

Army Museum of Western Australia

THE MAGAZINE



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ISSUE 15, March 2017



Boer War Artillery Piece

by Robert Mitchell

The Ordnance BL 15 pounder, (15 pounder 7 cwt) was the British Army's field gun in the Second Boer War (1899 - 1902). The gun was made at the Royal Arsenal Woolwich in 1897.

It fired a shell of 3-inch diameter with a maximum weight of 15 pounds (6.8 kg), which differentiated it from its predecessor "12 pounder" 3-inch gun which fired shells weighing only 12.5 pounds (5.7 kg). The gun was a modified version of the previous BL 12 pounder 7 cwt gun of 1883.

When the modern smokeless propellant cordite replaced gunpowder in 1892 it was decided that the 12 pounder was capable of firing a heavier shell up to 15 lb (6.8 kg). A 14 pound shell was adopted

and the gun was renamed a 15 pounder. The Mk I carriage recoil was controlled by drag-shoes. These were placed under the wheels, and were connected by chains and cables to the wheel hubs and the trail.

Prior to the Boer War, six Mk 1 versions of the gun were delivered to New South Wales and two to Western Australia. As Western Australia provided mounted infantry contingents to the Boer War, this gun saw no operational service. In the decade prior to World War One, the 15 pounder was replaced by the 18 pounder with increased range and barrel mounted recoil system.

After many years at the main entrance of Swan Barracks, Perth, the gun was restored by the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA. Works undertaken included fabrication of the missing breech and brakes/recoil system.



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AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA MANAGEMENT

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From The Museum Manager

It has been a while since the last Museum Magazine has been issued due in part to the tempo of the museum. On the Army side of the house a lot of work is being undertaken by the Army staff in upgrading the museum collection information held on the Army Museum Heritage Management System (AHMS), this work is highly detailed and once completed will ensure that the management of the museum collection is of the highest standard available. Many thanks to the Curatorial staff especially Graham Horne and Frank Beardmore for their dedication to the task.

The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) will be moving to Artillery Barracks within the next few weeks from Leeuwin Barracks which as we know is being closed over the next couple of years. The housing of RUSI will enhance the museums profile and add to the events calendar for the year as RUSI will be holding their lectures at Artillery Barracks which always has prominent and high profile Defence related guest speakers. RUSI office will be located in the Officers Mess.

We will be supporting the Fremantle Dockers Len Hall ANZAC Day football match again this year. The West Australian University Regiment (WAUR) will be supplying the Honour Guard for the opening event. Mr Graham McEwan will be organising the tin rattlers again to raise funding for the museum.

After a bit of an absence the museum has appointed a new Marketing Manager Mr David Baker. David has already shown good results as he brings a different set of eyes to the arduous task of marketing.



As the year gets off to a good start we are already seeing the tour bookings come in. I want to thank the museum gallery staff who man the gate and escort visitors to the museum for their efforts. I have had many good comments from visitors in regards to their professionalism and friendly manner when members of the public visit the museum and this is the perfect opportunity to say "job well done".

Finally I wish to congratulate Captain Wayne Gardiner on his award of the Order of Australia Medal. Wayne has worked tirelessly within the Defence community and at the Army museum. His work has been appreciated by all and I can think of no other person who deserves the award more than Wayne.

DON'T FORGET!

LEN HALL ANZAC TRIBUTE GAME

The Fremantle Dockers host North Melbourne at
Domain Stadium on Saturday, 22 April 2017.



From The Chairman

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Magazine No 15, the first since January 2016 and it is aimed to produce future issues more frequently in line with our earlier undertakings of producing 4 issues per year – lets trust we can live up to it.

At the Annual General Meeting in October 2016, the Immediate Past Chairman, Mr Richard Bennett retired from the Board and continues in his role as Deputy Curator of the museum. Richard put a lot of effort into the wellbeing of the museum and I thank him for his considerable contribution and achievements over the past 2 years.

I have assumed the role as Acting Chairman until a substantive appointment is made.

Following the AGM in October, I retired as Treasurer and Mr Peter Dennis assumed the position concurrently with his role as a Director of the Board. Peter is an accountant and brings additional skills to the board. In June 2016, Mr David Baker was appointed as Marketing Manager. The Board welcomes Peter and David and wishes them well in their new positions.

The past year has been a very busy one for the museum with a number of happenings. The premier event being the attendance in July 2016 by the Governor, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC who officiated at the completion ceremony of the Gallery Redevelopment Project and of the

opening by the Governor of the O'Meara VC display. The museum was happy to re-introduce the first in the 2016 program of the Military History lectures, (aka Back to the Barracks) in June by Andrew Pittaway on the "Battle of Fromelles", followed in October by a story on the trench raiders on the western front by Doug Walsh, author of "The Black Anzacs".

Your board is keenly planning this year's program and you can keep abreast of dates by referring to Facebook.

The Board also welcomes magazine contributions from volunteers so please let us have your suggested text and of course we are always looking for speakers for Back to the Barracks talks.

In August, we jointly hosted with the RSLWA the opening of the Artists in Residence CONNECT Art Program of the story of the 11th Battalion in World War 1, with artwork by Peter Dailey and Michel Eastwood. The function was well attended and the Foundation has accepted an opportunity to acquire two of the artwork for the museum's gallery display, the titles of "Wound" and "Entanglement". The artwork will be displayed at the World War 1 gallery later in the year.

The Foundation was extremely pleased to receive a bequeath of \$22,000 from the estate of a deceased former volunteer member for the express purpose of the restoration, conservation, preservation and display of unit Colours. The Curatorial Department have approached this project with dedication and vigour and have successfully restored and preserved a number of colours and associated works.

The Foundation has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Esperance RSL Entrenchment Project to produce an online App to enable rural communities to access the museum via digital media. This project will be progressed expeditiously.

Governor Officiates At Gallery Completion Ceremony

The Governor of Western Australia, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, the Patron in Chief of the Foundation, officiated at the formal completion ceremony of the Gallery Redevelopment Project held at Artillery Barracks, Fremantle on 15 July 2016.



The Governor Her Excellency Kerry Sanderson with L-R: Graham Horne, Lloyd Halvorson, Richard Bennett, Dave West

The redevelopment project commenced in 2007, completed in 2015 and was the Army Museum's contribution to the 100 year centenary commemorations of World War 1.

On this night, the Private O'Meara Victoria Cross exhibition was opened and remained open until 20 August 2016. The exhibition presented a rare opportunity for the people of Western Australia to view an original Victoria Cross awarded to Private O'Meara for gallantry in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

The Immediate Past Chairman, Mr Richard Bennett gave an inspiring address and introduced Her Excellency the Governor whose address was enlightening, sincere and emotional when relating to the award of the Victoria Cross to Martin O'Meara and his early demise in 1935 at age 50.

Guests enjoyed a very pleasant evening which was well attended with guests from Federal and State politics, Local Government, Defence, AHU, DVA, RSL, sponsors, National Trust, Royal WA Historical Society, past Foundation Chairs and the media.

Desert Mounted Corps Memorial in Albany WA

The Desert Mounted Corps Memorial in Albany, Western Australia, was declared a Military Memorial of National Significance by the Minister for Veteran's Affairs Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, on 3 July 2015.

Senator Ronaldson joined the Federal member for O'Connor, Mr Rick Wilson MP, and the Mayor of the City of Albany, Cr Dennis Wellington, to make the announcement at the Memorial. The memorial commemorates the men of the Australian Light Horse, as well as the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, the Imperial Camel Corps and the Australian Flying Corps who served in Egypt, Palestine and Syria during the First World War between 1916 and 1918.

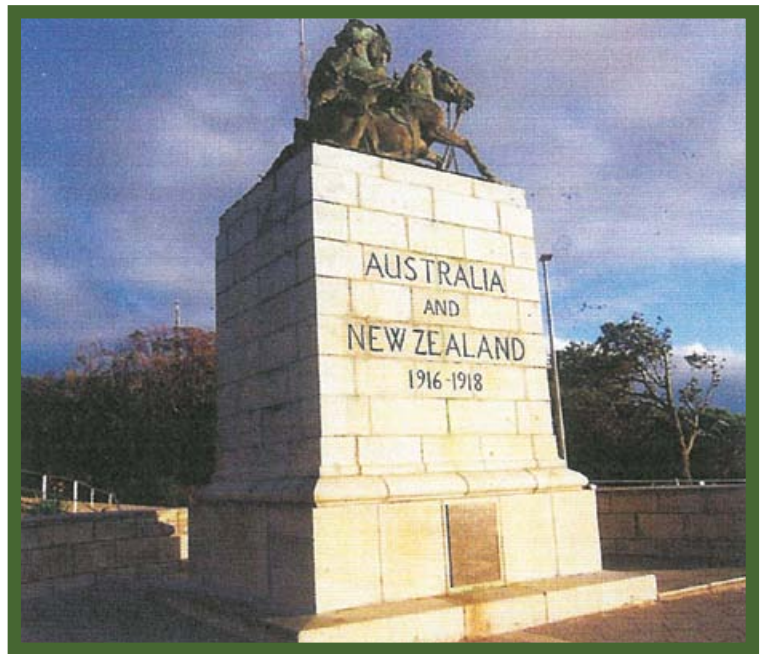
"Australia has a proud wartime history and it is important that those who served are remembered now and into the future," Senator Ronaldson said. "It is an honour to officially declare the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial in Albany a Military Memorial of National Significance. It is fitting that this memorial receives this recognition during the Centenary of Anzac period - the most important period of commemoration in our nation's history."

To be declared a Military Memorial of National Significance, the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial has satisfied the 10 criteria for listing as set out in the legislation. These include the requirement for the Memorial to be appropriately dignified and symbolic, be of sufficient scale and be of commemorative importance to the community and the nation.



The Desert Mounted Corps Memorial overlooking Albany Harbour.
Photo: www.amazingalbany.com.au

"The Desert Mounted Corps Memorial is one of the only two Military Memorials of National Significance in Western Australia, joining the HMAS Sydney II Memorial in Geraldton. This special status is awarded to memorials of national importance that are not located in the nation's capital," Senator Ronaldson said.



The Desert Mounted Corps Memorial overlooking Albany Harbour.
Photo: RSL HQ WA

Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson said the memorial's bronze cast statue was a copy of the original, which was erected at Port Said in Egypt, and unveiled on 23 November 1932.

"The Port Said memorial was irreparably damaged during the Suez crisis in 1956, however, the masonry was salvaged and brought to Australia to re-erection at the Albany site before being unveiled by former prime Minister, the Rt. Hon, Sir Robert Menzies on 11 October 1964," Mr Wilson said.

"The Desert Mounted Corps Memorial has always been a focal point for our community and it is a great honour that we have now received this level of recognition. I encourage all visitors to Albany to make sure they visit this important Memorial, and pause to acknowledge the sacrifice of Australians who died for their nation in the Middle East during the First World War," Mr Wilson said.

Senator Ronaldson noted the support of the people of Albany for the Memorial and for the wider programme of commemoration associated with the Centenary of Anzac. "The people of Albany played an important role in the commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac, hosting a series of significant events here in October and November 2014. The opening of the National Anzac Centre, and the better than expected visitor numbers over the first six months of operation, attest to the community's deep engagement with our nation's military history," Senator Ronaldson said.

"It is an honour and privilege to again visit Albany and to bestow this honour on the Memorial and, by extension, the people of the community who have cared for it for so many years."

Acknowledgement to WINGS.

Visit To Leighton Battery World War 2 Tunnels

by Geoff Murray



As part of Veterans Health Week, the Army Museum arranged a visit to the Leighton Tunnels followed by a healthy lunch. On 25th of October 2016, a group of 21 Army Museum volunteers visited the tunnel complex in Mosman Park.

We were split into two groups and given a guided tour by two very experienced and knowledgeable guides and we received plenty of exercise tramping through the tunnels and up and down many stairs. The most surprising aspect to the tunnels

was the extent of them and also the strategic importance of the complex in a defensive role during World War 2.

There was plenty to see above ground, including the 3.7" Heavy Anti Aircraft Gun, the 5.25" Gun Pit, the 6" Mk XI Gun and the Bofors Anti- Aircraft Gun. Before going down into the tunnel complex, in the Battery Command Post we were given an overview of the various artillery installations up and down the coast, including on Rottneest Island, with a huge map showing interlocking arcs of fire, if required.

Inside the tunnels, were gun magazines with ammunition hoists, displays of various types of ammunition and gun barrel cutaways. The Battery Observation Post was most interesting and provided excellent views of the coast and beyond. The whole tour lasted about two hours and created a lot of interest amongst the groups, with lots of questions asked of our guides.

Upon our return to the museum, we tucked into a healthy lunch and a cuppa, with most conversation being on the tunnels. Some of the comments were:

"I can't believe they are so extensive" and "I've been meaning to visit the tunnels for so long, glad I did it" "Great idea to visit the tunnels and the lunch was great too"

It was a very successful event and thanks must go to the Tunnel guides for an excellent tour and to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their wonderful support.

Australian Flying Corps Exhibit

by Lloyd Halvorson



Photo: David Nicolson

The exhibit records the history of the AFC squadrons, No 1 in the Middle East in support of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force

and No's 2, 3 and 4 which were formed to fight the air war on the Western front.

No 1 Squadron, the first complete flying unit of the AFC only flew in the Middle East both in Egypt and Palestine throughout 1916-17 against the Germans who were supporting the Turkish army.

Flying as a new field of operations required special skills and many airmen had a background as a Light Horseman.

The initial deployment of the AFC was to counter a Turkish threat to the Anglo-Persian oil pipeline at the head of the Arabian Gulf. As part of the Anglo-Indian forces tasked to capture Baghdad, the AFC provided the Half Flight to Mesopotamia. It arrived too late to help secure the pipeline and in an attempt to capture Baghdad the attackers were besieged in the city of Kut. Attempts to relieve the siege in April 1916 failed and the garrison including the Half Flight surrendered to the Turks. Few survived as a prisoner of the Turks where conditions were atrocious. However one Australian airman did survive, Lt Tom White who later became a member of the Australian parliament.

No's 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons were formed to fight in France and by 1918 were used in a variety of roles equipped with modern aircraft such as the Bristol fighters and Sopwith Camel.

Memories of my visit to the 100th Anniversary of the Landing by the ANZACS at Gallipoli and on the Battlefields of the Western Front 2015

by Graeme Smith

My wife was lucky enough to have her name drawn out of the ANZAC ballot and being a double ticket I naturally accompanied her. We left Australia and headed to Istanbul. I knew Megan Cornwall, an active Volunteer of the museum was attending and we caught up with her and her father at a local watering hole. We headed down to Gallipoli on the RSL bus tour group. Security was at its highest at Gallipoli Peninsula with the Turkish defence forces everywhere, and it did make you think that there was a real threat to the ANZAC Service.

There were many passport and baggage checks with long queues of people waiting to be inspected. Once we got to our one square metre of grass we waited overnight for the service to commence at 0500hrs. Ten thousand people were squashed into a small area and you either had a Kiwi or an Aussie standing beside you. During the service The Sphinx and Russell's Top were illuminated in red and orange lights, which were very moving, a sight that will always stay with us. Once the Anzac Service was completed we all walked up to Lone Pine for a further service with the Kiwis heading further on up to Chunuk Bair. Once these services were completed we all waited for the buses to take us back to Istanbul and finally arrived back at our hotel about 2400hrs. It was a very long two days with no sleep.

After Gallipoli visit, my wife and I had already decided to self-drive around France and Belgium and visit the WW1 battlefields and cemeteries. For both of us it was very moving. All the people we met at the cemeteries were either Australian or New Zealander. I had been given a request by friends to find a

long lost relative who was killed in action on the Somme. We found his name at Villers Bretonneux, the family and friends were very grateful.

Most of the cemeteries are located amongst farms with many growing crops of canola. At the time of our visit to Villers Bretonneux one side was in full yellow bloom and the other green. It certainly was a magnificent view of the Australian green and gold and our boys resting with such dignity.

We continued our trip visiting many cemeteries through France and Belgium. The closeness of all the battlefields was scary. When we were standing at the Hamel and looking over the undulating hills you could see the memorial at Villers Bretonneux and realise the significance of the whole area. We made a habit of visiting the last gravestone at each corner as few people ever visit those poor devils, just to say thank you. At Lochnagar Crater Memorial we met a couple of young blokes and got to talking to them. It turned out that one of them was a Victorian policeman and he was part of the process of recovering the lost wooden cross of Lt Hugh Russel which is now displayed in the WW1 gallery at our museum.

Of all the cemeteries that we visited one which stands out was Toronto Avenue, located Bloegsteert Wood (Belgium). It contained only Australians and was surrounded by rhododendron bushes and was deathly quiet. We were the only people at this out of the way cemetery and it was quite a walk in, but it was worth it. We drove down to Fromelles and walked around the ploughed fields picking up artillery shrapnel just lying everywhere, some I brought back and I have since mounted on a plaque. While walking around I managed to work out the Sugarloaf Objective as many of the block houses are still standing.

The Mennin gate ceremony was the highlight of the tour, when the Last Post was playing you could just imagine those young Australians who didn't make it home.

Photos from Gallipoli



Just The Facts – Attacks on WA



History records slight variations in numbers but this is a good indication of the impact of war on Australia during World War II.

Acknowledgement to The Listening Post.

Drawn from the excellent book 'Red Sun on the Kangaroo Paw' by Kenn Gomm and research by Battye Library's Steve Howell:

Wyndham (two air raids)

- Tuesday March 3, 1942
- Monday March 23, 1942

Kalumburu (One air raid)

- Monday September 27, 1943 +

Derby (One air raid)

- Friday March 20, 1942

Broome (strafed four times)

- Tuesday March 3, 1942 (Carnot Bay) +
- Friday March 20, 1942 +
- Thursday August 27, 1942
- Monday August 16, 1943

Port Hedland (Three air raids)

- Thursday July 30, 1942 +
- Monday August 17, 1942
- Monday August 16, 1943

Onslow (one air raid)

- Wednesday September 15, 1943

Exmouth Gulf (Four air raids)

- Thursday May 20, 1943
- Friday, May 21, 1943
- Saturday May 22, 1943
- Thursday September 16, 1943

Port Gregory

(one submarine shelling)

- Thursday January 28, 1943
- + Denotes deaths occurred

In addition Enemy Aircraft shot down over WA skies during WWII:

- Broome, March 3, 1942: One Mitsubishi AM62 Zero fighter piloted by

WO Osamu Kudo shot down by ground fire. Pilot never retrieved.

- Over Vansittart Bay, July 20, 1944: One twin-engine Mitsubishi Dinah reconnaissance plane piloted by LT Kiyoshi Izuki with observer LT Hisao Itoh shot down by three Spitfires. The wreckage was retrieved in 1980.

Known shipping losses resulting from Japanese action in WA waters:

- SS Parigi - 1172 ton Dutch freighter torpedoed and sunk by submarine 1-2 in Indian Ocean ostensibly west of Cervantes, March 1, 1942
- SS Koolama - 4068 ton WA State Shipping Line vessel attacked by aircraft on February 20, 1942. Sank and written off at Wynham Jetty. March 3, 1942
- Foxworthy - 15 ton lugger destroyed by aircraft during first raid in Roebuck Bay, Broom. March 3, 1942
- SS Siantar - 8667 ton Dutch freighter torpedoed and sunk about 600km north west off Shark Bay by submarine I-1 on March 3, 1942 with the loss of 21 lives.

In addition, of course, there were the attacks by German warships in WA waters:

- On November 19, 1941 the sinking of HMAS Sydney was Australia's great naval tragedy with the loss of the entire crew of 645. The careful disguise of the German auxiliary cruiser HSK Kormoran (which looked like a Dutch merchant vessel) was sufficient to entice the Sydney into close range where she was overwhelmed with gunfire and torpedoes. On March 17, 2008 the Australian Government announced that the wreckage of both HMAS Sydney and Kormoran had been found, approximately 112 nautical miles off Steep Point, Western Australia. The German survivors from Kormoran came ashore at Quobba, and were subsequently detained in Carnarvon, where locals formed a bond with these survivors. It developed further in 1981 with the erection of the Cairn at Quobba Point, and with the erection of the Town Cenotaph.

Attacks on the Australian mainland:

- Mainland Australia was bombed 98 times by the Japanese. Most raids were on Darwin, some 64 in all, but there were 15 air raids on Western Australia between March 3, 1942 to September 27, 1943. Although the first Darwin air raid was the most devastating with an estimated 252 killed and 400 wounded, the second most devastating occurred at Broome, Western Australia.
- More than 1,200 people died on our own soil as a result of these strafings and bombings.
- Darwin was first bombed on February 19, 1942. The next day the state ship Koolama was attacked by Japanese flying boats off the coast of Western Australia with one killed and three injured. The Koolama was beached near Kalumburu Mission, marooning 180 passengers and crew, including several women, a baby, and some wounded men. The monks at Kalumburu rescued some 127 of these by making two trips in the mission lugger and by having a group of the fittest men walk 50 kilometres overland guided by Indigenous men from the mission. The survivors were housed at the mission and then progressively evacuated by airplane, the last not going until October 1943.
- The last air attack on Western Australia came on September 27, 1943, when a force of some 40 Japanese fighters and bombers attacked the Kalumburu mission and airstrip. (Two runways had been built to allow long-range fighters and medium bombers to takeoff and land). During the raid Father Thomas Gil, an Indigenous woman called Veronica and her baby Sylvester, and three other Indigenous children, Dominic, Benedict and Jeremy were killed. Father Gil was dug out from a bomb crater with his arms blown off, his spine broken and his head in pieces. The other victims were similarly disfigured.

The Battle Box – Fort Canning, Singapore

by Graeme Smith



- 9 metres (3 storeys) underground
- Bombproof during WW2
- Constructed in the late 1930s
- 29 rooms during WW2
- Abandoned and forgotten for over 40 years
- The British, Australian and Indian Army commanders had already endured 70 days of brutal fighting down a land mass 800km in length, Malaya Peninsula
- Their forces were short on food, water, ammunition and petrol.
- They faced a formidable enemy that was hell bent on taking Singapore.
- Before WW2 Singapore was known as an “impregnable fortress”. How did the British Empire come to this?
- The momentous decision to surrender Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942 was made in the BATTLEBOX, an underground command centre in Fort Canning Hill. It was part of the headquarters of Malaya Command, the army which defended Singapore in WW2. The surrender marked the beginning of the end of the British Empire, and the start of the darkest chapter in Singapore’s modern history. Today the BATTLEBOX is a Museum that debunks the myths and unveils the true causes of defeat surrounding the “worst disaster and largest capitulation in British military history”.

Next time you are in Singapore, visit the BATTLE BOX!

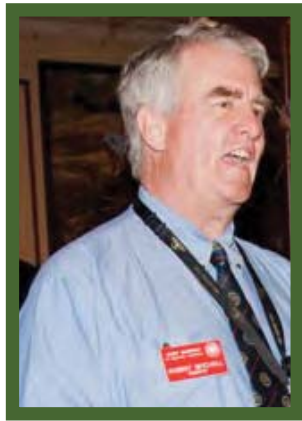
Quiz Questions

1. 1st Battalion RAR served with what Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province Vietnam?
2. What does SEATO stand for?
3. H.H Collett went onto to be the first CO of what Western Australian Unit?
4. What was the original height requirement for enlistment in WW1?
a. 5' b. 5'8" c. 5'6"
5. The majority of Australian Soldiers were from the bush in WW1. True / False ?
6. What was the home town of Arthur Wilfred (Pompey) Gull? (Clue: camel corps)
a. Geraldton b. Perth c. Broome
7. What is the name of the 3rd Medal in the Padgett collection?
8. What is the crew size for the Staghound Armoured Car?
9. What does HEAT stand for?
10. What was the speed of the M3 Stuart Light Tank?
a. 15km/h b. 25km/h c. 30km/h
11. What sort of engine is in Ferret Scout Car?
12. Was the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion captured at?
a. Battle For Rabaul b. Battle for Singapore
c. Timor d. Middle East
13. Who was the first Western Australian soldier in WW2 to be awarded the Victoria Cross?
14. What is the name of the Shelter in the Homefront passage?
15. Who recovered the abandoned Japanese MG in the Kokoda Track diorama?
16. How was the large Japanese Binoculars damaged?
17. Many transport ships carrying Australian POW's to Japan were sunk by?
a. Dutch Submarines b. Japanese Submarines
c. Indonesian Submarines d. United States Navy Submarines
18. The SLR (Self Loading Rifle) replaced what firearm?
19. Australia withdraw from Iraq in what year?
a. 2008 b. 2009 c. 2010 d. 2011
20. The F88 Austeyr replaced what weapon?
a. F1 b. M203 c. M60 d. 9mm e. SLR

Answers on Pg. 11

From the Curator – 2016 In Review

by Robert Mitchell



Looking back, 2016 has been a year of quiet achievement in meeting the vision and mission not only of the Army Museum of Western Australia but also the Australian Army History Unit. Collectively our exhibits, education programs, volunteer orientation and engagement, outreach and events have confirmed the wisdom of decisions taken in 2009 and

subsequent to position the Museum as a central focus in Western Australia's commemoration of the Centenary of World War One.

Having passed through the centenaries of Mobilisation in 2014 and Gallipoli in 2015, 2016 saw the commemoration of Fromelles, Moquet Farm and the Somme. The exhibits in the World War One Galleries established under the Gallery Redevelopment program provided local schools and hundreds of children the opportunity to understand and appreciate the impact of the Great War on communities and the sacrifice of individual servicemen and women. Through the Museum's World War One smartphone app, it has been possible to reach into classrooms post visit, but even more importantly reach regional and remote areas by providing for a virtual visit. This value of this outreach was recognised through the efforts of the Esperance communities who as part of their Entrenchment program raised funding for an additional application.

Behind the scenes the important work of documenting the collections continued. The program review of the archives and of entering the relevant information on spread sheets has been completed. Steps are now underway to make this information, together with the photo collection accessible through the Museum Mosaic program. Significance assessment continued particularly in the personal kit and textiles collection areas. The Oral History program has been reactivated and is working with the Australian Army History Unit to collate significant World War Two histories as well as documenting the founding of the Museum.

From February through November, the Museum presented the artworks from our Artist in Residence program. A joint initiative of the Museum and the Department of the Culture and the Arts the program saw two artists Michele Eastwood and Peter Daley produce a total of 11 works inspired by the Regimental Colour of 11 Battalion and related objects in the collection.

In August a recognition event facilitated by the Her Excellency Kerry Sanderson, Governor of Western Australia marked the formal completion of the Gallery Redevelopment program. The Army Museum was able to thank our patrons, Lotterywest, donors, Army staff, Foundation supporters, Museum founders and volunteers for their efforts in delivering this significant milestone. Her Excellency formally opened a special exhibition of the Victoria Cross of Martin O'Meara to coincide with the centenary of action which led to its award. This exhibition was a trial run of security and interpretation procedures for the planned exhibition in August 2018 of the four original Victoria Crosses in the Museum's collection plus three other in Western Australia. That display will run from 8 August to 11 November to mark the centenary of the last 100 Days which saw some of the heaviest casualties of the War.

The standards being set by all levels of activity at the Army Museum of Western Australia was recognised by the Australian Army History Unit. For the first time outside the east coast, curators and AAHU staff from across the Army Museums network assemble in Fremantle for a Curator's conference. Over a week the curators became familiar with the operations Army Museum of Western Australia, visited the SAS and Maritime Museums and discussed topics of professional concern. The Acting Director of the AAHU, Neil Daley took the opportunity to announce major funding to the Army Museum of Western Australia for environmentally secure showcases to support the 2018 Victoria Cross exhibition.

Along the way, there were some important discoveries in the collection which provided the opportunity to expand our story base. The partner's desk in the curator's office was identified as that used by the GOC 3 (Aust) Corps, Major General Gordon Bennett at his Headquarters located at Perth College. The desk and a recently donated wartime portrait of General Bennett are now featured in the World War Two gallery. A better understanding of the collection has also enabled a number of parade banners from 1st and 2nd AIF units to be safely displayed in their relevant galleries. This carries on the unit and corps dress, diversity and traditions themes presented in the Traditions gallery throughout the Museum.

In late November, the Museum curated the Perth Community Wall which formed part of the Anzac Centenary Experience at the Perth Convention Centre. Working with the Australian War Memorial, the Museum provided several showcases objects and accompanying stories relevant to the Western Australian experience of the War. Some objects were also supplied to the continuation of the tour to Bunbury. The Community Wall provided the 30,000 visitors to the Anzac Centenary Experience an insight into the extent of the Army Museum's collections and hopefully will lead to increased visitations in 2017.

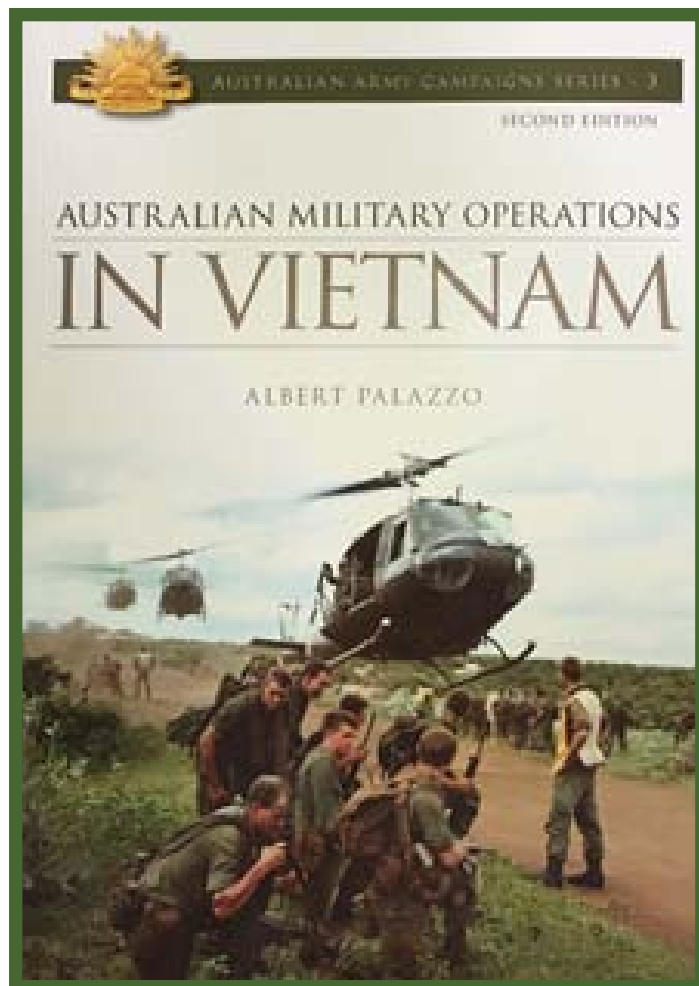
Australian Military Operations In Vietnam

Book Review by Geoff Murray

I have read many books on the subject of the Vietnam War and this publication doesn't disappoint the reader in any way. In fact, this book has something for all, be they Vietnam veterans, military historians or interested readers.

Albert Palazzo covers virtually every aspect of the Vietnam war, both from a United States perspective as well as from the Australian side. He explores the origins of the conflict and then compares the very different methodologies employed by the US and Australian forces. For example, the US waged a traditional system of warfare using enormous firepower, whereas the Australians fought a guerrilla war, using the skills they had honed earlier from campaigns in both Borneo and Malaya.

The author details Australia's involvement, from the first sending of 30 advisors to assist the South Vietnamese in 1962; the build-up to the sending of the first infantry battalion in 1965; the formation of the task force of two battalions in 1966 in the Province of Phuoc Tuy; the build-up to three battalions in 1968; then the gradual downsizing and withdrawal of troops in 1971. The author also details all of Australia's major operations and includes detailed analysis of most of Australia's major battles, including: Long Tan, Coral/Balmoral, Suoi Chau Pha and Binh Ba. Mr Palazzo also provided extensive detail on the construction of the "Barrier Minefield" in 1967 and the reasoning behind the failure of the minefield, which led to the subsequent removal two years later, by which time the VC sappers had stolen almost half of the over 20000 mines laid and relaid them elsewhere, which caused extensive Australian casualties.



During the conflict, four Australian soldiers, all members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) were awarded the Victoria Cross and the stories relating to each of these soldiers makes great reading. The book also contains many photos, maps and diagrams and a very handy list of Abbreviations and Acronyms to assist the reader. All in all, a great read.



Old Pensioner Barracks

The Barracks' central archway is the only surviving symbol of the Enrolled Pensioner Force, which from 1850 to 1880 played such an important part in the critical years of transportation. The old building stood at the western end of St. George's terrace.

Known as The Barracks, the 120-room building was started in 1863, and was designed by Richard Roach Jewell, the then Colonial Clerk of Work. Additions to the north were made in 1873. It was built for the Colonial Government, and paid for jointly by the Imperial and Colonial Governments.

Architecturally this building was interesting as an example of colonial 19th Century Gothic Revival, with a strong Tudor influence; the beautifully mellow colours of the bricks being used with artistry.

The force of enrolled pensioners was raised from British regular troops who were offered the chance to settle in the colony, provided they guarded convicts on the voyage from England. The pensioner force was disbanded in 1878 and the barracks, with the courtyards and stables, were partly occupied by the Enrolled Guard till 1887. Part of the centre portion of the building was used by the High School (now Hale School) till 1884. By 1904 the last of the pensioners had been transferred and the building was adapted for use by the Public Works Department. The department shifted in 1965 to new headquarters, and to make way for a new freeway the wings either side of the old archway were torn down.

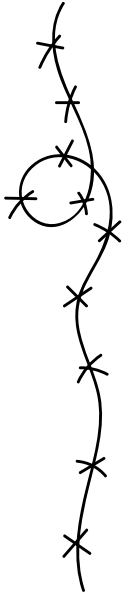
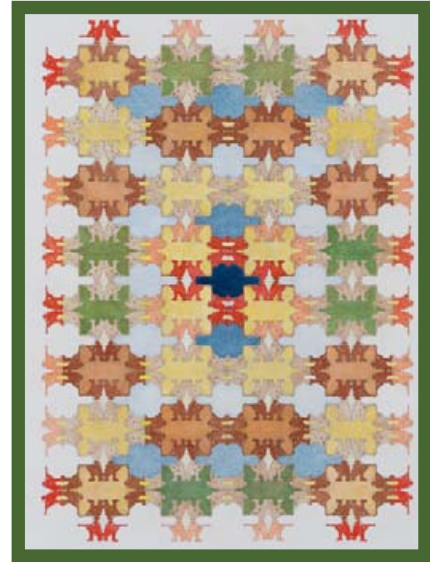
Artists in Residence – Artwork acquired by Museum

ENTANGLEMENT

Peter Dailey, 2015

Definition of entanglement: An extensive barrier typically made of barbed wire and stakes, erected to impede enemy soldiers or vehicles.

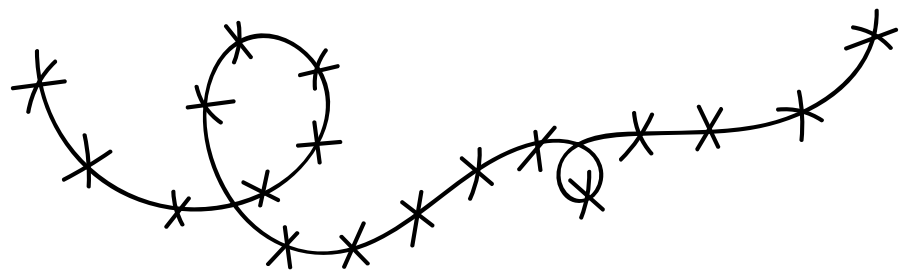
Like all lines within a conflict, it comes down to the chain being as strong as the weakest link. These entanglements took a lot of ingenuity to overcome and initially impeded a lot of movement across the landscape. A lasting image is men killed among the strands of barbed wire who misread the formation as there were gaps to exit and enter, but I wondered also of men who looked out of the trenches and saw these entanglements every day.



WOUND

Michele Eastwood

A studio portrait is taken of two young men Private Thomas Brown, 11th Battalion and friend (from the 11th Battalion) just before they embarked overseas to World War One from their training camp. The land they end up in is broken, burnt and bombed. Soldiers and land are devastatingly wounded beyond recognition.



Answers To The Quiz

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. | 173rd | 11. | Rolls Royce B60 6 cylinder 129 BHP Petrol |
| 2. | South East Asian Treaty Organisation | 12. | Battle for Singapore |
| 3. | 28th Bn AIF | 13. | Pte Jim Gordon 2/31 Bn |
| 4. | 5'6" | 14. | Anderson |
| 5. | False | 15. | 22 Construction Sqn RAE |
| 6. | Broome | 16. | Shrapnel |
| 7. | American Distinguished Service Cross | 17. | United States Navy Submarines |
| 8. | Five | 18. | .303 Lee Enfield |
| 9. | High Explosive Anti-Tank | 19. | 2009 |
| 10. | 30km per hour | 20. | SLR |

Lloyd Halvorson

Born in Cottesloe, childhood in South Perth, schooled in South Perth, Victoria Park, Queensland and tertiary in Perth and Bentley.

Completed high school in Queensland before relocating to Sydney and later moved to Perth, after parents moved to Papua New Guinea with government.

A member of the Air Force cadets and Air Force reserve in the 50's and the CMF 10 Light Horse in 60's.

Early working years were with the Bunning Bros Pty Ltd, (timber & hardware merchants in West Perth) as an accounts clerk in head office and timber mills before promotion to the accounting division as Assistant Accountant.

Concentrated and extensive study over the next 6 years and qualified as an accountant and company secretary.

Over the next two decades, held financial and senior management positions in public companies in industry and natural resources in Australia in a number of senior roles and five years in Canada, USA, Russia and Kazakhstan in mining and exploration.

After returning to Australia in 1997 held administrative roles in the pearling industry in Broome and public company financial management. Rotarian for 20 years.

Retiring in 2011, maintain membership of professional associations, CPA Australia (FCPA) and Institute of Chartered Secretaries Australia (FCIS), a CPA 50 year pin member, Maintain modest current involvement in business activities.

Graeme Smith



I grew up in Healesville country Victoria and was a timber feller before I joined the Army in 1973. I was allocated to Infantry corps and during my 28 years' service I served in all the states of Australia. I attained the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (RSM) and served in 10/27 RSAR, and 11/28 RWAR. I left the Army in 2002 and worked for Chubb Security as a security guard delivering money to the banks, followed by working in

the mining industry, Placer Dome at the Granny Smith mine site, a Quartzite mine at Moora and mineral sands at Cataby. When I retired a second time, as I needed something to do I joined the Army Museum as a volunteer and have been with the Museum for 6 years. I enjoy travelling camping and hunting you could say I'm a conservationist for Australian wildlife.



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