 1903 and the Act regulating the Universal Scheme may be considered an addition (of which there have been many) to the 1903 Act.

The Act specified three classes of membership through which the registrants progressed:

- A Junior Cadets (12-14 year old boys, mainly school boys).
- B Senior Cadets (14-18 year old youths)
- C Commonwealth Military Forces (18-26 year old men). The involvement was with the Citizen Military Forces (CMF), later renamed the Army Reserve.<sup>3</sup>

Those residing more than five miles from a training depot were exempt, as were the medically unfit, aliens living in Australia and theological students. Junior Cadets were not uniformed and continued until June 1922. Senior Cadets wore military-style uniform and were organised into 93 areas, each being assigned a battalion of Senior Cadets.<sup>4</sup> The battalions commenced on 1 July 1911 and continued until 30 October 1918 when reorganisation occurred to commemorate the 60 battalions that served in World War 1. Many battalions had a location title added on 19 May 1914, the scheme being abolished by the Labor Government on 1 November 1929.

The Junior Cadets corresponded in part to the school cadets which had existed since Australian colonial times. The Senior Cadets corresponded to the Cadets of the Commonwealth Military Forces. Battalions of Senior Cadets were formed in most states in 1906, with five in NSW, six in Victoria, two in Queensland, and one each in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. With the introduction of the Universal Scheme the existing battalions were disbanded and

---

1 Defence Act 1911 (Act No 15 of 1911).

2 Defence Act 1903 (Act No 20 of 1903).

3 Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Citizen Military Forces (T.B.Millar Report), Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra (1974).

4 MO 264/191.

members absorbed by the new battalions. Officers became officers of the new battalions.<sup>5</sup>

Compulsion had always been controversial and non-registration had resulted in thousands of fines and jailing during the life of the scheme. In 4 ½ years (January 1911 until July 1915) non-registration resulted in 30,000 prosecutions and 7,000 individuals being jailed.<sup>6</sup> The Defence Act 1903 specified that service was in Australia and thus any overseas service was voluntary. During World War I, huge losses occurred and volunteer numbers decreased. A plebiscite for compulsory call up was held and narrowly defeated on 28 October 1916 and a second plebiscite was also defeated on 20 December 1917. The result of neither plebiscite was very decisive as in both cases only a few per cent of votes separated the result.



Figure 1: Unidentified members of 15th National Service Training Battalion, Puckapunyal, 1952. Source: AWM P05186.002.

With the onset of World War II the CMF were called up and conscription was announced by the Prime Minister Robery Menzies on 20 October 1939, effective 1 January 1940. Single men turning 21 must register and complete three months training in the CMF. The Defence Act 1903 restricted service to Australia and its territories and with warfare in the Pacific Islands the Government enacted a law in 1943, operable during the period of the conflict to allow service in the South-West Pacific.<sup>7</sup>

5 *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, No 53 1651, 8 July 1911; MO 260/1911.

6 Peter Dennis, Jeffrey Grey, Ewan Morris, Robin Prior and Jean Bou, *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History* (2 ed.), Oxford University Press, Melbourne (2008), p. 156.

7 Defence (Citizen Military Forces) Act 1943 (Act No 2 of 1943).

Due to the deteriorating world situation, the Malayan Emergency and the failure of CMF recruiting programs, the Government enacted the National Service Act in 1951.<sup>8</sup> All men over 18 were required to register and undertake 176 days of active training which varied between services. For the Army it involved 98 days of continuous training plus 78 days in CMF units. In 1953, the obligations for the Army were reduced to 146 days while in 1957 further reductions occurred.<sup>9</sup> Training was discontinued on 29 November 1959 and on that day the Minister of Defence announced to Parliament the termination of National Service.<sup>10</sup>

During operation of the scheme, approximately 250,000 men were involved in 52 intakes with approximately 22,000 going to the Air Force and nearly 7,000 to the Navy. With both of the latter services training was continuous and overseas. Approval to disband the National Service battalions in the various commands was dated 6 May 1960.

The Government announced in November 1964 that National Service would be introduced in June 1965. The first intake commenced training on 30 June 1965 and continued in six-monthly periods until the end of 1972, and allowed conscripts to serve overseas, specifically Vietnam.<sup>11</sup> At 20 years old, young men were required to register with the Department of Labour and National Service and randomly selected by ballot for training depending on their date of birth. A small minority of those who registered were called up. The training was two years in the regular army followed by three years in the reserves. Exemptions were granted to the medically unfit, aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, theology students and religious conscientious objectors. Temporary deferment was granted to apprentices, university students and cases where financial hardship could be proved. In February 1967, the Minister for the Army directed that infantry battalions were not to have more than 50% of National Servicemen. Training was reduced to 18 months in August 1967 with the announcement of the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. The then newly elected Whitlam Labor Government suspended National Service on 5 December 1972 after which military service was again voluntary.<sup>12</sup>

Over 15,000 National Service conscripts served in Vietnam with 200 deaths occurring and 1279 National Servicemen being wounded.

---

8 National Service Act 1951 (Act No 2 of 1951); National Service Act (No 2) 1951 (Act No 63 of 1951).

9 National Service Act 1957 (Act No 16 of 1957).

10 National Service (Discharge of Trainees) Act 1960 (Act No 28 of 1960).

11 National Service Act 1965 (Act No 52 of 1965).

12 National Service Termination Act 1973 (Act No 88 of 1973).

## Reviews

*ANZAC and Aviator: The Remarkable story of Sir Ross Smith and the 1919 England to Australia Air Race*

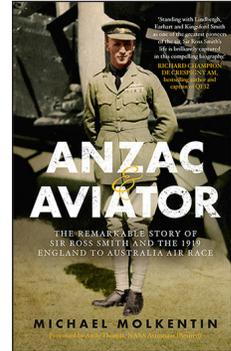
Michael MolKentin

\$32.99

Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest, 2019

ISBN 978174237919 7

Paperback, 406 pp



Over the years I have had the opportunity to visit the Vickers Vimy bomber located at the Adelaide airport. I often wondered who these were men who flew from England to Australia in what appeared to be a very basic aircraft, across large expanses of territory and sea to eventually land in Australia in 1919. I was made aware in recent times that the pilots Ross and Keith Smith were buried in the North Road Cemetery, Adelaide. Several months ago I attended a book launch in which the Smith brothers and their flying achievements were presented in a discussion. This sparked my interest into the ‘What, Why and the Who’ of these intrepid souls. *Anzac and Aviator*, written by Michael MolKentin, goes a long way to answer those questions.

MolKentin is to be congratulated on the publication, as I found it hard to put down and the story read almost like a boys’ own adventure story. The extensive research by the author provides an insight into the lives of Ross and Keith Smith. The two mechanics Bennett and Shiers are also mentioned in detail as they worked tirelessly to keep the Vickers Vimy in flying trim and without them I doubt that the Vimy would have made it to Australia. Each chapter is full of detail on Ross Smith and his flying career during World War One. The reader will see reading through each chapter that Ross became an experienced and accomplished pilot which I feel went a long way to the Vimy surviving the long the perilous journey from England to Australia.

The book is easy to read as it flows easily from the first chapter to the last taking the reader from the early days of the Smith brothers lives to the inception and announcement of the England to Australia Air Race. It gives the reader an insight into how Ross planned the flight, the stops, the location of each site with the very basic landing grounds and the problems they encountered at each stage of the flight. When they landed in Adelaide they were met with crowds of thousands of enthusiastic well-wishers, politicians and senior government officials. The last chapters deal with how Ross and Bennett were both killed in a tragic accident. Ross was conducting a test flight in a new aircraft in which he was planning to carry out a flight around the world. His body was eventually brought home to Adelaide and

was buried in the North Road Cemetery.

The epilogue provides the details of the immediate family and how they coped with the loss of Ross. It would be interesting to ponder what could have Ross Smith achieved if he had lived? Australia and the aviation industry is the better for those men and women who made those perilous journeys across the wide expanses of territory. *Anzac and Aviator* is one of the most enjoyable books I have read to date. All in all a good read.

## Mike English

### *The Great War: Aftermath and Commemoration*

Edited by Carolyn Holbrook & Keir Reeves

A\$34.99

UNSW Press, Sydney 2019

ISBN 9781742236629

Paperback, 304pp

This book is a collection of essays by 21 Australian historians covering most aspects of the aftermath of the Great War, the return to Australia of the troops and what they came home to.

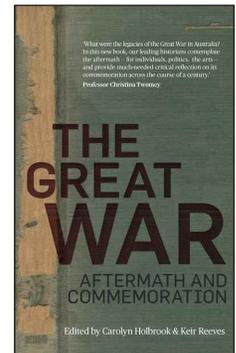
It is now 101 years after the cessation of hostilities so history writers are reduced to having to compare and quote how fellow academics interpret the original first person accounts.

Some of the subjects covered I was pleased to extend my knowledge, like 'Bringing the AIF Home' by Meleah Hampton, but I was surprised to learn from Martin Crotty in 'The Veteran Challenge', how much better we treated our returned men, as compared with other countries.

However, the essay which really impressed me was 'Anzacs and Australasians' by Marilyn Lake. She insists we, Australia and New Zealand, were not sitting doing nothing in a social limbo waiting for some strong men to rush in and start nation building on the shores of Gallipoli. We had votes for women, strong labour laws, and social systems that thinkers from all over the world came to study.

Of course no topical history could possibly not address the advances or lack of advances in Aboriginal recognition since the first Indigenous soldier snuck into the AIF against the better judgement of the Army. Several authors cover the discrimination between returned white diggers and returned black diggers and their struggle to be heard. One was gratified to learn that the Boulia sub branch of the RSSILA defended Indigenous rights to head off to fight the Japanese in 1941. I used to pass the turn-off to Boulia when I lived in Mt Isa. (That's what you do with the Boulia turn-off, you pass it.)

One of the minuses of a book of essays being compiled by a committee is



that every author tells you what the RSSILA is, or was and how it became the RSL. It is not till page 138 that the explanation ceases. It's like one of those American documentaries on a commercial channel that stops for an advertisement then goes back and repeats the information, assuming you have the attention span of a gnat. While I am having a whinge about editorial matters, let me get on my hobby horse and ask that the hyphen enabling device be abolished. Some of the hyphenation is bad. The first time we learn of a massacre of Aborigines at a place called Coniston, the word is hyphenated Conis- ton on the next line. This is just not good enough.

Thank you Thomas J Rogers for your deliberations on the Coniston massacre. In the absence of a psychiatric report, I think you are right. I thought long ago that the AIF's reputation that those early recruits, country boys were splendid shots simply because they'd had lots of practice. But then Graham Wilson's myth-busting book *Bully Beef & Balderdash* said they weren't that good anyway.

Geoffrey AC Ginn says on page 186 that the conscription debate is 'little known outside the historical profession'. Really?

The Anzac myth is examined by several authors from diverse approaches. The debate heats up when we get to section Commemorating the Great War. Thank you for introducing me to 'Anzackery' a wonderful word. Is it in the Macquarie Dictionary yet? Something about 'bullshit unrestricted expands to fill the space available'. I wish I had said that.

It would appear that Bruce Scates does not approve of spending \$100 million on the Sir John Monash Centre. He compares the finished product with the Historial de la Grande Guerre at Peronne. I have been to the Historial and thought empty uniforms and blank walls a little too interpretive for me. From the brief presented to the historians to go ahead with the SJMC it would appear that for \$100m you can waffle on in esoteric words that would almost be justified on a wine bottle label.

What Is Wrong With Anzac? I love Henry Reynolds. I purchased his book *Why Weren't We Told* and I am grateful to him for opening my eyes to everything that had gone on around me in Far North Queensland all my life and I never noticed. He held a mirror up for me to look into and I started thinking. Henry, and others, attribute the rise in the Anzac memorial industry to John Howard's quest to deny Frontier Wars which he calls the 'black armband' history of Australia. Since Howard's tenure, every Australian PM has found the necessity to be even more patriotic than the last and this patriotism usually starts with Gallipoli. Where will it stop?

Apparently to celebrate the centenary of the Great War Germany spent A\$2 for each soldier and civilian killed during the war; France \$52, the United Kingdom \$109, while Australia spent \$8,889 per soldier and civilian killed. I think we could have spent the money a little more wisely.

This is a great book. It included for me, a lot of leaping out of my chair and assaulting my long suffering partner with impromptu readings. There's a lot to make you think about.

**Gail Gunn**

*The Catastrophe of 8 August 1918*

Thilo von Bose

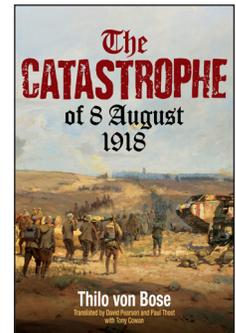
trans. David Pearson and Paul Thost with Tony Cowan

A\$34.99

Big Sky Publishing, Newport NSW, 2019

Hardback, 521 pp

ISBN 9781922265043



During my tenure as editor of *Sabretache*, I was privileged to play a small role in a fascinating and ground-breaking project. In 2015 David Pearson, an archaeologist, military historian and member of the Military Historical Society, and Paul Thost, a German immigrant to Australia with significant translation experience, published a four-part extract translated from Thilo von Bose's *Die Katastrophe des 8. August 1918*, which first appeared in 1930 as the final volume of a popular, semi-official series titled *Schlachten des Weltkrieges* (Battles of the World War). The extract concentrated on the Australian actions of the 8 August offensive and appeared in *Sabretache* issues 56.1 to 56.4. Now, with support from the Army History Unit and under the editorship of scholar in German-language military history, Tony Cowan, the project has been polished and expanded into a full-scale edition of von Bose's work. In addition to a translation of the full text, it includes comprehensive introductory material, notes, appendices, 50 specially chosen photographs with detailed captions, and an end-pocket containing a chart and large coloured map.

The narrative deals solely with events of 8 August, the 'Black Day of the German Army on the Western Front', in Ludendorff's own words. The offensive, by British, Australian and Canadian corps of the Fourth Army and those of the French First Army, and directed against the German Second Army, chiefly within territory bounded by the Rivers Ancre and Avre, was a stunning Allied success. By the end of the day the Germans had lost around 27,000 men – most as prisoners of war – and ceded up to 11 kilometres of territory, not to mention some 400 pieces of artillery along with countless machine guns, mortars and small arms. But whereas the OHL, the German high command, was quick to lay the blame for the disaster at the feet of the front-line soldiers, von Bose's analysis of the defeat is appreciably more complex than this. True, he admits that 'the physical and psychological capacities of the

majority of the fighters were no longer sufficient to face a major attack' (p.434), but his almost relentless catalogue of small-unit actions reveals that, as unrested and unready as many troops were, they were for the most part willing to fight it out until circumstances led to their becoming casualties or captives.

Those circumstances were basically two-fold. One was the overwhelming superiority in men and materiel of the attacking forces, notably in aircraft, artillery and tanks. As if that weren't enough, the presence of fog, which the Allies augmented with barrages of smoke and gas shells, allowed them to approach many sectors of the battlefield effectively unseen until they were on top of German positions. The other was the circumstances of the defenders themselves. In spite of their standard employment of defence in depth, which hitherto had worked well in countering Allied incursions, the Germans lacked both properly developed trench systems and reliable communications between front, main and reserve positions. These, coupled with a failure by the Second Army staff to acknowledge the innovative Allied operational method of simultaneous bombardment and attack on the one hand, and of even recognising that a major offensive was in the offing on the other, led inevitably to the disaster of 'the black day' and to Ludendorff's realisation that the war had to be ended. In this respect also, von Bose's work is to be commended for not subscribing to the 'dagger in the back' myths promulgated by proto-Nazi organisations about the German Army never actually being defeated in the field.

Doubly commendable, then, is the decision by the translators and editor to present the German text – in its original black-letter, *Fraktur* typeface – side-by-side with their very readable translation. Indeed, the latter represents no easy task, given the somewhat antiquated form of the language and the 'over 2000 references to individual units' which, as one critic insightfully observes, may 'seem to us strange', but which to the veterans and their families stood for 'lived experience, suffering, loss and deep personal relationships, both positive and negative' (p.10). Such transparency has the added bonus of providing the reader with two texts for the price of one, but more importantly it attests to the knowledge, experience and skill that the edition's creators have brought to bear on their subject and towards their perceived goal. It also adds immensely to the confidence with which we, the readers, can accept the outcome as a rare insight into what went on over 'the other side of the hill' during that momentous day. This superb production is more than a fitting tribute to the original work; it is an exemplar of the potential of the discipline of military history for contributing to a more precise understanding of a rapidly fading past.

**Paul Skrebels**

*A Game of Birds and Wolves: The Secret Game that Won the War*

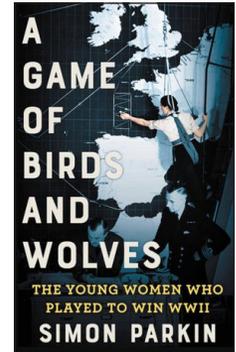
Simon Parkin

A\$ 32.99

Hachette, Sydney, 2019

Paperback, pp

ISBN 9781529353044



The story of the Battle of the Atlantic and the role of German U-boats in the destruction of supply convoys that were so important in the Allied prosecution of the war is well known. In a somewhat crowded field Simon Parkin has managed to add a new dimension to the historiography. Parkin draws from all aspects of events from the variety of people involved on both sides. His focus is on Operation Raspberry, the vital role that women played and the use of game theory. Using a narrative device that creates a dynamic personal account, Parkin propels the reader into the dangers, tragedy, fears and pressure involved in the operation. Drawing on personal memoirs and a wide range of primary and secondary sources, Parkin creates an immediacy and pace that resembles a thriller. *A Game of Birds and Wolves: The Secret Game that Won the War* is a fast-paced fascinating story of the Battle of the Atlantic that ranges from game theory to personal tragedy and explores the many people who dedicated, and in some instances sacrificed, their lives for victory.

**Justin Chadwick***The Big Book of Australia's War Stories*

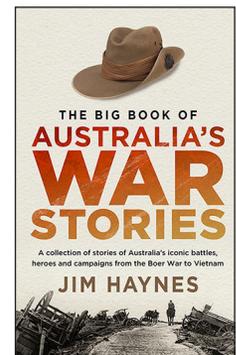
Jim Haynes

A \$32.99

Allen &amp; Unwin, Sydney, 2019

Paperback, 589pp

9781760875619



This is a magnificent collection of stories, accounts and poetry of Australians at war. Commencing with Australian service in the South African War (Boer War), Jim Haynes takes the reader through every conflict Australians served in during the twentieth century.

He draws on contemporary accounts and secondary sources that give a sound understanding of events and those involved. There is much to read here and is an excellent introduction to where, when and how Australians served.

The only comment that I would have is that despite its size, there is very little on

conflict after the Second World War. Of a 590-page book only 50-odd pages are dedicated to postwar accounts. However, this should not deter the reader from enjoying this collection.

**Justin Chadwick**

*Battle on 42nd Street: War in Crete and the Anzacs' Brutal Last Stand*

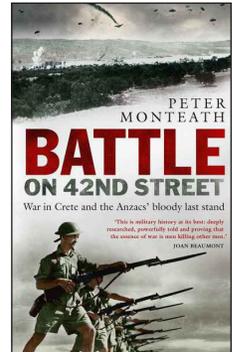
Peter Monteath

A\$34.99

NewSouth Publishing, Sydney, 2019

Paperback, 288 pp

ISBN 9781742236032



A number of books have appeared in recent years dealing with the capture of Crete in May 1941, that brief but brutal campaign which, although a German victory, effectively wrecked Hitler's airborne military arm for the remainder of the Second World War. *Battle on 42nd Street* arose as a by-product of its author's research into Australian prisoners of war held by the Germans, the largest single group being those taken on Crete. The title refers to the stand made by five New Zealand and two Australian infantry battalions along a dirt road jokingly dubbed '42nd Street', after themselves and the popular Hollywood musical, by the 42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers a few months previously. The culmination of this particular fight was that rarity in modern warfare, a full-blown bayonet charge and melee which temporarily routed the German advance and destroyed the I/141st Mountain Regiment as a fighting force.

Because actually closing with the bayonet was such an unusual occurrence in WW2, Monteath sets the scene by opening the book with a graphic summary of the history of bayonet fighting, his point (pun intended) being that the Anzac troops involved had inherited something of the spirit of 'intimate killing' from their First War forebears. He then focuses on the actual participants, principally the 2/7th and 2/8th Bns AIF and the 4th and 5th Brigade NZEF units which included the 28th (Maori) Bn, but also on the German forces and the men who led them. He constructs a broader context for the action by describing the loss of Greece to the Axis and the evacuation of the Allied forces to Egypt and Crete; the preparations on either side for attacking and defending Crete; and the opening engagements resulting in the loss of the Maleme airfield, which ultimately doomed the defence to a steady retreat in the face of mounting German reinforcements.

The book's real strength, however, is the detail with which it describes and

analyses the fighting along 42nd Street itself, which in Gavin Long's volume of the official history, *Greece, Crete and Syria*, understandably, receives only a couple of pages' coverage. Instead, Monteath's lively narrative positions us down at ground level, with haka-chanting Maoris and bayonet-wielding Anzacs sweeping the field of terrified Gebirgsjäger, whose only choice is to drop their weapons and run for safety or face cold steel. Despite the startling success of the attack, the account closes on two sad and sour notes which sum up the tragedy of the battle for Crete. The first is the loss of thousands of British, Australian and New Zealand troops as POWs, including the majority of the gallant 2/7th Bn AIF. The second is the speed with which the Germans sought reprisals for perceived crimes against their own troops, either by 'merciless' Anzacs who supposedly refused to take prisoners, or by Greek civilians who apparently 'massacred' wounded and captured German soldiers. In the latter case the Germans wasted no time in murdering innocent Cretan villagers, the c.60 men rounded up and shot at Kondomari being only one example of what the locals would have to endure over the next few years.

*Battle on 42nd Street* does not pretend to be a complete account of the battle for Crete – there is little on the fighting at Retimo, for instance, and nothing on the defence of Heraklion. But it is good history, particularly at the micro level, and deserves to be read by anyone wishing for a better insight into our own nation's involvement in WW2.

## Paul Skrebels

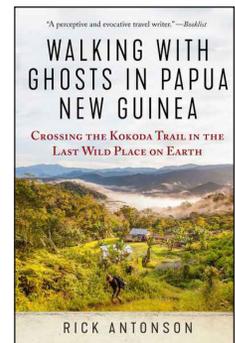
*Walking with Ghosts in Papua New Guinea: Crossing the Kokoda Trail in the Last Wild Place on Earth*

Rick Antonson

Skyhorse Publishing, Distributed in Australia by NewSouth Books, 2019

Hardback \$39.99

ISABN 9781510705661



Sometimes we can benefit from someone from the outside, not a part of our society and its cultural inheritance, looking at us.

Canadian travel writer, Rick Antonson, does just that in his new book *Walking with Ghosts in Papua New Guinea: Crossing the Kokoda Trail in the Last Wild Place on Earth*. His tale is almost classic travel narrative: called on by someone with a tenuous relationship to do something that they had never heard of before. In this case, Antonson, having just moved to Cairns with his wife, falls into what amounts to a semi-drunken dare by his newly acquainted neighbour. What entails is a journey of

discovery for Antonson in both Australian, Japanese, New Guinean and US history and physicality.

The Kokoda Trail is traversed by intrepid trekkers who, if Australian, often are searching for some kind of understanding of events and the hardships endured by family members during the Second World War. Antonson is accompanied by such trekkers and during his journey discovers, and comes to understand the importance of, the trek to so many Australians.

His history of the campaign is tied in with the day-to-day events of the trekkers as they make their way across the Owen Stanley Ranges to the northern shores of Papua New Guinea. The tying of the history and travel narrative together is completed seamlessly and makes for an easy and interesting read. For those who have thought about attempting the Kokoda Trail or would like an understanding of what trekkers experience, then this is book comes highly recommended.

**Justin Chadwick**

## **Society Matters**

---

### **Back issues of *Sabretache***

Members are advised that all editions of *Sabretache* from Volume I (1958) to Volume XLI (2000) are available for free download in .pdf format at the Society's website: [www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au)

These editions contain fascinating articles, notes and images. The Federal Council encourages all members to take a look. There is also a table of contents for each edition and an index.

Thank you  
Paul Sutton  
Webmaster

### **Copyright for authors**

- Authors retain copyright in their work and the MHSA is granted a licence to reproduce their work; and
- MHSA encourages all authors to register with the Copyright Agency.

## Technology

---

### Two Significant Truck Types of World War Two

**Michael Firth**

Over the years there has been much discussion about war winning designs or significant vehicles of World War Two. But what makes a significant vehicle or type? Is it the contribution it made to the war effort, the number produced, its design, the number of users, or a combination of all these factors. Looking back at this period there have been significant vehicles in a range of categories. Aircraft have been included in the term vehicle.

Some of the more well-known items are:

#### *Tracked armoured vehicles*

- T-34: a well-designed basic fast tank which could be operated with limited training
- Panther: highly technically designed which many experts consider to be the best German design of the war
- Sherman: a massed produced tank used by nearly every main allied combatant
- Churchill: a heavy duty slow moving package which was used for a variety of specialised variants and operating comfortably in some extreme terrains

#### *Light Wheeled Vehicles (under ¾ ton)*

- The Jeep: used by nearly every combatant in a variety of terrains and variants, widely copied after the war and said to be the basis for the modern four wheel drives.

#### *Aircraft*

- Junker JU-52: a pre-war corrugated trimotor plane which became the work horse of the German air force being used on all fronts where the Germans fought
- Wellington Bomber: a pre-war long range bomber design made out of wood and canvas which when used on night raids, would travel deep into German held areas.
- B-17 Flying Fortress: a well-armed heavily armoured long range bomber which could sustain a lot of damage becoming one of the most well know United States bombers in the war.

The list above contains a range of well-known significant types but what about the lesser known vehicle types? Looking at the numbers produced, the variety of design and the number of users, there are many contenders. Two of the most notable of

these designs would be the GMC 2.5 ton 6X6 design and the Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) series. The truck designs were produced in large numbers, came in a variety of bodies and used by a large number of combatants. Both were produced on the North American continent with the GMC being used mainly by the US forces and forces equipped by the USA while the CMP design was used mainly by the British Commonwealth forces.

### **GMC 2.5 Ton 6 X 6 Truck**

The GMC truck commonly referred to as the 'deuce and half' was manufactured by General Motors in the United States between the years 1941 to 1945 with over 504,000 units being produced in a variety of designs and variants. The basic types were supplied in long or short wheel base, hard or soft cab, with or without a winch. Nearly a third of the units were supplied with winches while the majority of the short wheel based units were used as artillery tractors. The main user of the GMC trucks was the United States with other countries receiving units under the Lend Lease agreements or being equipped by the US, such as the Free French forces. With the nomenclature, the vehicles were mainly listed as a type CCKW-352 or CCKW-353.



Figure 1: A CCKW-353 2.5 ton 6x6 truck fitted with winch. Source: Wikipedia.

A breakdown of the code is:

C - 1941 design year

C - Standard Cab; type 1619 was a soft or tarp roof, types  
1574 & 1605 were hard top or steel roof

K - Front wheel drive

W- Rear Wheel or Tandem Wheel drive

-352 - Short Wheel Base

-353 - Long Wheel Base

Body types included cargo/personnel/troop carrier, tipper/dump, tanker – petrol or water and van bodies of various types. The van type bodies could be fitted out for a variety of purposes including medical, mechanical or electrical workshops, command posts or signals. The lesser recognised body types tended to be the more specialised engineering units, wheeled self-propelled guns and radar transporters.

One common item between all units was the engine being a 91.5 HP straight-six with most units being shipped fully assembled. After the war, the decision was made to sell off many of the vehicles rather than return them to the US so providing in some cases ready-made fleets of busses or load carrying vehicles for enterprising entrepreneurs.

### **Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) Truck**

The original discussions for this series began in 1938 with the design of the Department of National Defence Pattern being later designated as the Canadian Military Pattern type (CMP). Manufactured by Chevrolet/General Motors (GM) and Ford, 390,000 units were produced between 1940 and 1945. Staying with a standard government pattern, it was said over 90% of the parts were interchangeable between the different manufacturers.

The bulk of the bodies were from three weight classes, three cabin types, long or short wheel base and drive type.

The main weigh types were:

15cwt (15 hundredweight)

30cwt

3 ton

The cabin types were:

No. 11; original type, 1940 production

No. 12; similar to the No. 11, 1941 production

No. 13; the final and possibly most common type, 1942-1945  
production

A simpler type of nomenclature was used with the breakdown being:

Manufacturer: C (GM) or F (Ford)

Weight Class; 15 (15cwt), 30 (30cwt) or 60 (3-ton)

Wheel Base; S (short) or L (long), usually listed on the 3 ton body types

Examples of this are; C15A, F30, C60L, F60S.



Figure 2: An artillery unit disembarking during amphibious exercises led by a Ford Canadian Military Pattern, 1942. Source: AWM P02216.003.

Although built to a standard pattern, each manufacturer mounted their own engine type with the common Ford engine being a 95 HP V-8 and GM using an 85 HP straight-six. The majority of units were shipped from Canada in kit form with some recipient countries producing their own bodies. There were reports of assembly lines operating on the receiving dock areas so assembled trucks could be driven straight to body works or transport holding areas. It is reported that local chassis were manufactured in Australia for Ford and GM. Besides England, local bodies and assembly was also carried out in Australia, New Zealand, India and Egypt.

The range of bodies for the CMP trucks is similar to the US GMC body range but also includes Field Artillery Tractors (FAT), armoured trucks, gun and anti-aircraft gun platforms. Some CMP chassis' formed the basis for several types of armoured vehicles such as the Otter armoured car or the Indian armoured carrier.

Both the vehicle types listed above, did not have their military careers limited to World War Two as they were used in the Korean conflict and with the French forces in Indo-China. Looking back at their military careers, they were used in nearly every area of conflict in all theatres of war by nearly every allied combatant. After their military careers were over, some vehicles were turned to more peaceful commercial uses such as busses, fire engines and mobile cranes.

Although the trucks were not as glamorous as the armoured vehicles or aircraft, they made a significant contribution to World War Two by the roles they played. They were produced in significant numbers being used for a wide range of roles and occasionally being used by both sides in the conflict. These factors can lead to these vehicle types being classed as significant to the allies winning role in World War Two as well as making a significant contribution to the postwar period for transportation and reconstruction requirements.

## **Bibliography**

Boniface, Jean-Michel and Jeudy, Jean-Gabriel. *The GMC, 6x6 and DUKW: A Universal Truck*, Motorbooks International, Beverly (1978).

Freathy, Les. *British Military Trucks of World War Two*, Tankograd Publishing, Erlangen (2012).

Guthrie, Steve. *Camouflage & Markings of Canadian Military Vehicles in World War Two*, Model Centrum Progress, Warsaw (2013).

Hoffschmidt, E.J. and Tantum, W.H. *US Military Vehicles WWII*, WE Inc., Old Greenwich (1970).

Vanderveen, Bart. *Historic Military Vehicles Directory*, After the Battle Publications, London (1989).

## Proposed Revision to the MHSA Constitution

The Military Historical Society of Australia (MHSA) current Constitution was last reviewed in 1993, with a minor amendment made in 2010. The Society's Rules have not been changed since 1997.

Australian States and Territories have passed legislation to provide for Incorporation of Associations, Societies, and Clubs and their improved governance. A number of the Society's branches have elected to incorporate under their respective State legislation. Such legislation provides a list of subjects that need to be complied within an association's rules (constitutions) – this is designed to be consistent across the various States and Territories of the Australian Commonwealth.

An examination has been carried out by the Federal Council to see how the current Constitution and Rules meet these requirements, and to consider any other changes that may be required to bring the Constitution up to date. It was found that some requirements were covered in the Constitution and others in the Rules, and some in both, and some were not dealt with at all. The Federal Council has now reviewed the proposed revision and the revised Constitution is presented for consideration by the members.

In accordance with section 20 of the current Constitution, the revised text is now published in full. If no objection is received within three months by the Federal Secretary, this text will then become the Constitution as at the date three months from publishing date of this issue of *Sabretache*. Federal Council will then complete a review of the Rules of the Society which will be forwarded to Branches and published in *Sabretache*.

# Constitution of the Military Historical Society of Australia

**DRAFT - 2019**  
**ABN 97 764 781 363**

## 1. Name

The name of the Society shall be The Military Historical Society of Australia referred to hereinafter as 'the Society'.

## 2. Objects

(a) The objects 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.

(b) << Deleted >>

(c) << Deleted >>

(d) << Deleted >>

## 2A. Interpretation

### (a) Definitions

In this Constitution, unless a contrary intention appears;

**'Branch'** means a branch of the society established in accordance with Section 21A;

**'Branch funds'** and **'Society funds'** have the meanings given in the constitution;

**'Committee'** means both Federal Council and a Branch Committee;

**'Committee member'** means both a Federal Councillor and a member of a Branch Committee.

**'Constitution'** means the constitution of the Society;

**'General meeting'** means an annual general meeting or a special general meeting of the Society or of a branch.

**'Member'** means a natural person, other than the Patron, a Vice-Patron, or an honorary member, who has been admitted to membership of the Society, and whose

subscription is current or not more than three months in arrears.

**‘Secretary’** means the Federal Secretary, a Branch Secretary or a Branch Secretary/Treasurer;

**‘Society’** means the Military Historical Society of Australia;

**‘Treasurer’** means the Federal Treasurer, a Branch Treasurer or a Branch Secretary/Treasurer;

**‘Year’** means the year ending 30 June.

(b) For those Branches of the Society that have established a Branch Constitution (or rules) as part of becoming an Incorporated Association within their State or Territory legislation, where matters in this Federal Constitution are at variance with the Branch Constitution, the Branch Constitution will prevail.

### **3. Registered Office**

The registered Office of the Society shall be in the Australian Capital Territory.

### **4. Structure**

(a) The structure of the Society shall be;

(i) a Federal Council;

(ii) branches formed by Society members in suitable localities, which have properly elected Branch Committees and the authority of the Federal Council to function as a Branch; and

(iii) corresponding members, who either do not wish or are unable to enjoy Branch membership, who shall be administered by the Federal Council.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **5. Federal Council**

The Federal Council shall comprise:

(a) Federal Office Bearers

(i) a Federal President;

(ii) a Federal Vice-President;

(iii) a Federal Secretary;

(iv) a Federal Treasurer.

(b) Up to two Ordinary Members of Federal Council

(c) Any Federal Councillors appointed by Branch Committees to be their representatives.

## **6. Federal Councillors**

(a) Federal Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of Federal Council are to be elected at the annual general meeting of the Society for a term of two years, half retiring at each annual general meeting. The retiring councillors shall be eligible for re-election.

(b) <<Deleted>>

(c) All Federal officers shall be honorary.

(d) On the occurrence of a casual vacancy in a Federal office, Federal Council may appoint a Federal Councillor to fill the vacancy until the following annual general meeting at which the councillor would be eligible for re-election.

## **7. Branch Committees**

(a) Each Branch Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members elected from the Branch membership at a branch annual general meeting;

(b) Branch Committee membership shall be:

- (i) a Branch President;
- (ii) a Branch Secretary;
- (iii) a Branch Treasurer; or
- (iv) a Branch Secretary/Treasurer;
- (v) ordinary Committee members

(c) All committee members shall retire annually but may be re-elected;

(d) A Branch Committee may, but is not required to, appoint a Committee member to be a Federal Councillor representing the Branch;

(e) All Branch offices shall be honorary;

(f) Members of Federal Council may serve on Branch Committees;

(g) Casual vacancies on Branch Committees may be filled by the Branches concerned, but no Branch committee may continue to act unless a minimum of 3 members are in office.

## **8. Responsibilities – Federal Council**

The Federal Council shall be responsible for:

(a) The conduct of the business of the Society, except insofar as it is delegated to the Branch Committees.

- (b) The making, amending and repealing of the Rules of the Society in accordance with Section 21
- (c) The publication of the Society's Journal.
- (d) The public relations of the Society including recruitment of members.
- (e) Authorising the formation or closure of Branches per Sections 22 and 23
- (f) The co-ordination of the efforts of the Society and branches in achieving the Society's objects.
- (g) The funds of the Society other than Branch funds.
- (h) Administration of Corresponding Members.

### **9. Responsibilities – Branch Committees:**

Each Branch Committee shall be responsible for:

- (a) The conduct of Society business at branch level
- (b) Recruitment of members to the Branch and the Society.
- (c) Collection of subscriptions from Branch members and accounting therefore to Federal Council.
- (d) Maintenance of a satisfactory relationship with the public, kindred organisations and official bodies in the Branch area.
- (e) The funds of the branch.

### **10. Powers – Federal Council**

The Federal Council shall have the following powers:

- (a) To make and direct the policy of the Society
- (b) << Deleted >>
- (c) << Deleted >>
- (d) To affiliate the Society with other organisations having like aims or being of such a kind that the interests of members and the objects of the Society will be advanced by such affiliation. Provided that no other affiliation shall be effected unless and until a ballot of members of the Society has been taken the result has authorised such affiliation.
- (e) To appoint a Federal Auditor or Auditors and fix their remuneration.
- (f) To hear and determine appeals from Branches and members, and to act as an arbitrator in any disputes between Branches.
- (g) To invest the funds of the Society in any security authorised by the law of the Australian Capital Territory for the investment of Trust Funds.
- (h) To propose the rate of membership subscriptions of the Society.
- (i) To confer and withdraw Fellow of the MHSA and Honorary membership of the Society in accordance with Section 12.

- (j) To expel or suspend members from the Society per Section 12D, and to remove from Society membership members whose subscriptions are more than three months in arrears.
- (k) To form sub-Committees of Federal Council to handle specific matters and to include non-members of the Society on them.
- (l) The Society may through its duly appointed officers, representatives and trustees hold property and enter into legal transactions to the same extent as an adult natural person of sound mind, except insofar as limited by this Constitution.

## **11. Powers – Branch Committees**

Branch Committees shall, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to the Rules of the Society, have the following powers:

- (a) To appoint a member of the Branch Committee to be a Federal Councillor representing the Branch.
- (b) To affiliate the Branch with other organisations in the Branch area having like aims or being of such a kind that the interests of members and the objects of the Branch will be advanced by such affiliation. Such affiliation does not commit the Society to affiliation at Federal level.
- (c) To make such Branch rules as are necessary for the conduct of the Branch per Section 21.
- (d) To appoint a Branch Auditor or Auditors and fix their remuneration.
- (e) To propose the rate of a Branch membership subscription, in addition to the Society subscription, for approval at a Branch general meeting.
- (f) To open and operate Branch bank accounts as authorised by members of the Branch.
- (g) To exclude members from meetings of the Branch and to recommend to Federal Council the expulsion of members from the Society.
- (h) To form sub-Committees of Branch Committees to handle specific matters and to include non-members of the Society on them.

### **11A. Election of Committee Members**

- (a) Nominations of candidates for election to a committee of the Society shall be made in writing or orally by a member of the Society, shall be subject to the candidate being a member and consenting to the nomination and shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Society or Branch not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.
- (b) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the person nominated shall be taken to be elected.

- (c) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
- (d) The ballot shall be conducted at the annual general meeting per Section 18F.
- (e) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates will be deemed to be elected and further nominations may be received and elected at the annual general meeting.
- (f) If after calling for further nominations at the annual general meeting per Subsection (e), there are no further nominations or insufficient nominations, the vacancies shall be considered to be casual vacancies.

## **11B. Secretaries**

- (a) Secretaries shall keep minutes of:
  - (i) all elections and appointments of committee members and office-bearers; and
  - (ii) the names of members of the committee present at the committee meetings or general meetings; and
  - (iii) all proceedings at committee meetings or general meetings.
- (b) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting shall be signed by the person presiding at the meeting or by the person presiding at the next succeeding meeting.
- (c) Secretaries shall have custody of all books, documents, records and registers required by these rules, other than those required to be kept by Treasurers.
- (d) The Federal Secretary shall advise branches of the name of Federal Councillors and Federal office-bearers within one month of their election or appointment.
- (e) Branch Secretaries shall advise the Federal Secretary of names and addresses of members elected to Branch committees and of Branch office-bearers within one month of their election.
- (f) Branch Secretaries shall advise the Federal Secretary of changes of address notified by ordinary members within one month of receipt of this information.

## **11C. Notice to members**

Except for the requirement in Section 18C, any notice that is required to be given to a member or a Branch, by or on behalf of the Society or a Branch, may be given by—

- (a) Delivering the notice to the member personally; or
- (b) Sending it by prepaid post addressed to the member at that member's address shown in the register of members; or
- (c) Facsimile transmission, if the member has requested that the notice be given to him or her in this manner; or

(d) Electronic transmission, if the member has requested that the notice be given to him or her in this manner.

### **11D. Vacancies**

- (a) A vacancy in a committee occurs if the member:
- (i) dies; or
  - (ii) ceases to be a member of the Society; or
  - (iii) resigns the office; or
  - (iv) is removed from office per Section 11G; or
  - (v) is absent without the consent of the committee from all meetings of the committee held during a period of six months.
- (b) Where a casual vacancy in a Committee occurs following an annual general meeting it is a vacancy in the membership of a committee for the purposes of Subsection (c).
- (c) In the event of a vacancy in the membership of a committee the committee may appoint a member of the Society to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office until the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

### **11E. Committee Meetings and Quorum**

- (a) The Federal Council shall meet at least once in each calendar quarter, but no less frequently than is necessary for the efficient conduct of the Society's business.
- (b) Branch Committees shall meet as frequently as the Branch members may require them to do for the efficient conduct of the business of the Branch.
- (c) << Deleted >>
- (d) << Blank >>
- (e) Persons nominated by Branch Committees (other than Federal Councillors appointed in accordance with Subsection 7(d)), may, with the consent of the Chairman, take part in the discussions at Federal Council meetings, but shall have no vote.
- (f) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee shall be given by the Secretary to each member of the committee at such period as may be unanimously agreed upon by members of the committee before the time appointed for the meeting.
- (g) Any three members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.
- (h) No business shall be transacted by a committee unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present,

the meeting shall be dissolved.

(j) At meeting of a committee:

(i) the President (or in the case of Federal Council in the absence of the President, the Vice-President) shall preside: and

(ii) If the President (and in the case of the Federal Council the Vice-President) is absent one of the remaining members may be chosen by the members present to preside.

(k) Ex-officio committee appointments may, on invitation, attend committee meetings and participate in discussions on matters applicable to their appointment, but do not have voting rights.

(l) A committee meeting may be held, or a committee member may take part in the meeting, by using any technology that reasonably allows the members to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.

(m) A committee member who participates in the meeting as mentioned in Subsection (l) is taken to be present at the meeting.

## **11F. Voting and Decisions**

(a) Questions arising at a meeting of a committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present.

(b) Each committee member present at a committee meeting (including the person presiding) shall be entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.

(c) Subject to Subsection 11E (g), the committee may act notwithstanding any vacancies on the committee.

(d) An act or thing done or purporting to be done by the committee is valid and effectual notwithstanding any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee.

(e) A resolution in writing signed by not less than three members of a committee shall be valid and has effect as if it had been determined in accordance with this Section at a meeting of the committee.

## **11G. Dismissal of Federal Council and Branch Committees and Committeemen**

(a) The Federal Council may be dismissed if:

(i) a referendum for the dismissal of the Council is called for by a petition of 2/3rds of the Australian membership.

(ii) Such a referendum is conducted by an independent Returning Officer nominated by the petitioners through their duly elected representatives.

(iii) Such a referendum is conducted through the Australian membership of the Society.

(iv) Referendum papers are received by the Returning Officer and opened and counted before a General Meeting called for the purpose, in an area to be fixed by the petitioners.

(v) The count is in favour of dismissal of the Federal Council.

(b) In the event Federal Council is dismissed, the Returning Officer will conduct an election for the purpose of appointing a temporary Federal Council to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting

(c) Branch committees may be dismissed on the result of a vote of 75% of the financial membership of the Branch present at any Branch Meeting or at a meeting convened specially for the purpose. The Returning Officer will conduct an election for the purpose of appointing a temporary Branch Committee to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Society or Branch in general meeting may, by resolution, remove any member of the committee including the Secretary, before the expiration of the member's term of office and appoint another member in his or her place to hold office until the expiration of the term of the first-mentioned member.

(e) A member who is the subject of a proposed resolution referred to in subsection (d) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Society or Branch as applicable (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Society or Branch.

(f) The Secretary or the President may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Society or Branch or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP

### 12. Membership

<< Deleted >>

Membership of the Society shall comprise

(a) "Fellows of the Military Historical Society of Australia", who shall be members of the Society of long standing who have made a significant contribution to the objects of the Society, are nominated by the Branch Committees or are identified by Federal Council in the case of corresponding members. Fellows shall have all the rights and privileges of Ordinary or Corresponding members of the Society (as appropriate) with subscription for life, from the date of confirmation of the Fellow membership by Federal Council.

- (b) << Deleted >>
- (c) “Ordinary members”, who shall be members of a Branch of the Society.
- (d) “Corresponding members” who elect not to become a member of a Branch.
- (e) “Honorary members” shall be non-members of the Society of good repute who have made a significant contribution to the study of military history or has contributed significantly to the advancement of the objects of the Society, and are nominated by Branch Committees. If Federal Council confirms the nomination, honorary membership shall be conferred for life. Honorary members shall receive the Society’s Journal gratis but shall have no vote and are not eligible to office at Federal or Branch level.
- (f) Fellow of the Military Historical Society of Australia membership granted under Subsection (a) may be withdrawn by resolution of Federal Council either at the request in writing of the member or in accordance with Section 12D. Honorary membership granted under Subsection (e) may be withdrawn by Federal Council either at the request in writing of the honorary member or at the discretion of the Federal Council.

### **12A. Membership Qualification**

- (a) Membership of the Society is open to any natural person pursuing any of the objects of the Society and approved for membership by Federal Council.
- (b) Unless otherwise resolved by Federal Council, on payment of the first year’s subscription of the Society, the Federal Secretary shall enter the person’s name in the register of members and, upon that entry, the person shall become a member of the Society.
- (c) A right, obligation or privilege which a person has by reason of being a member is not capable of being transferee to another person and terminates on cessation of membership.
- (d) Bodies corporate and other organisations shall not be members of the Society.

### **12B. Register of Members**

- (a) The Federal Secretary shall keep and maintain a register of Society members, and Branch Secretaries shall maintain a register of Branch members, which shall contain the names and address of each member, the date on which each member became a member and the date, if any, on which each member ceased to be a member.
- (b) The Federal and Branch Secretaries shall keep the respective register at his or her place of residence.
- (c) The register of members shall be available for inspection by members at

reasonable times.

(d) The register of members shall include details as required by Subsection (a) in respect of each Fellow of the MHSa and honorary member.

## 12C. Cessation of Membership

A person ceases to be a member if the person:

- (a) Dies; or
- (b) Resigns from membership; or
- (c) Is expelled from membership; or
- (d) Fails to renew membership within 3 months.

## 12D. Disciplining of Members

(a) The Federal Council may take disciplinary action against a member if it is determined that the member—

- (i) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of the constitution or rules; or
- (ii) has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Society.

(b) If the Federal Council is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Federal Council must appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member. The members of the disciplinary subcommittee:

- (i) may be Federal Council members, members of the Society or anyone else; but
- (ii) must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

(c) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice, no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days before the disciplinary meeting is held, to the member

- (i) stating that the Society proposes to take disciplinary action against the member and stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
- (ii) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the **disciplinary meeting**); and
- (iii) advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following—
  - (a) attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting;
  - (b) give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and

- (iv) setting out the member's appeal rights under Section 12E.
- (d) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must give the member an opportunity to be heard, and consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (e) After complying with subsection
  - (d) the disciplinary subcommittee may—
    - (i) take no further action against the member; or
    - (ii) subject to Subsection (c) —
      - (a) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
      - (b) expel the member from the Society.
- (f) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.
- (g) Where a Branch operating under an Incorporated Association approved constitution or rules conducts a discipline hearing resulting in a member being suspended or expelled from that Branch, Federal Council shall suspend or expel from the Society that member, unless the member elects to have the matter reheard in accordance with Sections 12D and 12E.

### **12E. Right of Appeal of Disciplined Member**

- (a) A member may appeal to the Society in general meeting against a resolution of the disciplinary subcommittee. The notice to appeal must be in writing and given
  - (i) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
  - (ii) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (b) Upon receipt of a notice under Subsection (a) the Federal Secretary shall notify Federal Council which shall convene a general meeting of the Society to be held within 21 days of the date on which the Federal Secretary received the notice.
- (c) At a general meeting convened under Subsection (b), no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted. Federal Council must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action, and the member shall be given the opportunity to make representations in relation to the appeal orally or in writing or both.
- (d) The members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution made under Subsection 12D (e) shall be confirmed or revoked.
- (e) If the meeting votes in favour of the confirmation of the resolution made under Subsection 12D (e), that resolution is confirmed.
- (f) In calling a general meeting as a disciplinary appeal meeting per Subsection (b), the notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Society who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must—

- (i) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
- (ii) state —
  - (a) the name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and
  - (b) the grounds for taking that action; and
  - (c) that at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

## **12F. Disputes and mediation**

- (a) The grievance procedure set out in this section applies to disputes under this Constitution between—
  - (i) a member and another member; or
  - (ii) a member and the Society or a Branch.
- (b) The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.
- (c) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- (d) The mediator must be -
  - (i) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
  - (ii) in the absence of agreement -
    - (a) in the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the committee of the Society or Branch; or
    - (b) in the case of a dispute between a member and the Society or Branch, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by an approved Dispute Settlement organisation.
- (e) A member of the Society can be a mediator.
- (f) The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.
- (g) The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (h) The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must —
  - (i) give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
  - (ii) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
  - (iii) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.
- (j) The mediator must not determine the dispute.

(k) If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute via legal action.

## FINANCE

### 13. Subscriptions

(a) The membership subscription of the Society shall be due on joining, and thereafter on the 1st day of July in each year, at rates to be determined by an annual general meeting of the Society.

(b) << Deleted >>

(c) << Deleted >>

(d) Branches of the Society may charge a Branch membership Subscription in addition to the Society Subscription. The Branch Subscription shall be determined by an annual general meeting of the Branch.

(e) Family Federal and Branch subscriptions shall be available where two or more members reside at the one address. Family subscriptions entitle the members to all the benefits of membership except that only one copy of the journal shall be delivered to each address.

### 14. Finance

(a) The Society's funds shall comprise;

(i) That portion of members' subscriptions not allocated for the use of Branches;

(ii) Sums donated to the Society for the accomplishment of its objects;

(iii) Sums raised by the Federal Council for the accomplishment of the Society's objects.

(iv) Sums resulting from winding up of Branches.

(b) The Federal Council shall be responsible to the Society for the Society's funds.

(c) Branch Funds shall comprise:

(i) That portion of Branch members' subscriptions which is allocated by the Federal Council for the use of Branch Committees;

(ii) Sums donated specifically to Branches for the accomplishment of Branch objectives;

(iii) Sums raised by Branch Committees for the accomplishment of their respective objectives.

(d) Branch Committees will account to the Federal Treasurer for all members'

subscriptions and will notify the Federal Council of details of any donations received by Branches specifically for Branch use.

(e) << Deleted >>

(f) The assets and income of the Society shall be applied solely to further its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Society except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

#### **14A. Funds Management – General**

(a) All money received shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of a bank account approved by the committee.

(b) As soon as practicable after receipt of any money an appropriate receipt shall be issued.

(c) All cheques and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by any two members of a committee, being members authorised to do so by the committee.

(d) Membership subscriptions of the Society and any other Society funds received by branches shall be remitted (less any portion authorised by Federal Council to be retained as branch funds) within one month of receipt to the Federal Treasurer, accompanied in the case of subscriptions by a schedule of the names and addresses of new members and the names of renewing members.

#### **14B. Treasurers**

In respect of Society and branch funds as defined in the Constitution, the Federal Treasurer and Branch Treasurers shall:

(a) Collect and receive all moneys due and make all authorised payments; and

(b) Keep accounting records that correctly record and explain all transactions and the financial position and are kept in such a way that true and fair accounts can be prepared from time to time and can conveniently and properly be audited; and

(c) Retain accounting records for such period after the transactions to which they relate are completed as is required by the auditor; and

(d) Be in a position to state on demand to a committee or to a general meeting the financial state of the Society or Branch including bank balances, cash in hand and current financial commitments; and

(e) Report immediately to the committee any matters which may affect the financial position of the Society or Branch; and

(f) Provide to the committee before the annual general meeting or if required before a general meeting a statement of accounts including income and expenditure and assets and liabilities for the most recently ended financial year.

#### **14C. Responsibilities of Committees**

- (a) Federal Council shall not enter into any financial commitment of any branch funds, nor of Society funds in excess of the net available cash Society funds after provision for publication and dispatch of the current calendar year's journals.
- (b) Branch committees shall not enter into any commitments in respect of any federal funds, nor of branch funds in excess of net available branch cash funds.
- (c) At each annual general meeting and if necessary at a general meeting the committee shall present for consideration an audited statement of account of the Society or branch funds, as applicable, in respect of the financial year most recently ended with a copy of the auditor's report on those accounts.

#### **15. Publications**

- (a) The Society shall publish a periodical to be known as *Sabretache*. Issues shall be made at least quarterly, and a copy provided to each member, except where a family subscription is paid, one copy per address will be provided.
- (b) Federal Council may at its discretion publish or assist in the publication of other, books journals or papers relevant to the objects of the Society.
- (c) The Federal Council may sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of the Journal and other publications of the Society at such a price per copy or on such other basis as it shall determine.

#### **16. Patrons**

- (a) The Federal Council (with the concurrence of the Branch Committee, or, in the event of disagreement, with the concurrence of a majority of the Branch committees), may invite suitable persons to accept the positions of Patron, and Vice-Patrons to the number of two, of the Society for a period of 3 years.

#### **17. Dismissal of Federal Council and Branch Committees**

<< Deleted >>

## GENERAL MEETINGS

### 18. Annual General Meetings

- (a) << Deleted >>
- (b) << Deleted >>
- (c) << Deleted >>
- (d) << Blank >>
- (e) << Deleted >>
- (f) << Deleted >>
- (g) The Federal Council and each Branch Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting of the Society or Branch, respectively.
- (h) <<Deleted>>
- (i) << Deleted >>
- (j) << Deleted >>
- (k) The notice convening the annual general meeting must specify that the meeting is an annual general meeting.
- (l) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be –
  - (i) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting; and
  - (ii) to receive from the committee reports upon the transactions of the Society or Branch during the last preceding financial year; and
  - (iii) to elect Councillors of the Society or Branch including the Secretary, and the ordinary members of the committee; and
  - (iv) to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Auditors.
- (m) The annual general meeting may conduct any special business of which notice has been given.

### 18A. Special General Meetings

- (a) In addition to the annual general meeting, any other general meetings may be held in the same year.
- (b) All general meetings other than the annual general meeting are special general meetings.
- (c) The Federal Council or Branch Committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the Society or Branch respectively.
- (d) If, but for this subsection, more than 15 months would elapse between annual general meetings, the Federal Council or Branch Committee must convene a special general meeting of the Society or Branch respectively, before the expiration of that period.

- (e) The Federal Council or Branch Committee must, on the request in writing of members representing not less than 5 per cent of the total number of members of the Society or Branch respectively, convene a special general meeting of the Society or Branch.
- (f) The request for a special general meeting must—
- (i) state the objects of the meeting; and
  - (ii) be signed by the members requesting the meeting; and
  - (iii) be sent to the address of the Secretary of the Federal Council or Branch Committee.
- (g) If the Federal Council or Branch Committee does not cause a special general meeting to be held within one month after the date on which the request is sent to the address of the Secretary, the members making the request, or any of them, may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date.
- (h) If a special general meeting is convened by members in accordance with this section, it must be convened in the same manner so far as possible as a meeting convened by the Federal Council or Branch Committee and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the special general meeting must be refunded by the Society or Branch as, applicable to, the persons incurring the expenses.

## **18B. Special business**

All business that is conducted at a special general meeting and all business that is conducted at the annual general meeting, except for business conducted under the constitution as ordinary business of the annual general meeting, is deemed to be special business.

## **18C. Notice of General Meeting**

- (a) The Federal Secretary, at least 30 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting of the Society, must cause to be sent to each member of the Society, a notice stating the place, time and date of the meeting and the nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (b) The Federal Secretary, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of a special general meeting of the Society, must cause to be sent to each member of the Society, a notice stating the place, time and date of the meeting and the nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting, unless the meeting is called to consider an amendment of this Constitution in which case at least 30 days notice is required.
- (c) A Branch Secretary, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting or a special general meeting of the Branch, must cause to be sent to each member of the Society, a notice stating the place, time and date of

the meeting and the nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting.

(d) Notice may be sent—

- (i) by prepaid post to the address appearing in the register of members; or
- (ii) if the member requests, by facsimile transmission or electronic transmission.

(e) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting may be conducted at the meeting.

(f) A member intending to bring any business before a meeting may notify in writing, or by electronic transmission, the relevant Secretary of that business, who must include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting.

### **18D. General meetings – Procedure and Quorum**

(a) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this constitution to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.

(b) Ten members present in person constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting of the Society and 25% of the members of a Branch constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting of a Branch.

(c) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present –

(i) in the case of a meeting convened upon the request of members—the meeting must be dissolved; and

(ii) in any other case—the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairperson at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.

(d) If at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members personally present (being not less than 3) shall be a quorum.

(e) The presence of a member at a general meeting need not be by attendance in person but may be by that member and each other member at the meeting being simultaneously in contact by any technology that reasonably allows the members to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.

(f) A member who participates in a general meeting as allowed under Subsection (e) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, the member is taken to have voted in person.

### **18E. Presiding Member**

The President (or, in the case of a Society general meeting, in the absence of the President the Vice-President) shall preside at each general meeting. If the President (and in the case of a Society general meeting the Vice-President) are absent from a general meeting, or unable to preside, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

### **18F. Making of Decisions**

(a) A question arising at a general meeting shall be determined on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the person presiding that resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or by a particular majority or loss, or an entry in the minute book to that effect, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour or against the resolution.

(b) At a general meeting, a poll may be demanded by the person presiding or by not less than three members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

(c) A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately and a poll that is demanded on any other question must be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the Chairperson may direct.

### **18G. Voting**

(a) Subject to Subsection (c), upon any question arising at a general meeting, only members may vote and each member has one vote only.

(b) All votes shall be given personally or by proxy but no member may hold more than 5 proxies.

(c) In the case of an equality of votes on a question, the person presiding is entitled to exercise a second and casting vote.

### **18H. Appointment of Proxies**

Each member shall be entitled to appoint in writing another member as proxy to vote on his or her behalf at a general meeting and such written appointments shall be produced on request to the person presiding.

## **18I. Adjournment of meetings**

- (a) The person presiding may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place.
- (b) No business may be conducted at an adjourned meeting other than the unfinished business from the meeting that was adjourned.
- (c) If a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given in accordance with Section 18C.
- (d) Except as provided in Subsection (c), it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be conducted at an adjourned meeting.

## **19. Auditors**

- (a) Federal Council and Branches at their Annual general meetings shall each appoint an Auditor or Auditors to hold office for the forthcoming year.
- (b) The Auditors shall report to the members in the next issue of the Journal, on the accounts examined by them and the report shall state whether or not they have obtained all the information required, and whether in their opinion the Accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs.
- (c) The Federal Auditor shall not be a member of the Society and a Branch Auditor shall not be an office-bearer of a Branch nor shall the Branch Auditor have prepared or assisted in the preparation of the accounts.

## **20. Amendments**

- (a) << Deleted >>
- (b) << Deleted >>
- (c) << Deleted >>
- (d) Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by special resolution of the Society at a general meeting. For the resolution to pass, at least 75% of the votes cast must be in favour.
- (e) The outcome of the special resolution and, if passed, the amendment details, are to be notified to each member of the Society.

## **21. Establishing Rules**

- (a) The Federal Council may make, amend or repeal the rules of the Society, not inconsistent with this constitution, for the internal management of the Society,

provided that no rule may be made, amended or repealed other than by resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of all Councillors present at a meeting of the Federal Council.

(b) A rule may be set aside by a vote of members at a general meeting of the association.

## **FORMATION & CLOSURE of BRANCHES and WINDING UP of SOCIETY**

### **22. Formation of Branch**

(a) Where members or potential members decide that they wish to form a Branch of the Society, they must hold a meeting for this purpose and elect a Chairman and Secretary for the duration of the meeting. A minute of the meeting signed by the Chairman and Secretary, listing those present at the meeting, identifying members and non-members and showing the number of votes for and against the proposal shall be forwarded to the Federal Secretary who will acknowledge receipt to the Chairman of the meeting and refer the proposal to Federal Council. In considering the proposal, Federal Council shall take into account the views of members residing in the area of the proposed Branch and may require a poll of those members to be conducted. After consideration of these views and any other relevant considerations, Federal Council may approve the formation of a Branch.

(b) If formation of a new branch is approved, the Federal Secretary shall arrange for a further meeting to be held in the locality for election of a branch committee, and shall advise all members of the Society residing in the likely catchment area, including corresponding members, of the meeting. The meeting shall be called and conducted as if it were a general meeting, and will consider, in addition to any other matters, a name for the proposed branch. The Federal Secretary and Federal Treasurer shall make arrangements to enrol members of the new branch as ordinary members and for the allocation of branch funds. Formation of the new branch shall be announced in the Society's journal.

(c) If Federal Council does not approve the formation of a new Branch, a requisition for a general meeting of the Society to consider the question may be made in accordance with Subsection 18A (e) and further determination of the question shall be in accordance with that Subsection.

### **23. Closure of Branch**

(a) Where Federal Council considers that continuing existence of a Branch is not in the best interests of the Society, it may in writing require the Branch Committee to provide within 30 days reasons why the Branch should not be closed. If not satisfied, Federal Council will notify the Branch Committee and all members of the Branch of the intention to close the Branch and the reasons for the closure and the appeal process against closure. If no appeal is lodged with the Federal Secretary within 21 days the Federal Council will by resolution close the Branch. If a notice to appeal is received, the Subsection (d) process applies.

(b) If the resolution to close the Branch is finally confirmed, the Federal Secretary shall advise all members of the Branch in writing of the decision, offering them Corresponding Membership, or membership in another branch, for any unexpired portion of their current membership subscription. Notice of the closure shall be given in the Society's journal. Federal Council will take the necessary action to settle Branch records and financial matters. Remaining Branch records, assets and funds shall be transferred to Federal Council.

(c) Where members of a Branch consider that a Branch should be closed, a general meeting of the Branch shall be convened. If a resolution to close the Branch is carried by that meeting, Federal Council shall resolve that the Branch shall be closed and further procedure shall be per Subsection (b).

(d) Upon receipt of a notice of an appeal under Subsection (a) the Federal Secretary will notify Federal Council which will convene a general meeting of the Society to be held within 21 days of the date on which the Federal Secretary received the notice. No business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted. Federal Council must state the grounds for closure of the Branch, and representations against the closure orally or in writing or both presented. If the meeting votes in favour of closure Federal Council will by resolution close the Branch and further procedure shall be per Subsection (b).

### **24. Winding Up**

(a) In the event of the Society being wound up, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members. The recipient of these funds is to be according to the wishes of the remaining members, ascertained by the retiring Federal Council.

(b) The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of Society debts and liabilities or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Society or of a branch is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership subscription of the Society and any branch membership subscription.

## MHSA BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

President	Ian Stagoll 165 Belconnen Way Hawker ACT 2614 ian.stagoll@gmail.com 02 6254 0199	2.00pm, last Thursday of the month, Jan to Nov Canberra Southern Cross Club, Jamison
Secretary/Treasurer	James Smith canberrabomber@gmail.com 0414 946 909	

### QUEENSLAND

President	Neil Dearberg	2nd Saturday Jan, Mar
Vice President	Diane Melloy	May, Jul, Sep and Nov
Secretary	David Geck geck5@bigpond.com	various locations South East Queensland
Treasurer	John Meyers	

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President	Michael English	7.30pm, 2nd Friday of each month, except Good Friday
Secretary	Elizabeth Hobbs PO Box 1209, Littlehampton SA 5250 sasec@mhsa.org.au 08 8391 4114 (h)	Army Museum of SA, Keswick Barracks, Anzac Highway, Keswick
Treasurer	John Spencer	

### VICTORIA

President	Leigh Ryan	8pm, 4th Thursday of each month except December
Secretary	George Ward PO Box 854, Croydon Vic 3136 geofw46@outlook.com	Oakleigh RSL Drummond Street Oakleigh
Treasurer	Bill Black	

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President	Steven Danaher	3rd Wednesday of every month,
Secretary	Richard Farrar 2a Zamia St, Mt Claremont WA 6010 wasec@mhsa.org.au	Officers' Mess, Army Museum of WA, Artillery Barracks, Burt St, Fremantle
Treasurer	Dick Kagi	

### TASMANIA

President	Andrea Gerrard	Meetings bimonthly,
Secretary	John Presser PO Box 309, 309 Glenorchy, TAS 7010 03 6272 2332 johnpresser@bigpond.com	Queen Victoria Gunpowder Magazine, Queens Domain, Hobart
Treasurer	(vacant)	