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# SABRETACHE

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

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**MARCH 2021**


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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**

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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***

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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**

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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.

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### Editorial

As so much news and life has been eclipsed by the global pandemic it was a breath of fresh air to travel to Canberra after Christmas and spend some time with federal president Nigel Webster. Speaking with Nigel reminded me of the incredible knowledge that the members of the Society have and are willing to disseminate. This collective wisdom is something that the Society should harness in order to increase public exposure and entice new members to join and participate. Not only does it contribute to the public's better understanding of military matters, but it also provides an outlet to discuss, analyse and debate aspects of Australian history that are not mainstream. The Society plays a significant role in Australian military history, should promote this and be recognised for its contribution.

**Justin Chadwick**

**MARCH 2021****VOLUME LXII — NUMBER 1****ISSN 0048 8933****CONTENTS**

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- 4 Papuan Infantry Battalion images from the Battalion's beginning in 1940  
Gregory J Ivey
- 8 A New Name on an Old Memorial  
Diane Melloy and David Hunter
- 13 Explaining Australia's Involvement  
Neil Dearberg
- 15 Japanese Ho-301 40 mm Cannon and Ammunition  
Kevin Driscoll
- 24 'In Our Neighbours' Soil Our Anzacs Sleep'  
Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association of Australia address 2019  
Major Paul Rosenzweig
- 32 Four Against Fifty Thousand for Five Minutes  
George Shaw and the last Anzac to leave Gallipoli  
Peter Epps
- 42 The Self-propelled (SP) Gun of the CMF  
Michael Firth
- 51 Reviews
- 60 Australia's Plywood Transports:  
De Havilland A57-1 and -2 Gliders  
Rohan Goyne
- 62 Society Matters

## Papuan Infantry Battalion images from the Battalion's beginning in 1940

Gregory J. Ivey<sup>1</sup>

I was recently informed by a former serviceman, Mark Fletcher, about some Second World War images donated to the Army Museum of NSW, Victoria Barracks, Paddington in Sydney where Mark is a volunteer. The images below are just a selection of the Port Moresby war-time photos from an album donated by the wife of the late Captain Craigie who retired in the early 1960s.

Corporal (later captain) Craigie was posted to Port Moresby in June 1940 to the 13th Heavy Battery attached to the Royal Australian Artillery. During 1940 and 1941 he took many black and white photographs around the Port Moresby area and



Image 1: Papuan men enlisting in PIB, Konedobu, c. 1940.  
Original caption: First enlistments in P.I.B.

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Ivey writes book reviews, letters and occasional articles about the Second World War in Papua New Guinea, particularly the campaigns in Papua. He served in the Australian Army in PNG and visited the well-known mainland and island battle sites. Now retired in Queensland after careers in education and training, he is the vice president and copy editor for the PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR Association.



Image 2: PIB recruits wearing ramis for parade ground drill, Konedobu, c. 1940.  
Original caption: P.I.B. Training.

later placed them in an album with a brief caption for each photo. Craigie left Port Moresby for duty in Sydney on 3 January 1942.

Another former serviceman, Frank Cordingley, has enhanced six of these images. The original photo captions were very brief and undated, so I have expanded them after looking at other Craigie album captions. For example, the location of these photos is almost certainly Konedobu. Konedobu is an historic suburb of Port Moresby, featuring government buildings. According to several sources, the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) conducted its initial recruiting and training in this suburb.<sup>2</sup>

These images were identified in 2020 which marked the 80th Anniversary of the official formation of the PIB at Port Moresby in June 1940 as a unit in the Australian Order of Battle. The PIB fought with distinction throughout the New Guinea campaigns of the Second World War and was not disbanded until the middle of 1946. From late 1944, many experienced (New Guinea) soldiers from the PIB were transferred to bolster the newly-formed New Guinea Infantry Battalions (NGIB) which saw active service in 1945 and the last of these battalions was not disbanded until late 1947. PIB and NGIB servicemen received 43 bravery awards during the War: one DSO, six MC, three DCM, 20 MM, ten MID, one US Legion of Merit, and two George Medals. The PIB and NGIB were amalgamated administratively in 1944 under the title of Pacific Islands Regiment and later awarded 11 battle honours.

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<sup>2</sup> Lahui Ako, *Nameless Warriors*, UPNG Press, Port Moresby (2012); G.M. Byrnes, *Green Shadows*, G.M. Byrnes, Newmarket (1989).





Image 5: PIB on parade with rifles, Konedobu, c. 1940.  
Original caption: Review.



Image 6: PIB platoon, Konedobu, c. 1940. The PIB appear to have worn police uniforms, for some occasions, until the PIB uniform became available.  
Original caption: P.I.B.

## A New Name on an Old Memorial

Diane Melloy and David Hunter<sup>1</sup>

A new name was added recently to the war memorial in Charleville – appropriate recognition, finally, for an Outback man who fought in Australia's 'First War' and a fitting reward for the perseverance of a long-time member of the Boer War Association Queensland.



Image 1: Charleville War Memorial, 2005.  
Source: Queensland Heritage Register.

<sup>1</sup> Diane Melloy is a researcher and writer whose main areas of interest are the AIF in France and Belgium during World War I, the Boer War, and Mary, Queen of Scots, and a member of the MHSA.

David Hunter B. Arch (Uni Q) is a community news publisher in Haddonfield, New Jersey, USA. He contributed to *Historic Public Buildings of Australia* (1971) and has been active in historic preservation.



Unveiled by Governor Sir Matthew Nathan on 9 October 1924, the heritage-listed Charleville War Memorial features a seven-metre-tall pillar of Italian marble with Ionic pilasters and entablature. Large panels on three of the pillar's four faces bear the leaded names of 310 Charleville-area residents who served in World War I, including 40 who fell. The sandstone base displays the names of those who served in World War II, and incorporates smaller marble panels commemorating other conflicts, including the Boer War.

Until recently, however, there was no recognition for the only Charleville-area resident known to have served in the Boer War. This was a significant omission, since the volunteers who joined the colours to fight for Queen and Empire in 1899-1900 and for King and Country (the newly formed Australian Commonwealth from 1 January 1901) are now appropriately designated by historians as 'Fathers of the Anzacs'.

The soldier was Joseph Lock. The absence of his name from the monument has been put right, thanks to the determination and perseverance of his daughter, Valma Hunter, an honorary life member of the Boer War Association Queensland. Born at Roma in 1877 (three months after his father's sudden death), Joseph Lock

answered the call to service in early 1901. He left the family home at Charleville, presented himself for attestation in Brisbane and, as a member of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen, sailed for South Africa on 6 March 1901, aboard the *Templemore*.

The 5th QIB joined General Plumer's column and saw action in many far-flung areas. On 4 January 1902, while on patrol at Onverwacht (the Afrikaans word means 'unexpected'), the Bushmen were ambushed by Boer guerrillas. Heavily outnumbered, they fought bravely, but in vain. Eleven were killed in action, 19 were wounded, and 45 officers and men (including the

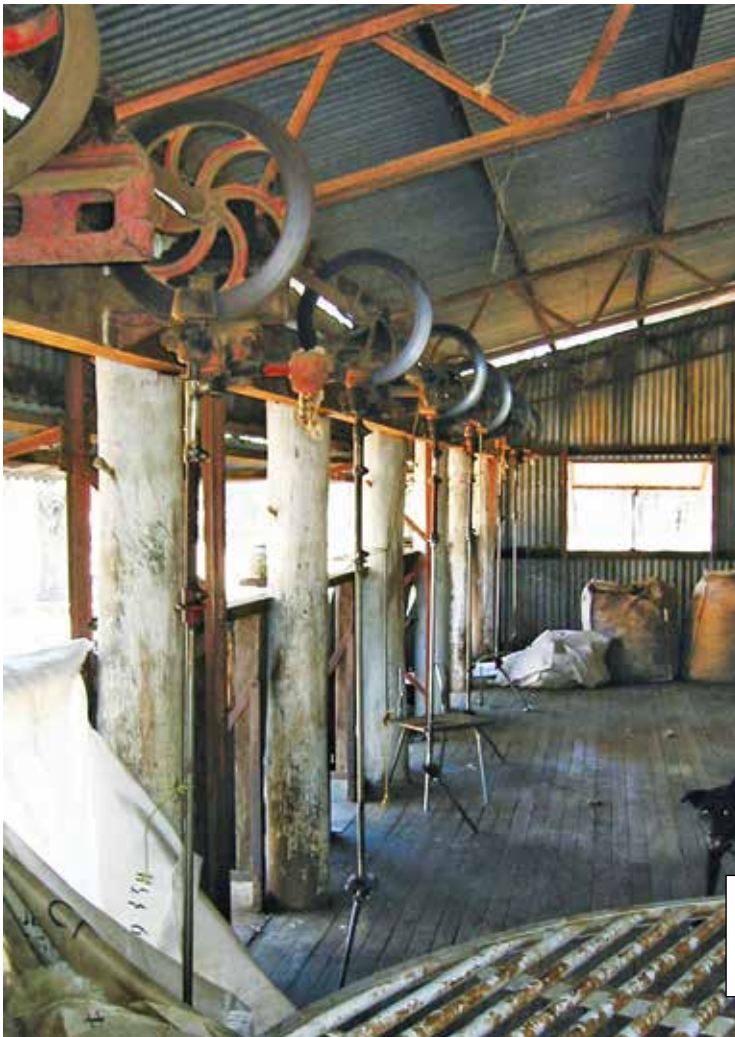


Image 2: Old shearing shed at Alice Downs, 2001.  
Source: David Hunter.

commanding officer, Major Frederick W. Toll, and Joseph Lock) were taken prisoner. The fighting at Onverwacht, in the Ermelo district of Transvaal, was the last major action of the war. A treaty ending hostilities was signed on 31 May 1902.

Corporal Joseph Lock was discharged at Cape Town on 26 March 1902. For his military service he was awarded the Queen's Medal with three clasps – Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal. Joseph returned to civilian life in the Outback during the Federation Drought, the worst drought in Australia's recorded history. (By 1903, half the nation's flock of sheep was lost, and more than 40 per cent of its cattle, nearly three million in Queensland alone.)

Following years of lonely hardship and sheer hard work, the Lock/Calcino family became well-established, prosperous graziers, owning several sheep and cattle properties in the Charleville region. Joseph Lock married Catherine Shepley, an emigrant from England, at Brisbane in 1918. Their son, George, was born in 1919 and daughter, Valma, in 1920. The Locks sold their property, Alice Downs, in 1933 and built a new residence on St. Paul's Terrace, Brisbane – Vailima Flats – in 1934. The building was heritage-listed in 2004.



Image 3: Valma Hunter with photograph of her father, Corporal Joseph Lock, at the dedication of the National Boer War Memorial, Canberra, 2017.

Source: ABC.

Accompanied by daughter Diane and son David, Valma (at age 90) visited Charleville in November 2010 for the Remembrance Day service at the war memorial. She noticed that although the names of those who served in the two world wars were listed, there was no such acknowledgment for the Boer War.

Valma is an accomplished researcher with a 'nose for news' and a passion for fostering awareness of local history. She has detailed knowledge of the history of her own pioneering family and of life as it was lived in Western Queensland.

Several years ago, Valma learned that Queensland government grants were to be made available to local communities for war memorial improvement and restoration. With the deadline looming, she moved swiftly to contact the Charleville RSL, and urged that an application be made without delay. As a result, approval was secured for a marble block bearing the name of Joseph Lock, Boer War veteran, to be added to the Charleville War Memorial. It was fixed in place in July 2020 – a new name on an old memorial.

Valma is one of the very few living first-generation descendants of Boer War veterans. In 2017, she travelled to Canberra with her daughter, Diane Melloy, to attend the dedication of the National Boer War Memorial on 31 May -- the 115th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty. In 2019, the Boer War Association Queensland honored her with life membership, and on 12 September 2020, at a meeting at Maleny RSL, Diane enrolled her mother as a member of the Military Historical Society of Australia (Queensland).

Valma Hunter is now looking forward to her 100th birthday, on 4 November 2020.



Image 4: Valma Hunter with Life Member certificate from Boer War Association Queensland, 2019.

Source: Diane Melloy.

### **Postscript**

On 20 December, 2020, Valma Hunter (née Lock), died peacefully, six weeks after her 100th birthday. Diane and David are now custodians of the extensive trove left by their mother, who was, until the end of her days, an avid and inquisitive researcher.

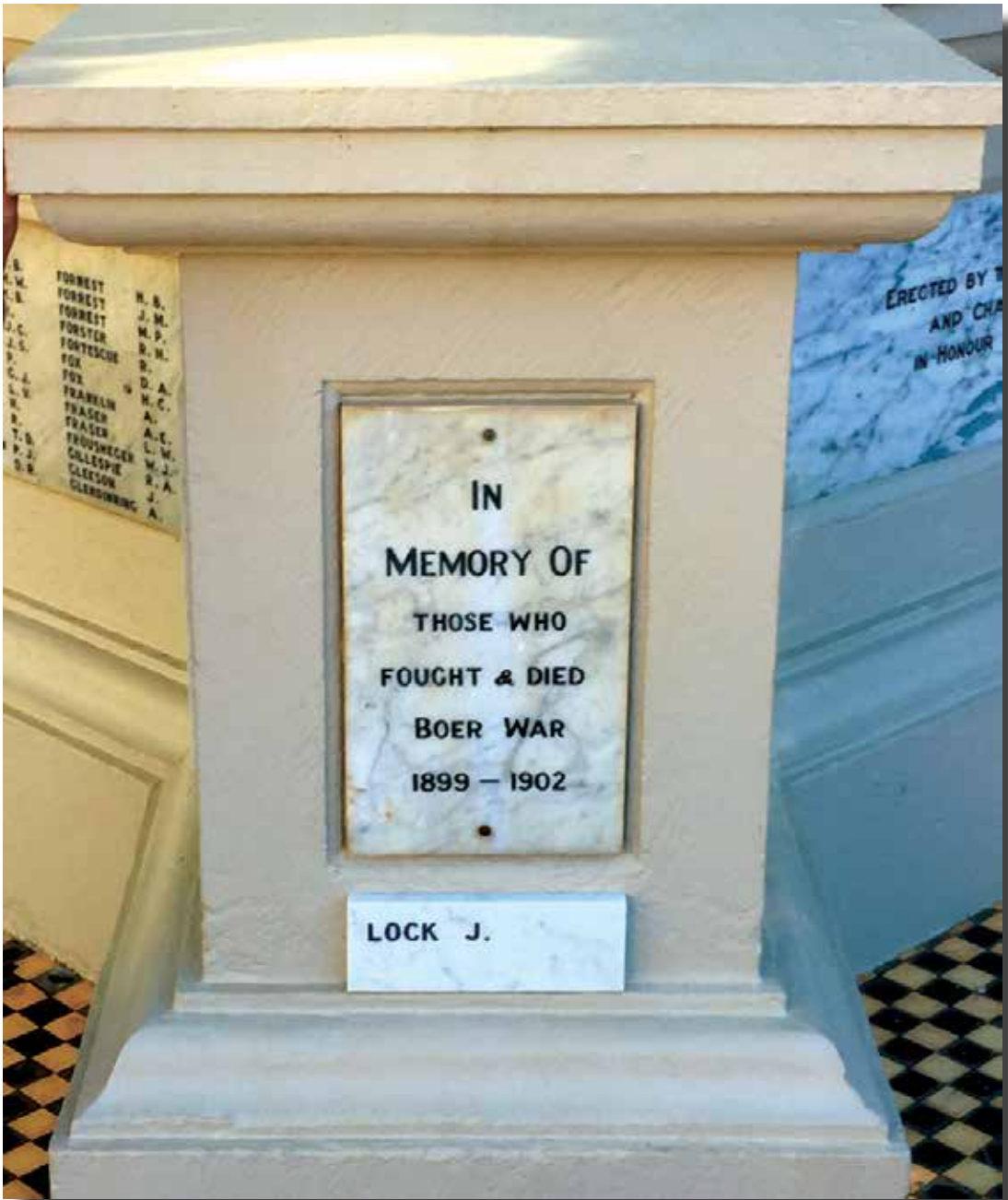


Image 5: Charleville War Memorial, 2020.  
Source: Robert Calcino.

# Explaining Australia's Involvement

Neil Dearberg<sup>1</sup>

Mark Twain once said, 'It ain't what you don't know that's the trouble. The trouble is what you know for sure that just ain't so'. This may be the case with our national history.

There have often been questions and discussions as to why Australia jumped so readily to the aid of Great Britain in WW1 and WW2, what flag did our troops fight under, why are we so closely aligned to Great Britain? But do we really understand the outburst at the outbreak of WW1 by then Governor General, Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, 'There is indescribable enthusiasm and unanimity throughout Australia in support of all that tends to provide for the security of the [British] Empire in war'?

We all know that Australia was settled as six separate British colonies from 1788. Federation, or a union, of those colonies occurred on 1 January 1901. From here the facts are sometimes blurred. Although Australia theoretically became a nation at Federation, it did not forego control by 'the Motherland'. Our politicians and officials were, after all, mostly British by birth or heritage.

It took 48 years from Federation for Australians to be recognised as their own selves. The *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948* recognised Australian citizens for the first time and took effect on 26 January 1949. So our troops in both world wars were not yet Australian citizens, they were still British subjects.

Next, our flag. The current Australian flag was gazetted by the *Official Flag Act 1953* and given royal assent early 1954 so that the current flag came into officialdom in 1954. Prior to this there had been a similar flag on blue ensign, mainly for government or official use and a red ensign background 'for the people'. The Union Jack was often used by our troops, as well as the Australian flag of the time. Some of our POWs in Japanese camps secretly made their own Aussie flags.

The British didn't give up quickly. It took until 1967 when 'British Subject' stopped being printed on the cover of Australia passports, 19 years after our citizenship act. Even decimal currency would be adopted in Australia, in February 1966, before we became ourselves and ceased being British subjects.

It would be 36 years from the time of citizenship and 17 years from the removal on passports before Australians ceased being 'British subjects' altogether, in 1984. In this same year the Governor General, Sir Ninian Stevens, on the advice of Prime Minister Bob Hawke, declared that green and gold would be the Australian official colours. Previously unofficial colours were green and gold; red, white and

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<sup>1</sup> Neil Dearberg is President of the MHSA, Queensland Division and author, *Desert Anzacs: The Untold Story of the Sinai Palestine Campaign 1916-1918*.

blue; or blue and gold, while sporting teams had used green and gold since the late 1800s.

With the cessation of being British subjects in 1984, we gave up ‘God Save the Queen’ and replaced it with ‘Advance Australia Fair’ as our national anthem.

But we still drive on the left side of the road.

## Summary

Federation 1 January 1901

Citizenship 26 January 1949

Current official flag 1954

Decimal currency in Australia February 1966

British Subject ceased appearing on Australian passports 1967

No longer British subjects 1984

Official Australian colours green and gold 1984

Advance Australia Fair became national anthem 1984



Image 1: Harold Septimus Power, *The Arrival of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York at the Opening of Federal Parliament Building, Canberra, 9 May 1927, 1928*. Source: WikiCommons.

# Japanese Ho-301 40 mm Cannon and Ammunition

Kevin Driscoll<sup>1</sup>

During January 1939 work commenced on the design of a 40 mm air-to-air cannon for the Imperial Japanese Army Air Force (IJAAF) which would deliver a heavy explosive projectile to the target. A unique feature of the cannon was its caseless ammunition design – the propellant charge and its initiator were not in a separate cartridge case but were incorporated into the rear section of the projectile. The weapon could not be considered a rocket launcher, or the projectile considered a rocket, as the propellant was fully consumed before the projectile left the barrel of the cannon.

The design of the weapon was based on the Advanced Primer Ignition principle of operation and incorporated features of the Oerlikon family of cannon, especially the recuperator spring being positioned around the outside of the barrel. For its calibre the weapon achieved a respectable rate of fire but the magazine held only ten rounds, the muzzle velocity was low and the weapon had an effective range of about 150 metres. However, the weapon was accepted for service during 1942 as the Ho-301 40 mm cannon for installation in a variant of the Nakajima KI-44 fighter.

Six Japanese agencies were involved in the design and development of the cannon and its associated ammunition. The two primary agencies were the Army Air Testing Department and the Third Air Technical Research Laboratory. The remaining agencies worked through these primary agencies. The Army Air Testing Department worked on the design and studied the effect of mounting such a weapon within the wing of an aircraft. The cannon was not afforded a high priority and a more pressing priority for the Army Air Testing Department during 1940 and into 1941 was the performance of 7.7 mm machine guns. During 1941 the priority changed to further developing 12.7 mm aircraft machine guns and generally making all aircraft machine guns and cannon as light as possible. In service at the time was a 40 mm single shot air to air cannon which the Army recognised did not satisfy the original requirement and work was switched to developing an automatic weapon in this calibre.

During 1942 the Third Air Technical Research Laboratory became involved in the project as they had been researching the reduction of the recoil forces of larger calibre weapons and they applied this knowledge to the 40 mm aircraft cannon

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin Driscoll is a retired technical author with a background of RAAF service as a warrant officer in the armament trade. After leaving the RAAF he worked in management positions in Australia and Singapore. Since then he has written technical manuals for defence and industry and has numerous articles published in *Armourer* magazine.

then under development. It was during 1942 that the caseless ammunition weapon was awarded the nomenclature of Ho-301, 40 mm cannon. The experience gained during the research and development of the Ho-301 suggested weapons of a similar design could be manufactured in larger calibres and design work commenced on the Ho-3057, a 57 mm design and the Ho-3075 of 75 mm calibre.

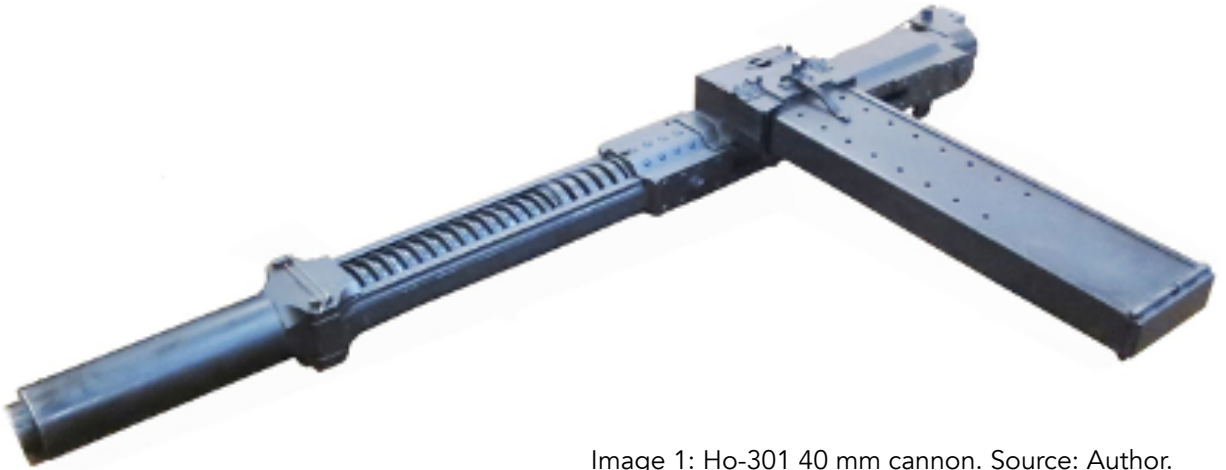


Image 1: Ho-301 40 mm cannon. Source: Author.

During 1943 functional testing of the Ho-301 revealed more work was required on the magazine feed and a strengthened recuperator spring was fitted. The ten-round magazine was problematic, but the existing design was strengthened. After the problems were rectified and tested satisfactorily on the ground, the Ho-301 was installed in the KI-44 fighter for aerial trials.

The initial velocity of the projectile was low at about 200 m/sec and work was initiated to improve the initial velocity to 400 m/sec. The resulting change was to increase the size of the propellant cavity of the projectile and increase the propellant quantity to 9.85 grams.

By 1944 Japan was coming under increasing bombardment by allied bombers. Both the Army Air testing Department and the Third Air Test Research Laboratory reported damage to their facilities and equipment as a result of the bombing, along with a shortage of equipment and material to facilitate research.



## Technical Description

The Ho-301 40 mm cannon operated on the Advanced Primer Ignition system of operation where the primer of the projectile is initiated before the projectile is fully seated in the chamber of the weapon. The cannon was manufactured in both left and right-hand feed and because of the magazine feed and caseless ammunition, no provision had to be made to dispose of either used ammunition links or fired cartridge cases.

The barrel is of single piece steel construction. The overall length of the barrel is 911 mm and the barrel bore length is nominally 20 calibres or 800 mm. That portion of the barrel which is fitted within the receiver of the cannon is of increased external diameter and threaded to engage the matching internal thread in the barrel housing. Once the barrel is correctly positioned within the barrel mounting, the barrel is locked in position by an indexing bolt located on the upper surface of the receiver.

The receiver is an assembly of five major components. The lower plate, which is machined from steel, is the major component on which the side plates and internal components of the receiver are mounted. The receiver lower plate has three cut-outs into which internal components of the receiver are mounted. The forward cut-out houses the mechanism to actuate the firing pin during the forward movement of the breech block. This mechanism comprises a rocking lever mounted on a transverse pivot pin which is actuated by the breech block as it moves



Image 2: Nakajima Ki-44 2A 'Tojo' fighter, 1945.  
Source: AWM 129713.

forward. The centre cut-out houses the loading tray which positions the next round for loading into the chamber as the breech block moves forward. The loading tray pivots on a transverse pivot pin passing through the tapered sides of the lower receiver plate.

The rear cut-out houses the sear assembly and a mechanical lock to prevent the sear assembly being inadvertently actuated during take-off, landing or other manoeuvres. The sear assembly pivots on a transverse pin which passes through the tapered sides of the lower receiver plate. The rear section of the receiver plate is formed into two lugs which form the rear mount for the cannon. Mounted on the lower plate by two sets of four bolts are the two electrical solenoids which actuate the sear assembly when the weapon is fired.

The two side plates of the receiver are steel pressings riveted to the lower plate of the receiver by 38 steel rivets per side. The side plates provide the guides for the breech block as well as the channels in which the two linkages, which connect the breech block to the yoke, travel. Mounted on the outside of the side plates are two cylindrical mounting trunnions. Machined in each side plate is a slot which accommodates the cocking piece for the breech block. The thickness of the side plates increases towards the rear of the receiver where the receiver is closed by a buffer unit and winch assembly, held in place by a transverse pin secured by a spring clip.

The upper plate is a pressed steel plate riveted to the side plates of the receiver.

Mounted on the upper plate of the receiver is the magazine holder, a welded steel fabrication which accepts the magazine. The 'hand' of the magazine holder determines the 'hand' of the weapon.

The breech block has vertical parallel sides. The lower surface is recessed with a machined shoulder which is engaged by the sear when the breech block is in the cocked position. A circular piston like protrusion on the forward face of the breech block is machined with three angular rings which act as a partial seal of the chamber when the round is fired. The breech block is drilled longitudinally to accept the firing pin.

The magazine is of pressed steel construction and is fitted with a compression spring and a roller assembly which bears against the rounds of ammunition within the magazine. A lever actuated ammunition retaining pawl retains the ammunition within the magazine until the magazine is inserted into the magazine holder of the cannon.

A yoke fits over the barrel of the weapon to retain the two recuperator springs in position. The yoke is connected to the breech block by two steel linkages which travel along the left and right side of the barrel before entering the body of the receiver. During recoil the rear face of the yoke acts upon the recoil springs compressing them as the breech block moves to the rear. At the end of the recoil

stroke the compressed recuperator springs act on the rear face of the yoke to drive the yoke and the interconnected breech block forward.

The buffer unit arrests the rearward travel of the breech block and the winch assembly is used to cock the cannon. A loop formed in the free end of the winch cable is looped over the breech block retracting lug and when the winch is operated via a removable winch handle, the breech block is drawn to the rear until it is engaged by the sear. Once the weapon is cocked the winch cable is removed from the breech block retracting lug and stowed.

## **Weapon Operation**

Ammunition for the Ho-301 cannon was supplied ten rounds to a wooden box without the fuse installed. A wood flour polymer transit cap is fitted to the nose of the projectile and a metal transit cap is installed on the base of the round. Ten fuses are individually wrapped in paper and packed in a separate drawer within the wooden box.

The ammunition is prepared by removing the transit caps and installing the fuse to the nose of each round. The ammunition is then loaded into the magazine and the magazine inserted into the magazine holder. Locking the magazine into the magazine holder allows the spring of the magazine to position a round for loading. The weapon is cocked using the winch assembly and once cocked the winch cable and winch handle are stowed.

When the pilot selects the weapon and depresses the firing button the firing solenoids disengage the sear from the breech block and the compressed recuperator springs drive the breech block forward collecting a round from the loading tray and carrying it into the chamber of the cannon. Before the projectile is fully seated in the chamber, the firing pin is actuated and strikes the impact primer in the base of the projectile. The primer ignites the propelling charge and the projectile commences to travel through the barrel of the cannon. Pressure from the burning propellant acting on the breech block slows and then reverses the direction of travel of the breech block. The breech block and the interconnected yoke then move towards the rear of the cannon, the yoke compressing the recuperator springs and the buffer assembly stopping the rearward movement of the breech block. If the pilot has released the firing button the sear shall engage the breech block in the open position. If the pilot continues to depress the firing button the cannon shall continue firing until the button is released or the ammunition is expended.

## Ho-301 Technical Data

Calibre:	40mm
Length:	1480mm (58.25 in.)
Width (with magazine):	806mm (31.75 in.)
Weight:	57.9kg (127.5 lb)
Method of operation:	Advanced Primer Ignition (API)
Muzzle velocity:	246 m/sec (807 ft./sec)
Nominal rate of fire:	450 rpm
Nominal range:	150 m (164 yds.)
Nominal projectile weight:	590 grams (20.8 oz.)
Barrel:	Eight grooves, right-hand twist
Barrel length:	800 mm (31.49 in.)

## Ho-301 Ammunition

The 40 mm caseless ammunition comprises a steel body divided into two longitudinal cavities. The forward cavity holds the high explosive charge and the rear cavity the propellant charge. A simple direct acting impact fuse is installed in the nose of the projectile and the gases generated by the burning propellant leave through a series of vent holes in the base plate of the projectile. The impact primer is also installed in the base plate of the projectile. A copper driving band is fitted around the circumference of the projectile forward of the projectile base. The projectile sides are parallel for the majority of the projectiles length before forming a bourrelet and then tapering down to the fuse cavity.

The projectile body is varnished black overall with a red band painted around the fuse cavity and a yellow band painted mid-way between the fuse cavity and the driving band.

The body of the fuse is manufactured from duralumin rod. The fuse body



Image 3: Ho-301 Ammunition. Source: Author.

is not painted nor anodised but retains its natural finish and is bored with three diameters through its longitudinal centreline to accommodate the striker and the explosive gaine. Three ports are drilled and threaded in the fuse body forward of the base of the fuse. Two of these ports are diametrically opposed and each houses a brass centrifugal locking bolt and spring. Each port is closed by a threaded brass closure plug. The third drilled and threaded port, at right angles to the diametrically opposed ports, houses the centrifugal forked bolt which prevents the striker from impacting the gaine until the fuse is armed by the centrifugal force of the projectile passing through the barrel.

The head of the striker is protected by a thin copper windshield held in place by a copper washer and both are covered by a layer of shellac lacquer.

Screwed into the base of the impact fuse is the explosive gaine with is detonated when the projectile strikes the target. The exploding gaine detonates the main charge of the projectile housed within the forward cavity.



Image 4: Ho-301 40 mm ammunition detail. Source: Author.

The forward cavity of the projectile houses the explosive charge which comprises three individually wrapped explosive pellets. A hemispherical TNT charge which conforms to the shape of the septum at the base of the cavity is loaded first, followed by a solid explosive pellet and finally by an annular pellet with a hollow centre to accommodate the gaine of the impact fuse.

The rear cavity houses the propulsive charge of 9.85 grams of double based propellant. The propellant is contained within a silk bag which sits within a light alloy retaining cup. The retaining cup has a central hole through which the flame from the initiator passes to ignite the propulsive charge. The rear cavity is closed by a threaded steel base plate which houses the percussion primer.

### **Ho-301 Ammunition – Technical Data**

Calibre:	40 mm
Overall length (fuse installed):	129 mm (7.07 in.)
Overall length (without fuse):	108 mm (4.25 in.)
Forward cavity	
Depth:	67 mm (2.63 in.)
Internal diameter:	32 mm (1.25 in.)
Rear Cavity	
Depth:	36 mm (1.41 in.)
Internal diameter:	30.1 mm (1.18 in.)
Projectile weight:	590 g (20.8 oz.)
Explosive filling:	51.1 g (1.8 oz.)
Propellant charge:	9.8 g (0.3 oz.)

### **Aircraft Installation**

The Ho-301 40mm cannon was an optional armament installation for the KI-44-IIb version of the Nakajima Army Type 2 Single-Seat Fighter. The KI-44 first flew during 1940 and remained in production through 1944 when the 1223rd and last aircraft was delivered. The aircraft was initially armed with 7.7 mm and 12.7 mm machine guns and the optional installation of two Ho-301 40mm cannon in the KI-44-IIb model, significantly increased the firepower of the aircraft. However, to be effective, the attacking pilot had to get within 150 metres of his target, against the targets defensive fire, generally multiple .50 calibre machine guns, or in the case of the B29 Superfortress, possibly a 20 mm cannon.

For these reasons the Ho-301 was not a popular weapon, however, if a pilot was successful in breaching the defences of a bomber, a single hit from Ho-301 projectile could be devastating.

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## **'In Our Neighbours' Soil Our Anzacs Sleep'**

**Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association of Australia address 2019**

### **Major Paul Rosenzweig<sup>1</sup>**

In Adelaide on Saturday 24 August 2019, the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association of Australia (NMBVAA) hosted its annual service of commemoration to honour the contribution of Australian Defence personnel in the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

This ceremony, in the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Hilton, marked the 59th Anniversary of the end of the Malayan Emergency, and the 53rd anniversary of the ceasefire and declaration of the end of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. The principal guest of honour was His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia – who is Patron of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA. Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) gave the commemorative address.

### **Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day**

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia and Patron of the SA/NT Branch, National Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association of Australia

Branch President Mr Brian Selby, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning – Selamat Pagi Semua

Today we gather to commemorate two military campaigns of which very little is known by the general public. Australia's commitment to both post-war campaigns on the Malay Peninsula and on Borneo fell within the context of its membership of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve.

In Perak State on the Malay Peninsula on 16 June, 71 years ago, three European plantation managers were executed by members of the Malayan Communist Party. A local State of Emergency was declared on 18 June, and then emergency measures were enacted throughout the Federation of Malaya from July.

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<sup>1</sup> Major Paul A Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) is an Australia Day Ambassador for South Australia, and is the Public Affairs Officer for the South Australia and Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association of Australia Inc.



The Malayan Emergency was an ‘undeclared war’, which lasted from 1948 until the Government of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960.<sup>2</sup> The rubber plantation and tin-mining executives had urged the use of the term ‘emergency’ since their losses would not have been covered by Lloyd’s insurers if it had been termed a ‘war’.

Then, between 1962 and 1966, following the Brunei Revolt and a series of cross-border raids into Malaysian territory, Indonesia and Malaysia fought a small, undeclared war known as Confrontation. Australian units fought in Borneo and West Malaysia as part of a larger British and Commonwealth force under overall British command.<sup>3</sup>

Continuing negotiations between Indonesia and Malaysia saw the two sides signing a peace treaty in Bangkok on 11 August 1966, bringing the conflict to an end.

In 2011, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs designated 31 August (the date of Malayan independence in 1957) as the official date of commemoration for these two campaigns.

## **The fallen**

Today I’d like to focus on the fallen. For a variety of reasons, the records are incomplete and there is not, as yet, a comprehensive nominal roll of all who served in these conflicts.

Several of the fallen are known by their initials only, and three names have only been added to the Rolls of Honour in the last six years.<sup>4</sup>

Australia’s involvement in the Malayan Emergency was one of this nation’s longest continuing military commitments. During the prescribed period of the Emergency up to 31 July 1960, 39 Australian servicemen lost their lives.<sup>5</sup>

A further six died on operational service in Malaya and Singapore in the period immediately following the closing date for this campaign – these deaths are

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2 The prescribed period for both the Naval General Service Medal, 1915-1962 and the General Service Medal, 1918-1962 with clasp ‘MALAYA’ was between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960; for service in Singapore, the date period was between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1959.

3 The prescribed period for the clasp ‘BORNEO’ was service in Northern Borneo between 24 December 1962 and 11 August 1966. The prescribed period for the clasp ‘MALAY PENINSULA’ was service on the Malay Peninsula, and in contiguous waters including the Strait of Malacca, between 17 August 1964 and 12 June 1965 (11 August 1966 for aircrew), or in Singapore between 17 August 1964 and 8 August 1965.

4 2411093 Bombardier Barrington Algar; 215303 Gunner Stephen Wallis Danks; 42960 Signalman John Darrell Tassell.

5 RAN 2, Army 27, RAAF 10.

not listed by the Australian War Memorial under 'Malayan Emergency', although some are listed under the title 'Southeast Asia, 1955-1975'.

During the general period of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, 26 Australians lost their lives on operational service.<sup>6</sup> Two of these died on operational service in the period immediately before or during Confrontation and are listed on panel 3 in the Commemorative Area under the title 'Malay Peninsula, 1964-1966'.<sup>7</sup> Another two are not listed at the Australian War Memorial.<sup>8</sup>

This total of 26 includes the two servicemen whose names were added to panel 3 in the AWM Commemorative Area in June 2013,<sup>9</sup> and another which was added in late 2017.<sup>10</sup>

Among the fallen from Confrontation were three National Servicemen or former National Servicemen.<sup>11</sup>

Of the total of 71 fallen from the era, four were members of the RAN, thirteen were members of the RAAF, and 54 were Army.

And Confrontation wasn't just confined to the Malay Peninsula: of those who died, five died in Sabah and nine died in Sarawak.

## Burials

On 2 June 2016, two RAAF C-17A Globemaster aircraft brought home 33

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6 22 during the prescribed period (Army 21, RAAF 1) and a further four on operational service associated with Confrontation (RAN 2, Army 2). A113169 Aircraftman John Lynden Kirkwood, Air Defence Guard, Base Squadron, RAAF Ubon (19 November 1966, accidental death – house fire) is not included in this total: the Australian War Memorial lists his identity photograph under 'Indonesian Confrontation, 1962-1966', but he is listed on the AWM Rolls of Honour under the title 'Thailand, 1965-1968' (panel 3).

7 29720 Lieutenant David John Brian, 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 March 1964, Malaya/Thailand Border, peninsular Malaysia); Acting Sub-Lieutenant John Morgan Hutchison RAN, No 816 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm (24 March 1965, Strait of Malacca).

8 13339 Private Francis Noel O'Sullivan (14 November 1963, Terendak Camp, peninsular Malaysia); Lieutenant Edward George Kennell RAN, No 816 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm (28 April 1966, Philippine Sea).

9 2411093 Bombardier Barrington Algar (23 September 1964, Penang / RAAF Butterworth); 215303 Gunner Stephen Wallis Danks (24 January 1965, Penang / RAAF Butterworth), both 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA.

10 42960 Signalman John Darrell Tassell, 208th (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron (4 April 1966, northeastern peninsular Malaysia).

11 3411676 Sapper R N Bridgland (31 July 1966) and 5713692 Sapper G F Mills (9 August 1966), both of 22 Construction Squadron, RAE, and 14172 Lieutenant K A Hudson from 2 SAS Squadron (21 March 1966). Refer here: <http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/Honour%20Roll.htm>

12 Re-interments took place in every state and territory in Australia excluding Tasmania. By request, 14 re-interments were in war cemeteries in Sydney, Melbourne, Sale, Adelaide, Perth and Adelaide River. For the remaining veterans and dependants, cremations or re-interments in general cemeteries were elected including one in the United Kingdom. The non-Vietnam War Servicemen returned were Lieutenant David John Brian; Signalman Kenneth Charles Johnson; and Signalman John Darrell Tassell.

Australian Service personnel and dependents from cemeteries at Terendak in Malaysia and Kranji in Singapore.<sup>12</sup> Most of the military personnel were casualties of the Vietnam War – but *three* of them were from Confrontation.

One was Signaller John Darrell Tassell, who had originally been buried in the Terendak War Cemetery in Malacca, Malaysia. John had died in a motor vehicle accident in northeastern peninsular Malaysia on 4 April 1966. He was an Australian signaller, serving on attachment to the 208th (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group. John was re-interred in Enfield Memorial Park on 10 June 2016, and is the only Confrontation fatality at rest in South Australia.

The Australian repatriation policy in place at that time directed that Service personnel who died overseas after World War 2 were to be interred in the closest practicable Commonwealth cemetery. From the early 1960s though, the next of kin could have the remains returned to Australia at their own expense. This post-war repatriation policy changed on 21 January 1966, after which time Service personnel who died overseas were meant to be returned to Australia at public expense.

What this recent repatriation exercise highlighted is that all the fallen from the Vietnam War – who were buried ‘halfway home’ – have effectively now been repatriated.<sup>13</sup> However the same is not true for the Emergency and Confrontation. Emergency: Of the 45 Australian fallen from the Malayan Emergency and immediately after: one was buried at sea in Malayan waters;<sup>14</sup> one was lost in an aircraft crash in the South China Sea;<sup>15</sup> and one has no grave identified.<sup>16</sup>

The remainder were buried in a variety of places, and it might surprise most people that none of these 42 are at rest in Australia.

Confrontation: Of the Australian fallen from the period of Confrontation: two were lost at sea and have no known grave.<sup>17</sup>

13 Three Vietnam War casualties were not brought home because the families declined the government’s offer.

14 R49694 Able Seaman R W Spooner (26 April 1957).

15 A22152 Pilot III Gordon John McDonald, airman pilot (31 August 1950).

16 O52768 Flight Lieutenant Dennis St George Greaves Oates (10 July 1959).

17 Acting Sub-Lieutenant J M Hutchison RAN (24 March 1965) and Lieutenant E G Kennell RAN (Philippine Sea, 28 April 1966). Kennell is not listed on the Australian War Memorial website nor on the Rolls of Honour; Hutchison is listed under the title ‘Malay Peninsula, 1964-1966’.

18 O19993 Flying Officer V J Cowen (19 September 1965), 38094 Private P J Robinson (25 February 1966), 311512 Private V H Richards (20 June 1966), 2411093 Bombardier B Algar (23 September 1964) and 215303 Gunner S W Danks (24 January 1965). The names of Danks and Algar were not originally listed by the AWM in its Rolls of Honour; after protracted negotiations the names were added in June 2013, under the title ‘Indonesian Confrontation, 1962-1966’.

19 5976 Sergeant R J Weiland (23 March 1965), 61207 Sergeant V P Vella (17 May 1965), 3411676 Sapper R N Bridgland (31 July 1966) and 5713692 Sapper G F Mills (9 August 1966).

20 37746 Private D M Millane (27 August 1965, ex-Malaysia) and 14840 Corporal R C Patch (20 May 1966, ex-Sarawak).

Five were returned to Australia for burial,<sup>18</sup> and four were cremated in Singapore and repatriated.<sup>19</sup> Two died in Australia and were buried locally.<sup>20</sup>

Three were buried in Terendak Military Cemetery in Malacca, but have since been repatriated, as mentioned.<sup>21</sup>

For four decades, two had no known grave, but their remains were subsequently recovered and repatriated in April 2010.<sup>22</sup>

Seven were buried in Ulu Pandan Cemetery in Singapore, and in 1975 were exhumed and re-interred in Kranji Military Cemetery.<sup>23</sup> One remains buried in Kuala Lumpur.<sup>24</sup>

### **Kranji Military Cemetery**

One of the more tragic of the deaths – the first member of Australia’s Special Air Service Regiment to die on active service – resulted not from enemy action, but through being gored by a rogue elephant. Paul Denehey was a signaller from 1 Squadron, SAS, deployed with patrol 12 on Operation ‘Sharp Look’ in the mountainous hinterland of Sabah, on the border with Indonesian Kalimantan. Lance Corporal Denehey was buried with full military honours in the Ulu Pandan Military Cemetery in Singapore on 12 June 1965.

By the early 1970s, the Singapore Government was finding it necessary to close down Ulu Pandan Cemetery to make way for urban development. Accordingly, around September 1975 families were notified of a choice of alternative options to be carried out at public expense, which could have led to Paul’s remains being repatriated.

However the letter from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in England was received by the family one month after the closing date for responses. As a result, Lance-Corporal Denehey was one of the many Servicemen and their families who were exhumed and re-interred in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore.

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21 29720 Lieutenant D J Brian (5 March 1964), 213347 Signalman K C Johnson (3 July 1965) and 42960 Signalman J D Tassell (4 April 1966). Brian is listed on the AWM Rolls of Honour under the title ‘Malay Peninsula, 1964-1966’. Tassell was not originally listed on the AWM Rolls of Honour; after protracted negotiations his name was added in late 2017 under the title ‘Indonesian Confrontation, 1962-1966’

22 14172 Lieutenant K A Hudson and 2412209 Private R C Moncrieff (21 March 1966).

23 1200029 Private L R Downes (17 May 1965), 37562 Lance-Corporal P H Denehey (6 June 1965), 58702 Sapper A J Colohan (16 December 1965), 6363 WO2 M C Hutchinson (8 April 1966), 215881 Private L M O’Carroll (27 May 1966), 14982 Private J W Jones (28 May 1966) and 342550 Corporal P J J West (2 July 1966).

24 13339 Private F N O’Sullivan (14 November 1963). O’Sullivan is not listed on the AWM website nor on the Rolls of Honour.

Paul's slow, lingering death over five days in the jungle may have been tragic enough, but his mother Kathleen died in 1994 and it was her dying wish that her son's remains would one day come home. Lance-Corporal Denehey still remains at rest in Kranji Military Cemetery today – the government's offer of repatriation in 2015, and carried out in 2016, did not extend to those buried in accessible cemeteries in Malaysia or Singapore.

Paul Denehey is today one of *50 Australian* fallen from the Malayan wars – 42 from the Emergency and 8 from Confrontation – who remain buried overseas:

*In Malaysia:*

28 have graves in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak

6 are buried in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery<sup>25</sup>

3 are buried in the Kuala Lumpur (Cheras Road) Civil Cemetery<sup>26</sup>

*In Singapore:*

13 are buried in Kranji Military Cemetery: 6 from the Emergency<sup>27</sup> and 7 from Confrontation.<sup>28</sup>

## Commemoration

In an interview I recently did with 'Service Voices', Helen asked me why I am so concerned about research and commemoration. I go back to the 1990s when I went to Ambon several times, and I was walking around the War Cemetery there with the Gull Force veterans, then in their 80s, who were paying their respects at the headstones of their mates – all still aged 19 or 20. I think I speak for all the veterans here when I say, if something had happened to me during my service overseas, I'd like to think that someone in years to come would make the effort to remember me.

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25 A32323 Corporal J M O'Donnell (17 March 1957), A312847 Leading Aircraftman D J Hall (4 March 1959), A218384 Leading Aircraftman W P Duffy (26 July 1959), A312178 Aircraftman J G Lawson (26 July 1959), A217227 Leading Aircraftman C J Rowe (18 September 1959) and O15609 Flying Officer M V Curtis (16 June 1961).

26 A197 Warrant Officer G R Tait (22 April 1951), 2/7789 Sergeant L A Tucker (26 February 1961) and 13339 Private F N O'Sullivan (14 November 1963).

27 A31167 Warrant Officer H B Brown (9 April 1953), A51076 Leading Aircraftman M Murphy (3 December 1956), R51381 Cook A C Cooper (25 December 1957), 1/2817 Corporal J R Harrison (31 May 1960), O3606 Wing Commander N H Nixon DFC (9 February 1961), 2/8409 Lieutenant C W Bridge (28 July 1961).

28 1200029 Private L R Downes (17 May 1965), 37562 Lance-Corporal P H Denehey (6 June 1965), 58702 Sapper A J Colohan (16 December 1965), 6363 WO2 M C Hutchinson (8 April 1966), 215881 Private L M O'Carroll (27 May 1966), 14982 Private J W Jones (28 May 1966) and 342550 Corporal P J J West (2 July 1966): all re-interred from Ulu Pandan Cemetery in Singapore in 1975.

The sacrifice of our 71 Australians who died on operational service during the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation was not in vain – serving to uphold the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaya, allowing the successful attainment of Malayan independence on 31 August 1957, and the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

But while we honour the sacrifice of these 71 Australians, we should note that just sixteen of them are at rest in Australia.

So let us lay a wreath today, and recall the sacrifices our colleagues and forebears made overseas. Let us especially remember the five who have no known grave, and the 50 who remain at rest overseas in the soil of our neighbours.

Lest we Forget

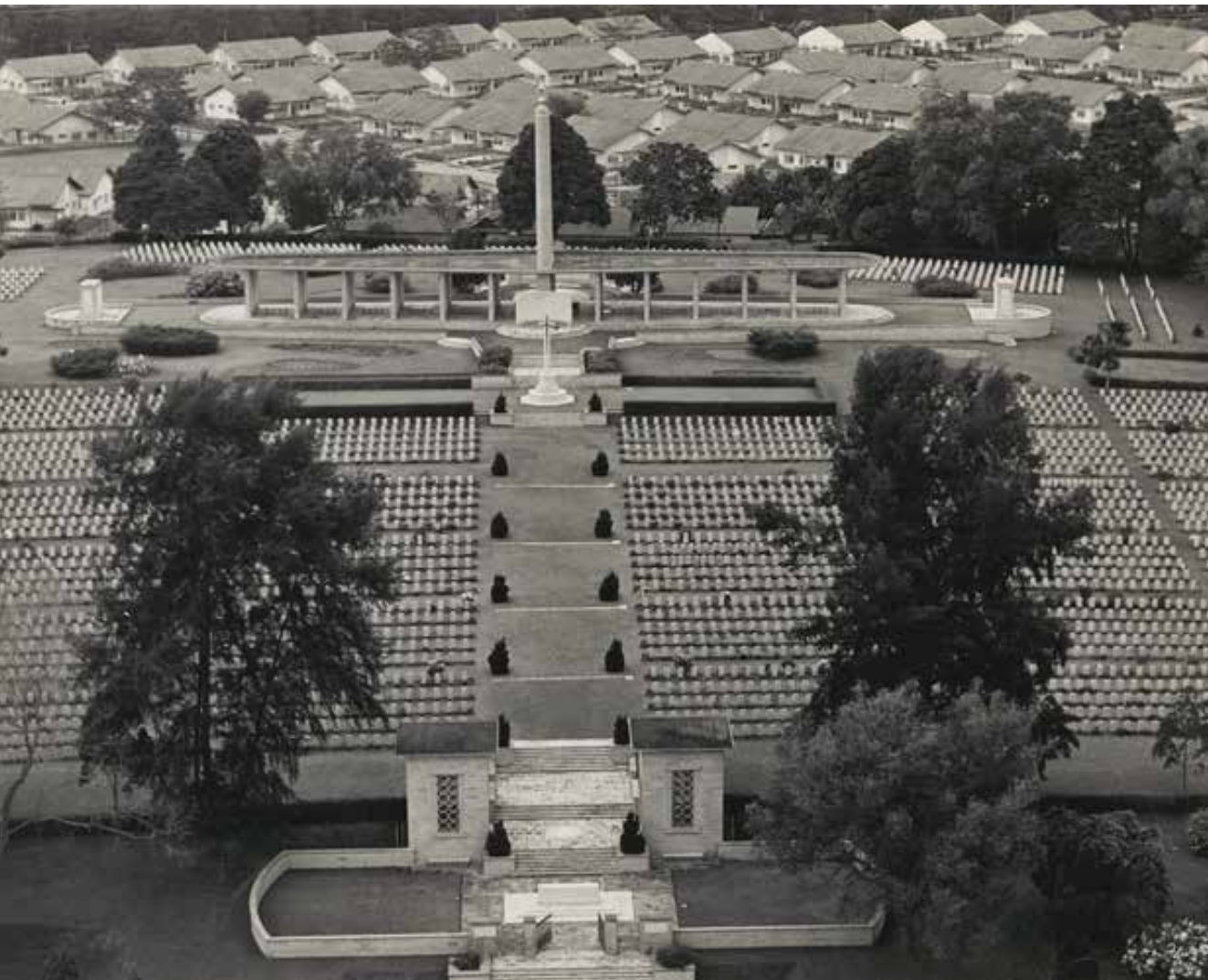


Image 1: Kranji military cemetery. Source: AWM P02569.197.

## Postscript

On Thursday 29 August 2019, the SA/NT Branch of the NMBVAA held another service of commemoration, this time in Malaysia – in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching, Sarawak. Together with their counterparts from the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association, and Malaysian army and police veterans, they honoured the contribution of Commonwealth personnel in these two post-war campaigns.

The Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr Andrew Golezdzinowski AM, gave a commemorative address. He placed a wreath on behalf of Australia at the NMBVA Australia plaque, accompanied by Commander Doug Griffiths RAN, Australian Assistant Defence Adviser to Malaysia.

The New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr Hunter Nottage, also gave a commemorative address, and placed a wreath at the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association plaque, accompanied by Wing Commander Brent Byers RNZAF.

A wreath honouring all Commonwealth forces was placed by the Honourable Datuk Lee Kim Shin, Assistant Minister for Tourism, Art and Culture (Sarawak).

Permission to place a nation's memorial overseas is a rare privilege. Until this time, Australia and New Zealand were the only foreign allied countries given permission to place a public memorial within the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park. An Australian Special Air Service Regiment plaque was unveiled on 4 August 2015, a small 4RAR plaque was dedicated on the entrance pathway on 25 April 2016, the Australian NMBVAA plaque was unveiled on 29 August 2016, and the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association plaque was unveiled on 29 August 2017. For the 2019 ceremony, three new plaques were installed on the memorial wall – one of them honoured the service of the RAF, and particularly RAF Base Kuching, during Confrontation. Another was placed by the National Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association (UK), and a third honoured the Malay Police (Sarawak Component) killed during these campaigns.

The Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching is now a primary site of commemoration for the Malayan wars – World War 2, the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

In the response to the Australian and New Zealand addresses, Major Paul Rosenzweig (ret'd) particularly noted that 37 Australians remain buried in Malaysia – 'and we thank you for looking after our Anzacs'.

## Four Against Fifty Thousand for Five Minutes

### George Shaw and the last Anzac to leave Gallipoli

**Peter Epps**

As I collected the Saturday newspaper off my front lawn on 25 August 1984, little did I know that an article in that paper would set me off on a very challenging research project. The article was entitled 'The Silent Stunt' and was about Lt George Duncan Shaw, a Western Australian WWI soldier who had just passed away, aged 90. The paper made the startling statement that he was the 'LAST ANZAC to leave Gallipoli in 1915'. After reading the article I thought 'Another claim to be the LAST', so started a most fulfilling research project.

As a result of my research, I have been able to locate numerous pieces of information that concerned Shaw, including copies of some of his letters, one written in June 1916 to his mother and three (1959, 1972 and 1975) written to 'John', telling of his return trips to Gallipoli.

George Duncan Shaw was born in Melbourne, Victoria, on 17 February 1894. Most of his early life is unknown to me, but according to his service records he was educated at Adelaide Primary, Adelaide Junior Schools and completed the Adelaide University exam for Mechanical Engineering in 1909. He enlisted in 1909 into the 84th (Goldfields) Regiment, Kalgoorlie, which was a militia unit, as a volunteer bandsman. He was appointed a lance sergeant under the Compulsory Training Scheme in 1911 and in 1913 was transferred to the 86th Regiment in Fremantle. Shaw attended training courses at Randwick, NSW and Guildford, WA, receiving a musketry certificate (machine gun) and a certificate in field engineering respectively. He also qualified for sergeant during his time with the regiment. But no dates are mentioned.<sup>1</sup>

He enlisted in the A.I.F. on 5 May 1915 and was posted to the 28th Infantry Battalion.

I was a Lance Sergeant M.G in the 86th Infantry when war was declared, I tried to enlist but being under 21 could NOT obtain parents consent. On reaching the age of 21, I then went to Blackboy and enlisted as a private. Was attested and when the 28th was formed was an Act Serg in a company.<sup>2</sup>

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1 War service records, NAA B883.

2 Letter from Shaw to Central Army records, Melbourne, 27 October 1962, NAA B883.





Image 1: George Shaw. Source: AWM 018154.

He applied for a commission on 6 May and was appointed second lieutenant of the machine gun section on 10 May.

Lt Menz from the 84th who knew my credentials obtained my transfer to the M.G. and when he was promoted to Capt, I also obtained my first appointment. 10th May 1915.<sup>3</sup>

The 28th Battalion embarked from Fremantle aboard transport ship A.11 *Ascanius* on 9 June 1915 and disembarked at Alexandria, 30 June 1915.<sup>4</sup> Shaw was promoted to Lieutenant 27 August 1915 and, after further training in Egypt, the battalion embarked at Alexandria on 3 September aboard the S.S. *Ivernia*, the ultimate destination being Gallipoli, via Lemnos. The following morning the *Ivernia* passed through the submarine boom and into Mudros anchorage. On 10 September 1915 the troops transhipped to the *Sarnia* and at 4.30pm steamed for Gallipoli, 100 kilometres northeast. The 28th Battalion served at Anzac for the rest of the campaign.

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<sup>3</sup> Letter from Shaw to Central Army records, Melbourne, 27 October 1962, NAA B883.

<sup>4</sup> Neville Browning, *The Blue & White Diamond: The History of the 28th Battalion 1915-1919*, Advance Press, Bassendean (2002), p. 47.

Lieutenant Shaw commanded the battalion's machine gun section and, on 5 December 1915, the 28th Battalion relieved the 26th Battalion which was holding Russell's Top, a crucial position in the strategy of the evacuation of Anzac, because it overlooked the beach and obstructed the Turk's view of the Anzac Cove, from which the last 22,000 troops remaining at Anzac were to be safely taken off.

On December 11, Lt Col Collett, C.O. of 28th Battalion, sent for Shaw, and instructed him to select sixteen volunteers with four machine guns for an unspecified mission.<sup>6</sup>

I was told by the Colonel that it was a 'stunt' and to select the best gunners. I did NOT volunteer – I was ordered.<sup>7</sup>

Shaw was told that he was to be in command, and such was his popularity, everyone in his seventy-seven strong section volunteered, without knowing what was required of them.<sup>8</sup> Shaw selected two sergeants and one corporal and the four of them each selected three others. The seventeenth member of the group was Shaw's batman, who was to be the general hand coping for the whole detachment.<sup>9</sup>

This meant that Shaw was to man a gun as well.

I was doing duty on one of the guns. No drones wanted now.<sup>10</sup>

5 Browning, *The Blue & White Diamond*.

6 Browning, *The Blue & White Diamond*.

7 Letter from GD Shaw to 'John' in 1959, telling of his return trip to Gallipoli.

8 Browning, *The Blue & White Diamond*.

9 17 volunteer members of 28th Bn MG sect

Lt George Duncan Shaw\*

Sgt Francis Henry Waddington	1152	
Sgt George Moore	577	WIA 16 Dec 1915
L/Cpl Morris Frank Newnes	1177	
Pte John Adams	590	
Pte Matthew Michael Fitzpatrick	623	
Pte Charles George Graham*	912	
Pte Herbert William Greenwood	76	
Pte Alan Harris*	1542	
Pte Harold Keith de W Harvey*	84	
Pte William Alfred Johnstone	1092	Shaw's Batman
Pte Cedric McKail	1201	
Pte Albert Morrow	1557	KIA 16 Dec 1915
Pte Norman Alexander Munro	1111	KIA 16 Dec 1915
Pte George Brownlie Nelson	748	
Pte Edward Stephen Smart	1582	WIA 16 Dec 1915
Pte Thomas William Spencer	1619	

\* Denotes 'The Four Against Fifty Thousand For Five Minutes'

10 Shaw's letter written in June 1916 to his mother.

Shaw told this party that their mission was to remain on the Peninsula as a rearguard while the 28th Battalion withdrew to Lemnos.

On December 14, the 20th Battalion relieved the 28th Battalion and those 17 men chosen for the 'Stunt' watched the Battalion withdraw. Shaw's little group was now under the command of 20th Battalion. As the 28th was leaving, a Turkish shell hit the 20th Battalion HQ, killing the Colonel and three Majors, leaving Major Fitzgerald as the only senior officer alive to carry on. Regardless of this tragedy, the relief was accomplished successfully. This was the period of the 'Silent Stunt' on Gallipoli.<sup>11</sup>

There was to be complete silence during the period. No cooking. No smoking. No lights showing. Absolute silence for 48 hours as if we were not there. The whole line of 12 miles from Suvla to Cape Tepe was to be as if abandoned. The exercise went so well it was extended and at the end of each silent period we had orders to make up for lost time, and all weapons were brought to bear on the Turkish trenches.<sup>12</sup>

This 'Silent Stunt' went on at different times and durations for the next seven days. The 17 gunners defending Russell's Top rested and ate when possible, but most of their waking hours were spent improving the gun positions, filling machine-gun belts and setting up stockpiles in readiness - only 30 metres from the Turkish lines.

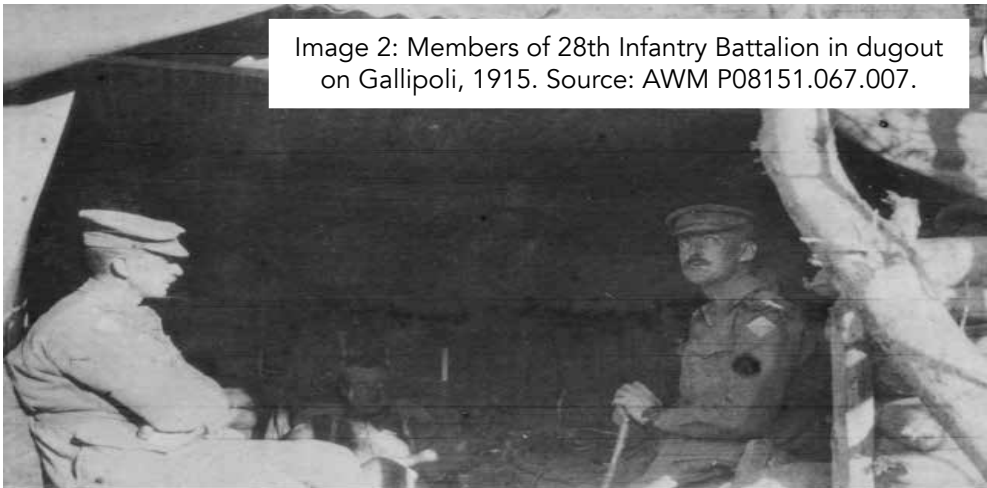


Image 2: Members of 28th Infantry Battalion in dugout on Gallipoli, 1915. Source: AWM P08151.067.007.

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11 See CEW Bean, *Australia in the War of 1914-1918: Story of Anzac*, Vol. 2, Angus & Robertson, Sydney (1941), pp. 853-910.

12 Shaw's letter written in June 1916 to his mother.

We had little sleep. We had to keep those four guns operating as if the trench was normally manned. We had orders to fire 10,000 rounds a night per gun – that meant a lot of belt filling in our spare time.<sup>13</sup>

To the left of Shaw's flimsy post, known as 'Bully Beef', the 20th Battalion had two machine-guns at 'Turks Head' post.

For the next seven days, this 20th Bn, with our little crowd, was to hold an area of line which was usually held by a brigade – (4000) men.<sup>14</sup>

Two of Shaw's men were killed and two wounded when a Turkish shell hit their dugout on 16 December, although there is a discrepancy in the official records.<sup>15</sup>

Four men to a gun meant that it was two hours on, two hours off and get some rest when they could, but the loss of four meant now that three men to a gun was extremely hard.

On 18 December, Johnson (the batman) left and took with him the fourth gun, thus leaving 12 gunners and three guns. The guns were commanded by Sergeant Waddington, Corporal Newnes and Lieutenant Shaw.

The Anzac garrison numbers were reduced nightly, until on the evening of 18 December, at 6 pm, the Russell's Top garrison numbered 212 officers and men, with five guns (three of the 28th and two of the 20th).<sup>16</sup> During the night 18/19 December, 100 men from the 20th left the line and were evacuated from Anzac.

13 Letter from GD Shaw to 'John' in 1959, telling of his return trip to Gallipoli.

14 Letter from GD Shaw to 'John' in 1959, telling of his return trip to Gallipoli.

15 The following taken from AWM 133 (Nominal roll First AIF)

Capt G D Shaw	2nd Pnr Bn	RTA 18.12.18
2Lt F H Waddington	7th MG Coy	Died 10.3.17
Cpl G Moore	7th Trg Sqn A.F.C.	RTA 6.5.19
Capt M F Newnes	2nd Pnr Bn	RTA 10.5.19
Pte John Adams	7th MG Coy	RTA 10.5.17
Cpl M M Fitzpatrick	22nd MGC	RTA 21.7.18
Sgt C.G. Graham	2nd MG Bn	KIA 5.2.17
Cpl H W Greenwood	2nd MG Bn	KIA 20.9.17
Sgt A Harris	28th Bn	RTA Unknown
Pte H K de W Harvey	2nd MG Bn	KIA 25.4.16
CQMS W A Johnstone	2nd Pnr Bn	RTA 27.9.17
L/Sgt C McKail	2nd MG Bn	RTA 15.1.19
Pte A Morrow	28th Bn	KIA 16.12.15
Pte N A Munro	28th Bn	KIA 17.12.15
Pte G B Nelson	2nd MG Bn	RTA 19.6.19
Pte E S Smart	2nd MG Bn	RTA 13.2.17
Pte T W Spencer	7th MG Coy	RTA 17.6.18

16 Bean, *Story of Anzac*, Vol. 2, pp. 876-878.

At 6pm on the evening of December 19, we had 100 men and two guns of the 20th Bn and twelve gunners with three guns of the 28th Bn. The Navy had been taking off thousands of men, animals, guns and other gear and was doing a good job.<sup>17</sup>

At 11am on 19 December, the defence of the whole Anzac area would fall upon 2000 men. Out of these, a garrison of 275 had to be provided to man an inner line of defence, which had been decided to establish at No.1 Outpost, Walker's Ridge, Plugge's Plateau and MacLagan's Ridge. After deducting the staff and beach party, there would remain less the 1500 men holding the entire 11,000 yards (approximately 10,150 metres) of the Anzac front line. Shaw was told that the last 112 would leave the front trench of Russell's Top in three groups, the last to leave the trenches at 3.10am 20 December.

At midnight December 19, 33 infantry with the two guns from "Turks Head" departed, and at 0200hrs on the 20th, the second party of 33, plus eight of my gunners and two of my guns had withdrawn to Lower Walkers Ridge to cover our withdrawal from Russell's. 34 infantry of the 20th Bn and four gunners of the 28th with one gun to keep the work going until 3.10 a.m.<sup>19</sup>

Because of the different distances from the beach at Anzac Cove, the line, left and right, were evacuated at different intervals, so as to arrive at the beach at approximately the same time. But Russell's Top was to be the last to go, as previously stated, this area obstructed the Turk's view of Anzac Cove.<sup>20</sup>

After the first two parties had left Russel's Top, Shaw's gun was the only one left to cover the whole area. Only 38 men consisting of the 34 infantry from the 20th and four members of 28th with one machine gun to cover the whole of Russell's Top, and they had to make it seem to the Turks that the position was still heavily defended.

Seventy minutes of it all by ourselves.<sup>21</sup>

The 'Silent stunt' was on again, but this time it was for real, as the entire Anzac line was empty on either side of Russell's Top.

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17 Letter from GD Shaw to 'John' in 1959, telling of his return trip to Gallipoli.

18 Bean, *Story of Anzac*, Vol. 2, p. 875.

19 Notes of a talk by GD Shaw given on ABC radio 27 April 1972.

20 Bean, *Story of Anzac*, Vol. 2, p. 877.

21 Shaw's letter written in June 1916 to his mother.

Ten minutes later, at 2.55, Quinn's and Pope's were abandoned to the enemy. Russell's Top was the only front – line post now held.<sup>22</sup>

Then at 3.00am Shaw heard noises coming from behind and a chill ran up his spine.

There was someone behind us. And there should not be anyone. Johnny had got round – Hell! I took Pte Graham and we went exploring, revolvers in each hand, and we came upon – the Infantry walking out on us. The Officer wanted to know what I was doing and why I was still there. I told him we leave at 0310. He said 0300. I said 0310. We argued and he came out with the information that the time had been advanced ten minutes. We four gunners had not received the message. We had been forgotten. In whispers I was told to get out and report to the signallers when I passed them.<sup>23</sup>

The two gunners raced back to Russell's Top and Shaw ordered the men to dismantle the gun. However, the gun had half a belt of ammunition not fired, so Shaw decided the quickest way to clear the belt was to fire them off.

I fired them and then got a quick return from some gun of Jacko's. He knocked the gun off the platform and put bullets through the spring case and the water jacket and I fell with the gun to the bottom of the trench but was not even hit. I left at five past three and when I reported to the signallers, the party, which should have covered us, was moving away. When I left, there was nobody in the front line from Suvla to Cape Tepe.<sup>24</sup>

We left the last firing post of the Anzac - Suvla Line at 0305 on the morning of the 20th December '15. Four of us had defended the British Empire against 50,000 Turks for five minutes.<sup>25</sup>

On the way out Shaw reported to the two signallers – Gornall and Anthon, – who were in the headquarters behind the line, that the front line was cleared and as he did so, he saw the infantry that was supposed to cover his little band, disappearing

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22 Bean, *Story of Anzac*, Vol. 2, p. 895.

23 Letter from GD Shaw written to 'John' in 1959, telling of his return trip to Gallipoli, plus notes of a talk by GD Shaw given on ABC radio 27 April 1972.

24 Browning, *The Blue & White Diamond*.

25 Letter from GD Shaw written to 'John' in 1959, telling of his return trip to Gallipoli.

towards the beach. The four gunners and the signallers joined their mates on Lower Walker's Ridge and Shaw took command of this rear post till orders were received to withdraw to the beach at 3.35am.<sup>26</sup>

So, not 'the LAST ANZAC to leave Gallipoli in 1915', but the last to leave the ANZAC front line. Just an over enthusiastic reporter not knowing the true facts, but still a great claim to fame.



Figure 3: Shaw's Military Cross.  
Source: NAA B883.

## Postscript

After evacuating Anzac, Shaw rejoined the 28th Battalion on Lemnos. Upon seeing Shaw and the three privates, Colonel Collett, the commanding officer of the Battalion said, 'You're supposed to be dead'.

Lieutenant Shaw was alive enough to transfer to 2nd Pioneer Battalion in

<sup>26</sup> Bean, *Story of Anzac*, Vol. 2, p. 895.

<sup>27</sup> MC citation, AWM 28.

April 1916 being promoted captain the following month. He served with them continuously, being gassed during the battle of Bullecourt on 3 May 1917; though evacuated he re-joined his unit same day. Mentioned in Despatches in 1917, Shaw received a Military Cross in 1918, the citation reading:

The Pnr having undertaken to complete the foundation of earthworks of BELLEWAARDE CIRCUIT ROAD by 19th Sept. Capt Shaw was in charge on 18th of the work on unfinished sections. Sector and the area was shelled almost without intermission throughout the day. One shell caught nine of the men – killing seven and seriously wounding the others-& partially buried Capt Shaw. He assisted to dress the injured and saw them removed and then during the day by his resolute, courageous example encouraged his men to stick to the tiring task, & did so much work that the task was finished next day as promised.

On other days before and since the attack of 20th he has been most resolute and determined.<sup>27</sup>

Wounded a second time on 4 July 1918, Shaw was evacuated to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth until his discharge to return to Australia on 18 December 1918 and eventual discharge from the AIF on 16 Apr 1919.



Figure 4: Shaw's medal group. Source: Author.

Shaw joined the militia, commanding the 13th Field Company, Australian Engineers and was awarded a Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal and Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers. He enlisted into the AMF on 12 October 1940,

<sup>27</sup> MC citation, AWM 28.



was promoted major and given command of 7th Australian Army Troop Company, Royal Australian Engineers. Shaw was called up for full time service on 17 July 1941 and transferred to the AIF on 25 September 1942. At one time he was CRE 5MD (Commander Royal Engineers, Western Command). He was discharged on 25 January 1944.

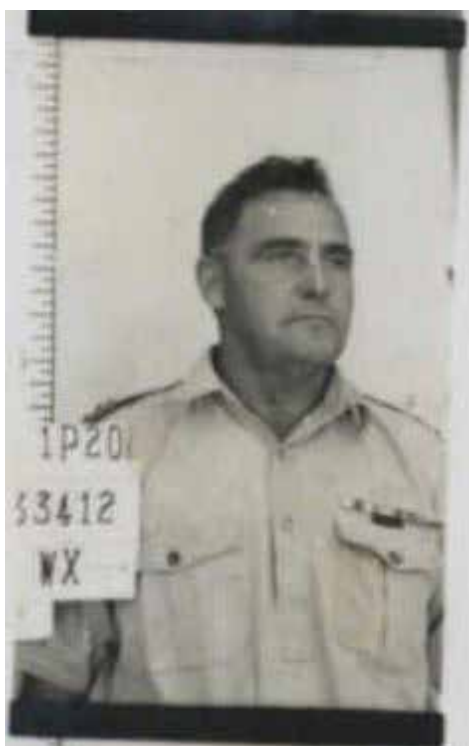


Figure 5: Shaw during Second World War service.  
Source: Author.

## The Self-propelled (SP) Gun of the CMF

Michael Firth

At the end of World War Two, Australia formed an Interim Army while the Australian Military Forces (AMF) ceased recruitment and the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) organisation was suspended. After a couple of years it was decided to reform the Permanent Military Forces (PMF) and the CMF. Shortly after this the PMF became the Australian Regular Army (ARA). With the re-forming of the CMF in 1947, it was decided to form the 2nd Division, 3rd Division, 1st Independent Armoured Brigade Group and 13th Infantry Brigade across the five command areas. The independent armoured brigade group contained the 1st Armoured Brigade, based in the Eastern Command area and the 2nd Armoured Brigade based in the Southern Command area.

The 1st Armoured Division, formed in July 1941, consisted of two armoured brigades and ten armoured regiments with six units from the AIF while the other four were CMF units. The 1st Armoured Brigade, a CMF unit, was formed in Eastern Command remained active until September 1944. The brigade was re-raised in July 1948, again based in the Eastern Command area, and was formed around the 1st Armoured Regiment (Royal New South Wales Lancers), 12th/16th Armoured Regiment (Hunter River Lancers) and the 6th Motor Regiment (New South Wales Mounted Rifles). The main armoured vehicle used by the armoured regiments was the British Matilda II infantry tank and the motor regiment using M3 White scout cars. By late 1955 the Matilda's had been replaced with Staghound armoured cars. The formation sign of the unit was based on the 4th Australian Armoured Brigade sign from WWII but on a yellow background. Instead of being a white symbol on a black background, it was a red alligator in front of a green palm tree over a brown boomerang on a yellow background. The unit was disbanded in September 1957.

In the Southern Command area, the 2nd Armoured Brigade was initially raised in July 1941 and remained active until being disbanded in January 1944. When it was re-raised in July 1948, in Southern Command, it was built around two armoured regiments and an artillery regiment. The units were the 8th/13th Armoured Regiment (Victorian Mounted Rifles) (VMR), 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse (PWLH) and the 22nd Field Regiment (SP). The main armoured vehicle in this unit was the M3A5 Grant Medium tank which also formed the basis for the self-propelled gun in the artillery regiment. The formation sign was based on the WWII sign for the 1st Australian Armoured Division being an armoured clad arm holding aloft a battle axe in white on a black background. For the CMF 2nd

Armoured Brigade, the background was changed to yellow with the arm and axe in black. The brigade was disbanded again in September 1957 and the armoured units lost their Grant tanks before starting to train on the new Centurion tanks.



Figure 1: 1st Armoured Brigade formation badge. Source: Author.



Figure 2: 2nd Armoured Brigade formation badge. Source: Author.

In 1949, the organisation chart for the CMF 2nd Armoured Brigade units was:

- HQ 2nd Armoured Brigade
- 8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles
- 35 Light Aid Detachment (Type H)
- 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse
- 34 Light Aid Detachment (Type H)
- 22 Field Regiment (SP)
- 16 Light Aid Detachment (Type D)
- 10 Independent Field Squadron
- 2 Armoured Brigade Signals Squadron
- 22 Field Regiment Signal Troop
- 7 Field Security Troop
- 2 Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park
- 1 Medium Workshop
- 7 Light Aid Detachment (Type C)
- 2 Armoured Brigade Postal Section
- 2 Armoured Brigade Provost Detachment

Later an armoured troop recovery unit was added as well as 13 Company RAASC (Tank Transporter) unit.

At the time of formation of the 2nd Armoured Brigade, it was commanded by Brigadier DA Whitehead, while Lieutenant-Colonel T Fogarty commanded 8/13 VMR and Lieutenant-Colonel AE McIntyre commanded 4/19 PWLH. The 22nd Field Regiment SP was commanded by Lt-Colonel WJ Green.

Before becoming a self-propelled gun unit, the 22nd Field Artillery Brigade had first been raised in 1916 as a howitzer brigade on the Western front in WWI before being disbanded in 1917. It was re-raised again in 1921 as part of the militia and in 1941 was renamed the 22nd Field Regiment and merged with the 21st Field Regiment in July 1943. This did not last long as the unit was again disbanded in October 1943. As the 22nd Field Regiment SP, it was raised again in 1948 to be fitted out with the Yeramba SP gun before disbandment again in 1957.

With the formation of the CMF armoured brigades, it was seen there was a need for a self-propelled gun based on the 25-pounder gun. Initially moves were carried out to procure the Sexton SP gun from Britain which remained in service until the mid-1950's. However, this was not possible, so Australia was forced to design its own. The Sexton, produced from 1942 to 1945, was based on the chassis of the Canadian Ram medium tank which used components from the USA M3 medium tank. Powered by a Continental petrol engine it mounted the 25-pounder gun. Plans were obtained for Sexton and it was decided to build the Australian version using the M3A5 Grant chassis. This was the same tank used by the armoured units in the

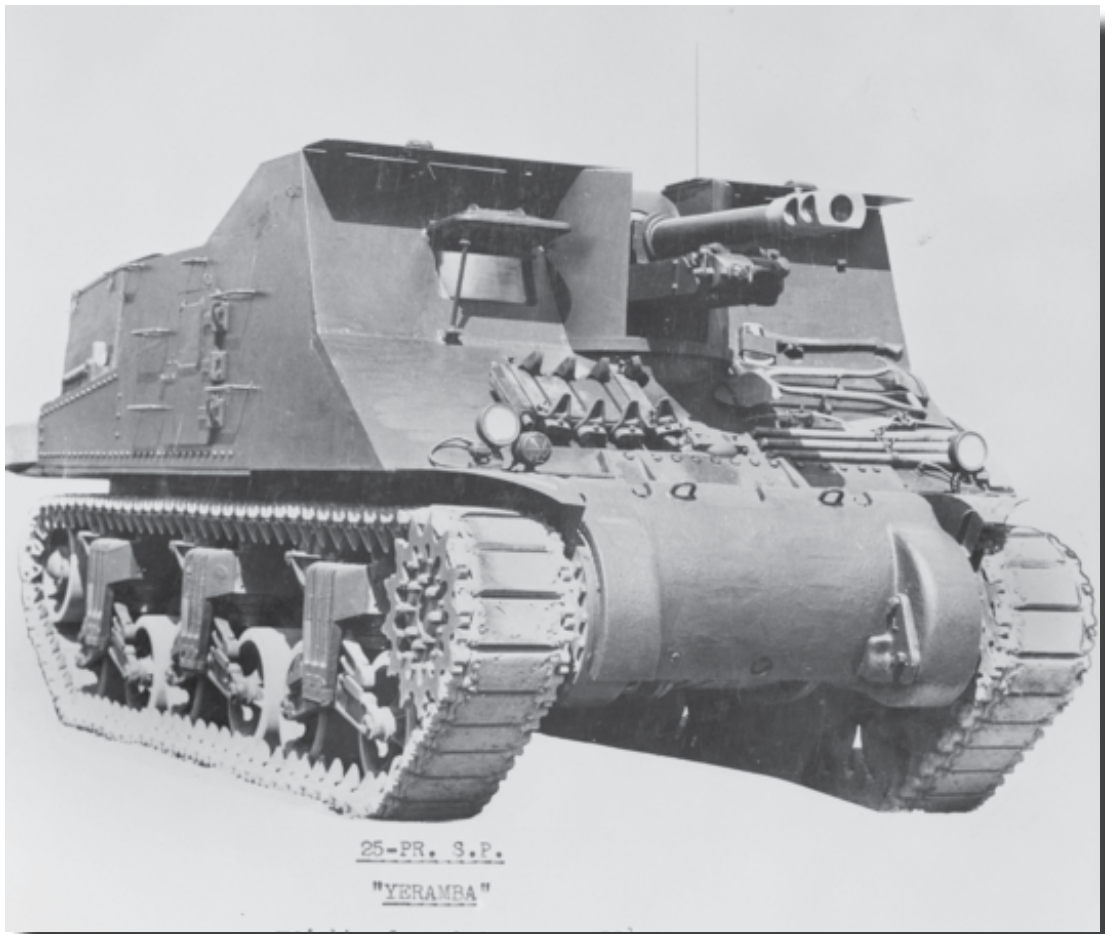


Figure 3: Front 3/4 view of Yeramba prototype. Source: AWM P04301.007.

brigade as well as there being sufficient tanks and guns in Australia proving this to be the cheapest alternative. In July 1949 approval was given for a prototype to be made. Including the prototype, 14 units were produced by August 1952 and issued to the 22 Field Regiment SP. The members of this unit wore the black beret of the armoured corps with the Royal Australian Artillery cap badge.

The official name for the new vehicle was 'Ordnance QF 25-pr Mark 2/1 on Mounting SP 25-pr (Aust) Mark 1 on Carrier, Grant, S.P. 25-pr (Aust) Mark 1' or 'Warragal'. The Warragal name was found to be unsuitable as a short name and the name accepted in January 1951 was 'Yeramba', which is a name for an instrument for throwing spears. The design work was carried out by the Army Design Establishment and the manufacture/conversion by the Ordnance Factory in Bendigo.

The Yeramba was basically described as a General Grant tank chassis mounting a QF 25-pounder gun fitted with muzzle brake and counterweight. The chassis was fitted with an armoured plated open fighting compartment with the

driver's position at the front of the vehicle, to the right and below the gun. A canvas cover could be erected over the fighting compartment in inclement weather. The engine pack was the same twin 6-cylinder in-line diesel as the M3A5 Grant tank.

Mounting consisted of the QF 25-pounder with the standard recoil mechanism in an armoured cradle assembly providing limited depression and movement left and right without moving the vehicle. It was fitted with the standard sighting mechanisms for indirect and direct firing. Secondary armament was provided by two Bren LMGs and two Owen SMGs, two rifles and six hand grenades. The vehicle was served by a crew of six, consisting of a commander, driver and four gun crew. Each vehicle was issued with an Army Registration Number (ARN) within the range 23735 to 24001 but was declared obsolete in 1956 being sent for disposal. The self-propelled gun never saw service outside of Australia.

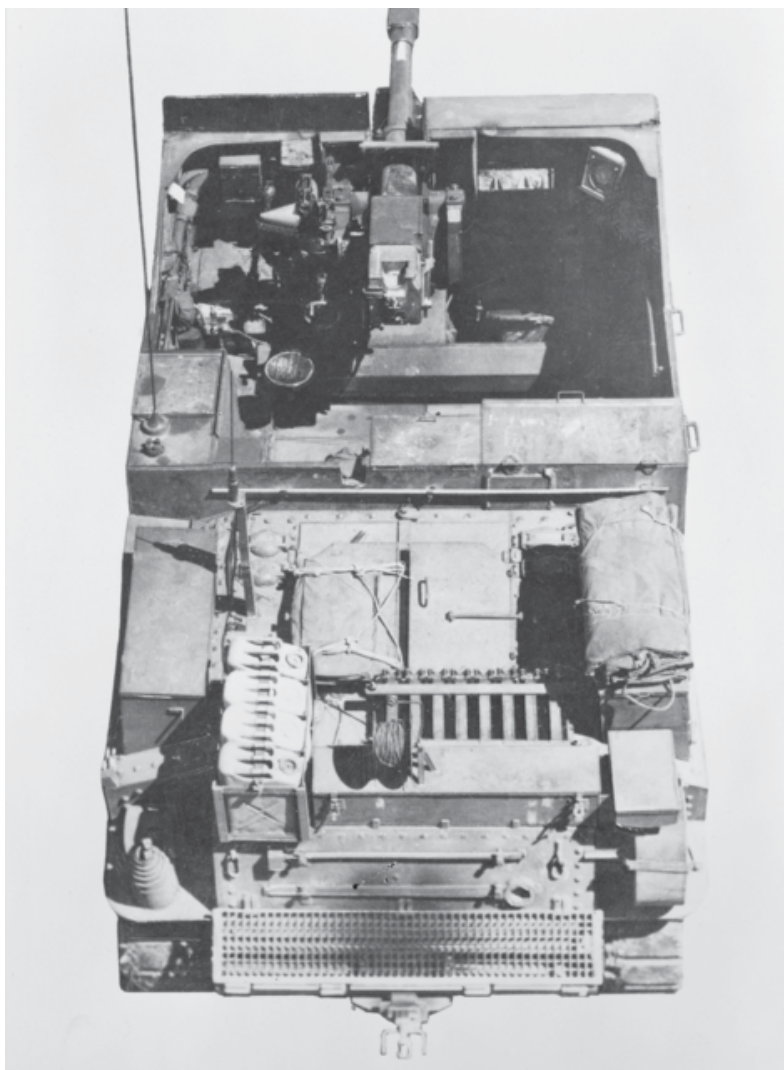


Figure 4: Rear overhead view of the prototype SP 25-pounder Yeramba.  
Source: AWM P04301.001

**SP 25-Pounder Yeramba technical specifications**

Short Name	SP 25-Pounder Yeramba
Crew	6
Manufacturer	Ordnance Factory, Bendigo
Operational Period	1949-1956
Armament	1 only QF 25-pounder Mark 2/1 2 only 0.303 Bren LMG 2 only 9mm Owen SMG 2 only 0.303 SMLE Rifle Mk3
Ammunition	102 Cartridges normal QF 25-pounder 16 Cartridges Super QF 25-pounder 88 HEand/or Smoke Shell QF 25-pounder 16 AP Shot QF 25-pounder 844 Cartridges 0.303 inch 840 Cartridges 9mm 6 Grenades Hand 36M
Rate of Fire	5 rounds per minute (intense), 2 rounds per minute (sustained)
Max Range	13,400 yards
Muzzle Velocity	1700 ft/sec
Gun Elevation/Depression	40 deg. /9 deg.
Gun Traverse Right/Left	20 deg./20 deg.
Armour	Max: 1.5 inch, Min: 0.5 inch
Weight	28.5 tons
Height	8 ft. (shield lowered),9 ft. (shield raised)
Width	8 ft. 11 ins
Length	18 ft. 11 ins
Track Width	1 ft. 4 ins
Ground Clearance	1 ft. 3 ins
Electrical System	24 volts
Fuel Capacity	126 gallons
Operating Radius	125 miles
Max Speed	25 mph (sealed surface)
Fording depth	3 ft. 6 ins
Power unit	GMC model 6046, series 71, diesel twin in-line 6 cylinder
Displacement	425 cu. ins
Governed Speed	2100 rpm
Brake Horsepower	375
Communications	No. 19 wireless set



Figure 5: A group of unidentified officials inspecting the Yeramba prototype.  
Source: AWM P04301.004.



Figure 6: Elevation trials of the Yeramba prototype.  
Source: AWM P04301.002.



The Yeramba was very well liked by its users as it was considered to be well-suited for its mobile role and had a tendency to be used in a ‘quick action’ mode. Its inherited stability being derived from the M3 Grant or M4 Sherman suspension units which replaced some of the original suspension units, helped with the laying of the gun back on target after each shot. The only complaint was about the amount of maintenance required, especially after a shoot or run around Puckapunyal after a field exercise. It was said there was ‘maintenance, maintenance and more maintenance, one hours driving – six hours maintenance’. Overall, the members of the unit thought it was a great piece of equipment.

Looking back, the Yeramba was Australia’s only officially introduced self-propelled artillery weapon which was designed and built in Australia. It proved itself to very useful and well accepted by the unit it was issued to. The concept of Australia again having SP guns was raised in the LAND 17 Phase 2 self-propelled artillery project for Army. Although this was shelved, it was announced as recently as August 2019 the concept was being re-investigated.

It is possible Australia will purchase a new SP gun system in the future with the current thought being to purchase the Hanwha Defence vehicle currently in service with the South Korean military and has been exported to several countries around the world. The proposal is to purchase 30 K9 155mm Thunder SPHs and 15 K10 ammunition supply vehicles with other sundry equipment. This puts forward the possibility of the Australian Defence forces reviving the SP Gun concept which was established in the 1950’s by the Yeramba serving with the CMF 2nd Armoured Brigade.



Figure 7: Side view of Yeramba prototype.  
Source: AWM P04301.005.

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## Reviews

### *Hitler and Stalin: The Tyrants and the Second World War*

Laurence Rees

Viking, London, 2020

Paperback \$35.00

Esteemed historian of the Second World War, Laurence Rees, has an acclaimed record of research into that conflict. His books and documentary films on the Third Reich and its impact during the war are recommended reading and viewing. His latest book, *Hitler and Stalin: The Tyrants and the Second World War*, adds to his impressive works by conducting an analysis of the two men who dominated the war. To do so Rees draws on previously unpublished research, including testimonies from soldiers of the Red Army and Wehrmacht, civilians and those knew the two dictators.

By conducting a parallel analysis of Hitler and Stalin, Rees explores similarities and differences. He argues that both men could only have reached control because of the events of the First World War and its aftermath. Both men



used film and propaganda to disseminate their message; despised monarchical structures; and neither were married during the war. The most important similarity, for Rees, was that each man had uncovered a secret reason for existence. Where Hitler believed it was based on race, Stalin believed it was communism. Both, though, were nationalists and desired a utopia for their people. The outcome was to be achieved through state-based terror and persecution.

However, they could not have been more disparate in other regards. Hitler was charismatic and tapped into a desire for a better Germany by its population. Stalin was an uninspiring orator who used bureaucracy and the committee system to his advantage. Hitler's attainment of power was transparent while Stalin's was opaque. Each man's approach to government was different, Hitler appointed district leaders (Gauleiters) who were powerful and dedicated to him. Through his long, rambling, one-sided discussions, Hitler's views were well-known to all. Stalin, in contrast, was 'stealthy' with no-one really knowing what he was thinking, distrusting and suspicious of everyone. Where Hitler's worldview was based on racism, Stalin's was on Marxist revolution and it was this that was the strongest difference. Hitler hated Bolshevism and Stalin, in turn, felt the same toward Nazism.

Rees's exploration of Hitler and Stalin is impressive. His narrative is enhanced by eyewitness accounts and his analysis of the two dictators is excellent. Building on his previous work, Rees has written a perceptive and compelling account of two tyrants. This leaves us with a simple question: Do we really need another book on the European theatre of the Second World War? In this instance, the answer is a resounding 'yes'.

## Justin Chadwick

*The Korean Kid: A young Australian pilot's baptism of fire in the jet fighter age*

Rochelle Nicholls

Big Sky, Newport, 2020

Paperback, \$29.99

I offered to undertake a review of this book for the South Australian Branch of the MHSA for a number of reasons, namely I had served overseas in a fighter squadron (3 Squadron at Butterworth 1969-1971) and many of the commanding officers of 77 Squadron in Korea were still serving in high-ranking positions during my service.

The book is about the service of Jim Kichenside, who was born in Sydney in 1930 at the height of the Great Depression, and covers his early life growing up in the suburbs and some of the dynamics of his family life.



Jim joined the RAAF in 1950 and very quickly found himself in Korea flying Meteor jets. About now when reading the book I became annoyed at the author's habit of calling him 'The Boy' with every reference to him. He was the youngest fighter pilot in Korea but managed to complete over 80 mission in a very hostile ground attack environment. He mentioned in despatches and awarded the US Air Medal for his efforts. Most people would be completely unaware of the high attrition rate of the pilots and the numbers lost in combat while other became POWs of the North Koreans.

After return from Korea Jim spent most of his time in the fighter world until early 1960 as a squadron leader he was selected to go to Antarctica. This is where the book shines as it has probably the most comprehensive section on this nearly forgotten experience and the difficulty of flying operations in this environment. The interesting aspect of the deployment was that on return to Australia he was awarded the Polar Medal where the ground crew that went with him did not – that was not his doing and reeks of the powers to be of the time who in retrospect were not the greatest people managers of their day. For example, posting a squadron leader with a young family to Antarctica for a year and virtually cutting off communication with them. After salvaging his family life and on the verge of financial ruin on his return, Jim went on service in Malaysia and Borneo during Confrontation.

Jim was later promoted to wing commander and commanded 38 Squadron at Richmond with its Caribous. At the mandatory age, 45, he retired from the RAAF.

Overall, a good book but the use of the term 'the boy' annoyed me somewhat.

### **Squadron Leader George Newbury (Ret)**

*Tragedy at Evian: How the world allowed Hitler to proceed with the Holocaust*

Tony Matthews

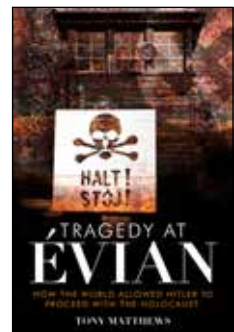
Big Sky, Newport, 2020

Paperback, \$34.99

I put this book to one side so I could savour it and not have to meet a deadline. A wise decision.

I know quite a bit about the Holocaust, so this book confirmed some things I knew well, put flesh onto stories I knew the bones of and added to my knowledge.

In 1938 President Roosevelt instigated the idea of a conference to discuss the Jewish refugee situation and decided it should take place in Europe. The French spa town of Evian-les-Bains was chosen. Invitations were sent out to most countries



the US thought would be interested and interested they were. The interval between the receipt of the invitation and the starting date of the conference gave almost all the countries who intended attending ample time to tighten their immigration laws. Somebody must have been tasked with listing talents Jews were noted for, and by process of elimination decided that one field in which they were lacking was being agricultural workers, so bingo, we can demand that if they are not agricultural workers they will not be welcome in our country. Queensland was worried that young cultured Jewish men from Austria who wrestled with interpretations of the Torah and the fingering on a violin would put cane cutters out of work. The Philippines said they probably wouldn't need furriers.

The story of rich Jews who arrived in Australia with oodles of money is told here. I remember well my father, a Merchant Navy man who spent a lot of the war in Sydney saying 'Reffos! Reffos! They walked down the gangplank wearing fur coats!'. This one story being circulated must have cost the lives of thousands of Jews who could not leave Germany with no money, no passport, no fur coat and no country offering them asylum.

Many countries demanded huge amounts of money per head to take these 'reffos' in and the ransom was frequently paid. More than one head of state had a lovely pile of gold which did not necessarily mean they kept their side of the bargain. One reported price was \$5,000 in gold per Jew.

The delegates to the Evian conference had nice lunches, played golf, listened to diplomatic speeches, achieved nothing and all went home to their tightened immigration laws. And so the whole thing was swept under the carpet. Hitler was happy to know that the rest of the world wouldn't lift a finger to help the Jews so a month later there was Kristallnacht. Rumours persisted once the war started about transports and gas chambers but these were dismissed as propaganda, rumour mongering and pessimism. The whole nasty story was finally published in New York in June 1942 and the world could no longer pretend it did not know. The help that finally came was too little and too late.

I was going to complain that the information in this book largely came from one source, previously secret and highly confidential documents from the US Department of State. I was told that Australia had offered the Kimberleys as a Jewish homeland, and I was hoping this furphy would be confirmed or denied. But I won't nit-pick. It covered the intricacies of the subject more than adequately, it is well indexed and the names and dates contained in this book are a fine inspiration for further reading.

Several chapters were dedicated to people who risked their lives to hide Jews, help them escape or wrote life-saving visas so they could get across whatever border was holding them in. In another era they would be called 'people smugglers'. There are wonderful thumbnail sketches of people who eventually became 'Righteous Among the Nations' (including Prince Philip's mother), Legion d'Honneur recipients,

Papal decorations and the highest awards their country could bestow. Father O'Flaherty only received a CBE, but he got to be played by Gregory Peck in the movie.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was raided for excellent photos. I don't think I have ever seen a photo of Miep Gies before. We were introduced to an incredible gentleman I have never heard of called Hillel Kook.

I never cease to be amazed that the Nazis held themselves in such high esteem, their followers thought they were the master race and everybody else was beneath them and they had produced the supreme system of government. But their method of financing their regime was to steal everything the Jewish population owned and had taken generations to amass, which is the equivalent of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Their production methods used doctors and highly educated people doing ludicrous manual labour and assembly line work that they had no training for. They killed off the people whose university education could have been used to great advantage.

But worst of all, is that these bullies could be bribed. There are lovely stories in this book of little people who stood up to them and said 'no' and the Gestapo backed down. The story of the Turkish vice-consul in Paris who drove to a deportation camp and individually collected Turkish Jews who were about to be slaughtered is inspiring.

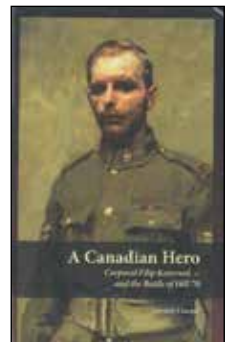
Despite getting very angry at times, I was so impressed with this book I googled the author, Tony Matthews. He has written many books and worked on many documentaries for the ABC. Many of his books are parochial, like the history of Chinchilla. One wonders why he took this giant leap to address the massive universal subject of the Holocaust. He and I can both see the parallels in the 'refugee problem' we still have. I think the precedent was set at the Evian convention and I don't think it is anything the world should be proud of.

Thank you Mr Matthews. This book is being safely put amongst the Holocaust books on my shelf and will not be lent out.

### Gail Gunn

*A Canadian Hero: Corporal Filip Konowal, VC and the Battle of Hill 70*  
Lubomyr Luciuk,  
Kashtan Press, Kingston, 2017  
Paperback, no price given

This is a short, 71-page biography, of a First World War Canadian Army Victoria Cross recipient. Half the book is illustrated with photographs, maps and extracts from war dairies. Since the text is printed in English, French and Ukrainian, the story is told in



just over ten pages of text.

The British Victoria Cross has been awarded 1358 times including three bars. Of the 1355 individual recipients, Filip Konowal, is the only East European ever to be honoured. Since he was born in Imperial Russia, he was able to volunteer for the Canadian Army in 1915 while Ukrainians born in Austria-Hungary, in what is present day western Ukraine, were interned as enemy aliens by the Canadian Government.

Konowal died in 1959, aged 72, and his Victoria Cross was donated to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. The Victoria Cross went missing about 1977 and it was not until 2004 that the medal was recovered. The author, Professor Lubomyr Luciuk, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, had been seeking the whereabouts of the medal for many years when he was contacted by Iain Stewart, the UK webmaster of <http://www.victoriacross.org.uk/>. Professor Luciuk contacted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the medal was soon returned to the Canadian War Museum where it is on permanent display. The media credited the RCMP for the return of the medal, but Professor Luciuk highlights the information from Iain Stewart.

Lord Stamfordham, Private Secretary to King George V, on 26 July 1920 wrote ‘The King feels so strongly that, no matter the crime committed by anyone on whom the VC has been conferred, the decoration should not be forfeited. Even were a VC to be sentenced to be hanged for murder, he should be allowed to wear the VC on the scaffold.’ The comment has been often quoted since it first appeared in an article in *Soldier* magazine preceding the 1956 VC Centenary in London. The book reveals that the person who the King was thinking about was Konowal. On 20 July 1919, in Hull, Quebec, Konowal, went to the assistance of a fellow veteran of his unit, and killed the assailant. Two years later, after three postponements, he was tried for murder and found not guilty by reason of insanity. He spent a few years in mental institution before he was released.

This is a most interesting story of a Canadian Victoria Cross recipient and also includes information on the Canadian victory at Hill 70 in August 1917, the first major action fought by the Canadian Corps under a Canadian commander. Highly recommended.

**Anthony Staunton**

*The Glamour Boys: The Secret Story of the Rebels who Fought for Britain to Defeat Hitler*

Chris Bryant

Bloomsbury, London, 2020

Paperback \$29.99



There is little doubt that few people really wanted war in 1939, but the aggressive militarisation of Germany, accompanied by Hitler's pronounced expansionist plans, could not be ignored. While most British parliamentarians and the public supported appeasement with Hitler, a group of MPs spoke out in warning of impending doom. Leading this small coterie was a group of homosexual parliamentarians who the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, called 'the Glamour Boys'. Amongst the group were the young Conservative, Jack McNamara, the younger brother of romance novelist Barbara Cartland, Ronnie, war veteran Victor Cazalet, Liberal member of the government Rob Bernays and diplomat Harold Nicolson. These men, who from individual experience, saw the danger that lay ahead and expressed their views, were targeted by the government. Their phones were tapped, they were threatened with expulsion from their party, challenged by the press and, during a time when homosexuality was a crime, exposure as being gay. Despite this 'the Glamour Boys' continued in their quest and, ultimately, were vindicated.

In *The Glamour Boys* Chris Bryant, author and member of British parliament, has written a fascinating account of events that led up to the outbreak of war in 1939. His deft ability to handle a range of sources, much unseen before, is excellent. He draws in socio-political aspects of life that transcends the geopolitical nature of other books on appeasement. Not only do we see compelling character portraits, but also how these men developed their opinions of Germany and Hitler. Added to this is the social history of homosexuality during the interwar period. By exploring all aspects of their lives – political and personal – Bryant has written an new and valuable account that sheds new light on the appeasement period.

**Justin Chadwick**

*Dunera Lives: Profiles*

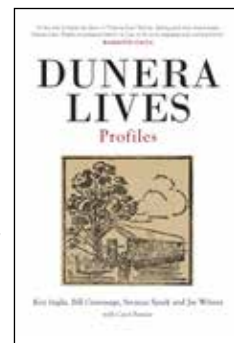
Ken Inglis, Bill Gammage, Seumas Spark and Jay Winter with Carol Bunyan

Monash University Press, Clayton, 2020

Paperback, \$39.95

Here we have volume 2, the companion to *Dunera Lives, A Visual History*. I recommend you have volume 1 by your side when you read volume 2 because the second volume refers back to the Visual History, especially in profiles of artists.

The profiles were put together by Ken Inglis and assembled by Bill Gammage, Seumas Spark and Jay Winter after Mr Inglis's death. What an incredibly diverse collection of people. Not all were Jews who had escaped the Nazi horror emerging in Germany, some were Christian Germans who wished to preserve their humanity by refusing to be part of the Nazi regime, and of course there were a few Communists





who had as great a life expectancy under the Nazis as the Jews.

Was there ever a ship load of unwilling people sent to Australia with such a level of education, erudition and intellectual vigour! A group of young men spent the voyage on the Dunera writing a constitution for the governing of their lives once they reached their destination. It advocated an election for hut representatives from the grass roots up, and the word 'soviet' came to mind. It was largely the model they lived by when they settled in Hay.

I do love biographies of the people on the ground. We all know that the guards on the Dunera behaved so badly towards the internees that the British Government listened to the internees and compensated them for their property loss. But now we know the name of the VC recipient who enjoyed destroying their property and the naval name given to the Dunera, the 'pick pocket battleship' and 'luggage destroyer'.

Not all Dunera internees went on to full and rewarding academic careers, some were influential in the arts or a shining example to us all. It was pleasing to see by contrast, the profile of one gentleman who didn't succeed in life and left a legacy of bitterness. Another gentleman I took a dislike to right from the start. He considered those beneath him (everybody) his inferior and 'aired his knowledge' as my mother used to say, with the same loud certainty as your average bogon who read a book once.

Then there is Roy Thalheimer who in 1924 aged 2, sat on the recently-widowed Krupskaya's knee in the Kremlin.

This is very much an extended social history of Germany. Why men got out of Germany and how they got out. One fellow, a refugee hiding in Belgium, could not get a passage to England so he grabbed a little boat at Dunkirk and rowed out till he and his thick German accent was picked up by the British navy.

Klaus Loewald asked his fellow ex-internees at a Dunera reunion, 'having suffered discrimination themselves, were they now, as members of the white Australian majority, guilty of visiting discrimination on others'. Heinz Schloesser's son reflected in the light of the Tampa affair, on the fact that his father had been a 'boat person'. There is a quote on page 191 from Fred Gruen about current refugees, too long to quote here, that deserves to be well regarded.

One of the things I thank the authors for is their handling of what happened to many Jewish families left behind in Germany. No pussy-footing around with euphemisms, but repeatedly using the word 'murdered'.

This book has been my companion through the Adelaide Covid lockdown, and it has been so engrossing the lockdown just passed.

This is a social history we could well learn from.

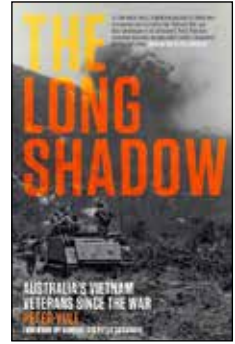
**Gail Gunn**

*The Long Shadow: Australia's Vietnam Veterans since the War*

Peter Yule

NewSouth, Sydney, 2020

Hardback, \$49.99



The impact of the Vietnam War on the Australians who served there and their families has been – for many – one of struggle. Recognition for service and physical and mental injuries have made the lives of many Vietnam veterans unlike those of previous wars. Peter Yule, in *The Long Shadow: Australia's Vietnam Veterans Since the War*, tackles the decades of difficulty that many veterans encountered as they resumed their lives. The impact of herbicides, such as the infamous Agent Orange, is analysed in detail, drawing heavily from research conducted in the US that influenced Australian decision-making. The political aspects, both governmental and veteran organisational, are fascinating, particularly the use of semantics and science (by the government) and infighting (within the veterans). Many readers will be challenged by Yule's deconstruction of myths regarding war-related medical problems. However, it is clear that he is at all times on the side of the veterans.

Yule's use of interviews from veterans adds a personal dimension to the book. As with all oral testimony the historian must treat it with due care, which Yule achieves. *The Long Shadow*, though, is a very long book and there is some repetition. It is clear that a significant amount of research has been undertaken for this project and Yule has put it all in. This, however, is only a minor quibble.

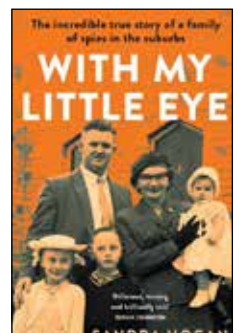
By moving beyond the direct actions of warfare, such as combat operations, Yule has added considerably to Australian military historiography. Anyone with an interest in Australia's involvement in the Vietnam conflict should read this book.

**Justin Chadwick***With My Little Eye*

Sandra Hogan

Allen &amp; Unwin, Crows Nest, 2021

Paperback, \$29.99



If you ever wondered what it may have been like being the child of an ASIO agent during the Cold War then *With My Little Eye* is the book for you. If, however, you think that secrecy was paramount and the actions of an agent would not be divulged even to family then you have not met the Doherty's. Husband and wife team, Dudley and Joan, managed working as ASIO agents and raising a family by embracing openness. Their children were used as accomplices during clandestine observational work, such as viewing Labour Day parades. Sworn to secrecy the children were at all times aware of the importance of their parents', particularly

their father's, work.

Childhood innocence and play gave way to adult enquiry. Connections with organised crime in Sydney and extra-marital affairs were matters raised by Sue-Ellen in her quest to understand her parents and their role in spying for the country.

A personal journey documented by journalist Sandra Hogan, *With My Little Eye* explores a little-known aspect of clandestine operations in Australia. Also, the holiday with the recently defected Petrov's makes for interesting reading.

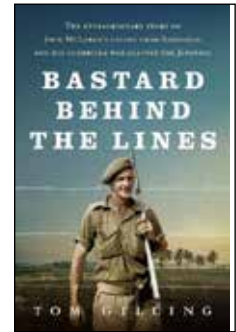
## Justin Chadwick

### *Bastard Behind the Lines*

Tom Gilling

Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2021

Paperback, \$29.99



While the actions of Australian forces in New Guinea are familiar, there are some operations involving Australians in the South-west Pacific area that still remain less well known. One such is the story of Jock McLaren and his involvement in guerrilla operations on the Philippines island of Mindanao. After escaping from Changi and Sandakan, McLaren harassed Japanese occupation forces until his redeployment to carry out reconnaissance in readiness for the Oboe landings.

Tom Gilling writes an engaging history of McLaren and those around him. He utilises secondary sources extensively, particularly those works that have been written on McLaren already. Tangential chapters, while not informing the narrative, provide informative material on events that were occurring on the periphery of the action. Although Gilling appropriately introduces his sources, as with most trade books on military history there are no footnotes, making the differentiation between primary and secondary sources difficult. Regardless, *Bastard Behind the Lines* is an interesting and well-written work on McLaren's wartime exploits.

## Justin Chadwick

## Technology

# Australia's Plywood Transports: De Havilland A57-1 and -2 Gliders

**Rohan Goyne**

In 1942, as Australia faced the threat of a Japanese invasion, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) requested the urgent design and manufacture of a small combat glider to quickly transport troops. The result was the de Havilland A57 gliders.

De Havilland constructed two prototype DH 2 gliders at its Camperdown factory which were delivered to the RAAF in November 1942. The site of the factory on the fifth floor of the Bradford Cotton Mills factory on the corner of Missenden and Parramatta roads is shown as the six storey building in the centre of the foreground of the aerial photograph from 1962 below.

The glider was constructed utilising the cockpit of the Dragon Rapide aircraft (as its basis) which de Havilland already constructed for the RAAF under contract. It was an all-wooden construction which made use of plywood in its construction.

De Havilland provided a chief designer and a stressing expert to the project. The Sydney branch of the sports equipment manufacturer Slazengers Pty Ltd provided a foreman, draughtsperson and the rest of the labour force as well as the vital woodworking equipment. Slazengers had considerable experience working with plywood to produce tennis racquets and other sporting equipment.

The need for the glider was envisaged as an urgent stop gap measure. The perceived imminent threat of an invasion by Japan in 1942 highlighted the lack of transport aircraft in Australia. It was intended to be towed by existing aircraft available in Australia, such as the Fairey Battle and Vultee Vengeance, to transport troops to meet any invading force.

The DH2 glider was a seven-seat transport with a total weight of 658 kg when loaded. Its

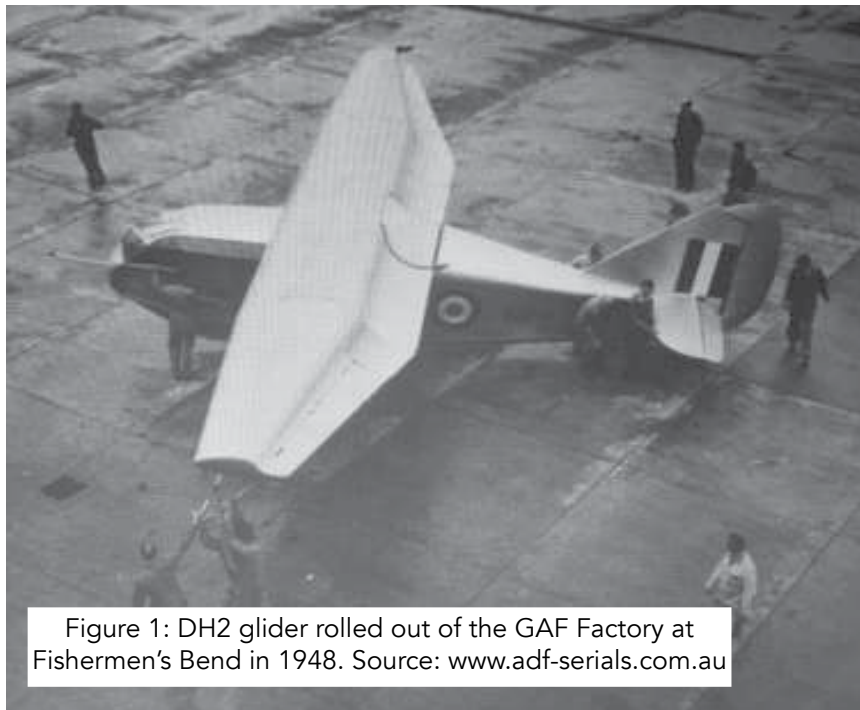


Figure 1: DH2 glider rolled out of the GAF Factory at Fishermen's Bend in 1948. Source: [www.adf-serials.com.au](http://www.adf-serials.com.au)



Figure 2: DH2 Gliders. Source: [www.adf-serials.com.au](http://www.adf-serials.com.au)

maximum diving speed was 322 km/h and towing maximum speed 209 km/h. It was of a high-wing cantilever monoplane design constructed completely in timber. A single mainwheel was situated behind a nose skid. With a wingspan of 15.39 m and length of 10.06 m, the glider had a crew of one – a pilot – and the capacity to carry six soldiers. Beside the cockpit canopy, which was from a DH.84 Dragon, the design was original. The first prototype flew in June 1942 with a second in

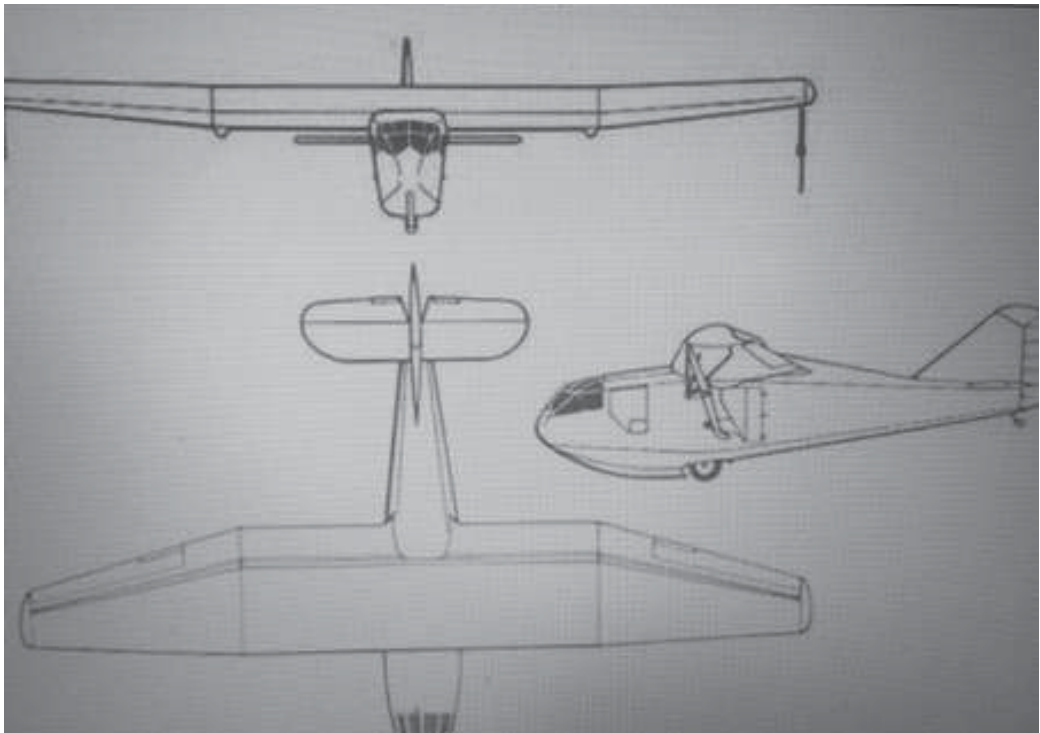


Figure 3: DHA G2 Glider drawing. Source: [www.adf-serials.com.au](http://www.adf-serials.com.au)

November. Of the two designs (G1 and G2), the second, which had a larger fuselage and shortened wingspan that allowed disassembly for transport, was ordered. The first glider was delivered to the RAAF in May 1943 with another five in July.

By the time the gliders were delivered the threat of invasion had receded. With the influx of US forces, transport was supplied by Dakota aircraft and the gliders were used mainly for training. The first glider, DHA57-1, was subsequently delivered to the Aircraft Research and Development Section of the Commonwealth Aircraft Factory after the war. There it was modified, including being fitted with a Mercury engine, and used as a test airframe for the Griffith suction wing – a specific airfoil design. In 1951 the testing ended and the gliders were retired and the following year broken apart.

While the De Havilland gliders were never used for the purpose they were designed for, the project showed the ingenuity of local manufacturers, responding at short notice with the materials and tools at hand.

## Society Matters

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### Letter to the Editor

Kenneth N. Marsh  
PO Box 1365  
Bakery Hill, Vic 3354

6 January 2021

The Editor  
*Sabretache*

I respond to Ray Alcon's letter in Vol. LXI number 4 dated December 2020 regarding my article 'Military and Political Risk in South-East Asia 1971-1989'. I believe the following facts support my history of the military air base at Butterworth during the Second Malaysian Emergency or Malaysian Communist Insurgency War.

In his article in the 1975 Summer edition of journal *Pacific Affairs*, published by the University of British Columbia, Richard Stubbs reported, among other things, 'rocket attacks on the Police Field Headquarters, Kuala Lumpur Military air base and several camps in Johore, Port Dickson and Penang'. These incidents plus intelligence information regarding the possibility that the CT has acquired mortars were of concern to Australia's military leaders.

On 14 October 1975 AVM McNamara, DCAS observed ‘CT operations are particularly insidious from a defensive viewpoint’. They had ‘freedom of movement within the civil community, a reasonably wide choice in the selection of targets’ and choice ‘of weapons or nefarious explosive devices ...’The risk was one the AVM obviously thought could not be reasonably ignored. A week earlier he wrote ‘There is no evidence to suggest that Air Base Butterworth will be singled out as a target for attack in preference to another military installation in future operations but, equally, there is no reason to suppose that the Base will be excluded from attack in preference to others.’ In other words, Butterworth was at no greater or less risk than other military bases in the country. Attacks on police and military bases throughout the Peninsular were a fact of the Second Malaysian Emergency.

The RMAF flew operational sorties from Butterworth, increasing the risk of attack. If that attack had occurred there was no guarantee that any Malaysian forces, either the 6th Malaysian Infantry Brigade in whose operational area Butterworth was situated, or the Malaysian Service Police would have been available at the time. The Australian Army Company at Butterworth was the only specialist combat force the Australian RAAF Officer Commanding could rely on to defend and repel any attack on Australian or Malaysian facilities – recognising that it was a Malaysian base and many facilities were as equally vital to both nations.

General Tan Sri Dato’ Sri HJ Affendi Bin Buang RMAF, Chief of the Malaysian Defence Force, congratulated members of the Australian Rifle Company Butterworth on the 50th anniversary of its establishment in Malaysia on 21 Nov 2020. In his statement he said ‘Your presence and sacrifice here in Malaysian soil in protecting the RMAF Butterworth base during the resurgence of the communist insurgency in 1970-1989 was a remarkable contribution and had always been the highlight of your presence here in Malaysia’, acknowledging the true role of the RCB, something the Australian Government is yet to do.

The article presents the history of an operational military air base that was involved in an insurgency war against communist guerrillas operating in the surrounding area. It is supported by a significant body of evidence uncovered by researchers available to *Sabretache* readers upon application.

Yours Sincerely

Kenneth N. Marsh

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