



Army Museum of Western Australia

THE MAGAZINE

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Visit to the AAMWA by the Deputy Chief of the Greek National Defence Staff

On 24 May 2017, Lt-General Konstaninos Floras visited the museum accompanied by his wife Anna-Maria, the Greek Consul to Perth, Mr Antonios Koliados and the ADC to the General.

This was a significant event as it's the first time in the museum's history that we were visited by such a senior officer from a foreign army.

General Floras was visiting Australia as part of the 76th anniversary commemorations of the 1941 campaigns in Greece and Crete. The previous day he was the guest of the RSLWA at a wreath laying service at the State War Memorial in King's Park.

The General and his party were formally greeted by the Museum Manager, Maj Fijolek; the Assistant Manager, Capt Gardiner; the Museum's Acting Chairman, Mr Lloyd Halvorson and the Museum's Curator, Mr Robert Mitchell. Following

introductions, the Curator and Assistant Manager escorted the General and his party on a tour of the museum.

The visitors were extremely pleased at the quality of the gallery exhibits and were most complimentary about the displays on the Battles of Greece and Crete. It was a highly successful visit.

General Floras, in his current role as Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, continues a distinguished career.

A graduate from the Greek Military Academy in 1983 and after serving in amphibious and airborne commands he was posted to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Brussels with the role of staff officer from 2005 to 2008. In 2012 Gen Floras was commander of Special Operations Command prior to his posting to the General Staff.

As a memento of his visit, Maj Fijolek presented Gen Floras with two AHU books, one on the Battle of Crete and a second A Brief History of the Australian Army. General Floras presented Maj Fijolek, a military plaque and signed the Visitor's Book.



L-R: Mr. A Koliados, ADC to Gen, Maj. Fijolek, Lt- Gen. Floras, Capt. Gardiner, Ms Floras, Messrs. R Mitchell and L Halvorson

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AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA MANAGEMENT

Museum Manager
Maj Henry Fijolek

**Museum Assistant
Manager**
Capt Wayne Gardiner

Museum Curator
Robert Mitchell

Museum Deputy Curator
Richard Bennett

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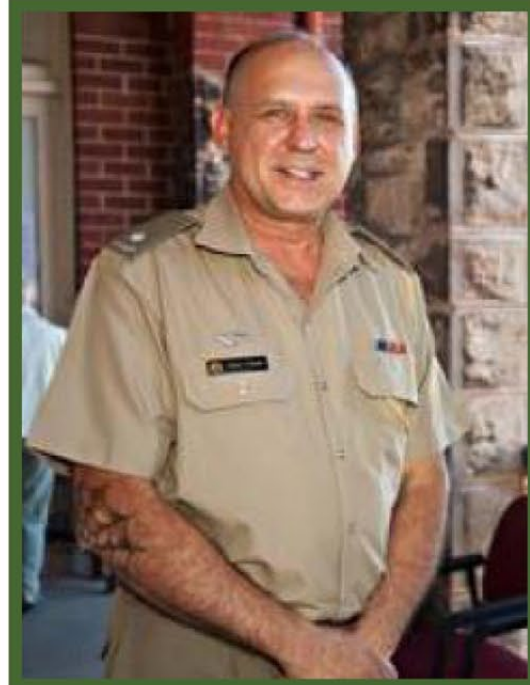
Marketing Manager
David Baker

From The Museum Manager

2017 so far has been a busy year for the museum, whilst the commemoration of WW1 continues it will be coming to an end next year and I thank everyone at the museum for the support they have given so far to those commemorations whilst continuing with their normal museum work.

Next year will also be a busy year starting with the Army Museum Band Concert which has been scheduled for February 2018 through to the VC Display towards the end of next year. A great effort has gone into the planning processes by many within the museum and I encourage them to keep up the good work.

The Policy Directive for 2018 will be released in December and it is this document that will guide the museum through 2018. The Policy Directive is contributed to by all the departments within the museum and the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation Board which makes it an inclusive document. There will be a shift in focus next year to strengthening our base functions and get back to providing the museum with a firm base. This does



not mean that we will stagnate in our outlook, it means that we will become more professional in our core functions.

I wish to finally congratulate again Captain Wayne Gardiner in his award of the Order Of Australia Medal, an award that was well deserved and a long time coming.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Army Museum of Western Australia End of Year Volunteer Function.

Major Henry Fijolek
Manager
*Australian Army Museum
of Western Australia*

VALE

Jack Connolly
Anne Leach
Frank Caddy

VOLUNTEER XMAS PARTY

Sunday,
17 December 2017

MUSEUM CLOSED OVER HOLIDAY PERIOD

18 December 2017 - 9 January 2018

Reopening 10 January 2018



From The Chair

We hope you enjoy reading the second issue for the 2017 year of the Magazine Issue 16.

The Board welcomes contributions for the magazine from volunteers so please let us have your stories in WORD text and images, if any, together with a descriptions. If you have an interesting topic for a military history talk,(aka Back to the Barracks), we would love to hear about it.

We are very keen to publish stories of museum people and their history following the release last week of the 40th anniversary book on the history of museum and its volunteers produced by Wayne Gardiner, David Nicolson and Peter Shaw.

For those who attended the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 22 October, some of my comments may be a repeat of items in my Chair's Address, however I am sure you can bear that and for those who did not attend the AGM, you may already be familiar with some of my comments, so happy reading.

The past year has again been very busy for the museum with a number of happenings and messages from the Manager and Curator and my address to the AGM will update members on these.

The museum was happy to arrange the first in the 2017 program of the military history talks in June with a talk by Tom Goode on the " the Cold Footed Mob". A second talk on the eve of the 100th

anniversary on the Battle of Beersheba was by Capt. Wayne Gardiner on 26 October 2017 to a captive audience . There will be many recalls of this event with the AWM Spring 2017 issue " WARTIME" with an article titled " Beersheba and its Myths"

The Foundation has executed an Agreement for the redevelopment of the current Website. This is a ' greenfields" project with a new structure and content and will replace the current website set up some 5 years ago by BK Design in the redevelopment of the galleries.

Veteran's Health Week was with us again and thanks to DVA for their support in this important activity. Our Visitor Services Officer, Geoff Murray arranged a visit for volunteers on 24 October to Honour Avenue, Kings Park .

Please read my address to the AGM for " Activities and Events ahead of us".

A welcome to Garry Hugo and Eric Trevaskis who were elected Directors at the AGM and my thanks to my fellow directors.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who work behind the scenes in Curatorial, Admin, IT, Special Projects, Visitor Services, Research, Education, Marketing, workshop, Web and Facebook Masters and to the people at the " front office" in gate, cashier, gallery, gift shop, and the volunteers who at short notice attend the museum in an emergency.

And last but not least a big thanks to the AAHU Army staff for their full support and co-operation .

We have a great museum and its due to the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers and with great support from our sponsors and patrons.

A little piece of Greece on the Western Australian coast

By Lloyd Halvorson

Visitors to the South West of Western Australia may be surprised to see a Greek styled church on the hillside facing the ocean at the sleepy surfing town of Prevelly, located at the mouth of the Margaret River, 9km west of the town of the same name.

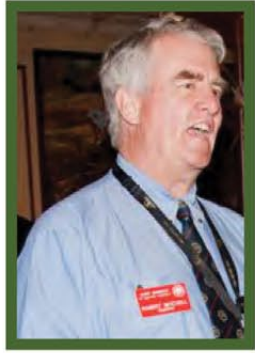
Prevelly takes its name from the Preveli Monastery in Crete where the late Geoffrey Edwards, a 2/11 Bn war veteran was given shelter by the monks in the grim days of 1941 during World War II. Mr Edwards built the distinctly Greek St. John the Theologian Chapel on Wallcliffe Road as an expression of gratitude to the Cretan people and gave it to the Greek people.

Numerous 6th Australian Division unit associations, ex- servicemen and members of the Western Australian



Greek community donated sufficient funds to furnish the chapel with unit colour patches affixed to the donated furniture and fittings. The chapel opening ceremony was in 1979 and Mr Edwards published his book " The Road to Preveli" in 1989.

From The Curator



LOOKING EVER FORWARD

The motto of John Curtin, Australia's wartime Prime Minister, seems particularly relevant to the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia curatorial team since the last issue of The Magazine in March.

This article shares some of those activities and brings us all up to date on

how the Museum remains in the forefront of telling the stories of the Army in Western Australia and Western Australians in the Army.

On behalf of the Museum, the Curatorial Team would also like to congratulate former volunteer, Nicole Hartwell, who since leaving the Museum in February has defended her PhD thesis and secured a professional appointment at the Scottish National War Memorial.

Since March 2017, the activities of Army Museum of Western Australia have included amongst others:

- Helen Birch and Ros Currie have completed the documentation and standard naming of over 10,000 photographs in the Museum Collection to facilitate their entry into a searchable photograph management system;
- delivery of two environmental standard Tascho showcases with the support of the Australian Army History Unit for the forthcoming display of six Victoria Crosses to mark the centenary of the Last 100 Days from 8 August to 11 November;
- access to the Museum's collection of four Victoria Crosses [the largest collection in Australia outside the Australian War Memorial] for high definition photographs for a book to be published with DVA support in 2018 on the 100 Australian VCs;
- the archive team of Robin Hoffman, Pauline Steel and Beverly Barry have completed the three year task of reviewing the contents and updating the records of 1,500 individual persons records and 1,000 unit record files in the Museum archives;
- continuing to receive and process significant donations, many the result of publicity associated with the centenary of World War One; the latest donation being the World War One medals of Lieutenant Colonel Noel Brazier, the first commanding officer of 10th Light Horse, AIF;
- returned to the Stokes Collection the Septimus Power painting kindly on loan in the World War One Gallery and undertaken identification research of the Lefroy Collection of 8 albums of unique photos relating to Dunsterforce;
- displaying with the assistance of RUSI Curator of Medals, Kalindi Hopping, the medals collection of the Royal United Services Institute which has not been on general viewing for over 70 years;

• Deputy curator Richard Bennet has secured the donation from Sheridan Badges and facilitated the delivery and installation of the 75 ton stamping press "Big Bertha" which produced "rising sun" badges in World War One for display in the Artillery Store;

• Kalindi Hopping has bumped in and bumped out, over the month of October, the Royal Belgian Embassy Exhibition "The Great War in Broad Outline" as well curating an exhibit from the Museum's collection to supplement the display;

• Braden Miller researched and curated an exhibition at Kings Park to support the Rededication of the Boer War Memorial, some of which will go on permanent display in the Pre 1914 Gallery;

• The Registrar, Graham Horne, has been working particularly with Frank Beardmore and Wayne Gardner to realign collection documentation with current policies and to establish a steady state where the collection management system records are up to date and accurately reflect the current holdings and locations of all objects in the collection;

• Working collaboratively with the Western Australia Genealogical Society to digitise and transcribe nominal rolls and related items in the Museum's collection to provide greater community access and to preserve the originals through reduce handling with six rolls processed to date;

• Ray Mawson completed the indexing and display in the Officers' Mess of the National Service Memorial Library to complete the concept of the original donor;

• Pam Mikus' diligent work with the City of Perth has paid off and the sword presented to the Commandant of the Pensioner Guards, Lt Colonel John Bruce by Governor Hutt will soon be transferred from the City of Perth to the Museum for display in the Pre 1914 Gallery as a donation from the Bruce family;

• The Museum continues to support the Centenary of Anzac and World War One commemorations through an active program of research and temporary loans including the Law Society, Rottnest Island, Rockingham, Broome, Corrigin and Karratha;

• Supported the research and visit to WA of Michael Hortin of BBC Radio Lincolnshire in his travels to Belgium, France, Salonika, Gallipoli Tanzania and Western Australia to tell the story of a Lincolnshire family who suffered the loss of 6 boys in the Great War but with a surviving brother in WA.[Part of the program included a visit to the Museum and the presentation of a Memorial Cross to the Soldiers' Chapel in St George's Cathedral];

• The Museum as an entity continues to support the collecting sector through assistance at the State Heritage and History Conference, provision of facilities for training for museum volunteers; lecture theatre use for historical societies and Fremantle based organisations;

• The Museum as an entity continues to support Perth Legacy by directing public donations of items not suitable for the Museum to their periodic auctions and fundraising to support the widows and children

Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia



Curator of Medals, Ms Kalindi Hopping with a selection of medals.

The Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia, (RUSI WA) relocated to the Artillery Barracks at the Army Museum of Western Australia, Fremantle in July 2017 after decades of calling Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle their home.

RUSI WA, established in 1902, endeavours to convey issues of state and national concern to the people of Western Australia. Through a monthly speaker program RUSI WA strives to draw the attention of the general

community through presentations and lectures by subject matter experts on Defence and National Security issues.

RUSI WA, holds a nationally significant collection of medals and other historical documents, including photographs, correspondence and personal items that were donated over the past century. The collection includes medals from the Battle of Waterloo (1815), the Boer War (1899-1902), World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan through to recent conflicts.

After 70 years behind closed doors, the RUSI WA medal collection is now on display and available for viewing by the general public at the Army Museum of Western Australia. This is a significant chapter in RUSI WA's 115 year history.

RUSI WA currently has over 100 members and a Council of 12 members. The organization is made up of current and ex and serving defence personnel, security professionals, academics, historians, medal enthusiasts and university students.

Heraldry and Traditions Gallery

by Lloyd Halvorson



Visitors to the Heraldry and Traditions Gallery will be "enlightened" by the displays after new lighting installed.

The gallery showcases the Australian Army's display of decorations, awards, medals, rank and uniform insignia, uniform embellishments, amazing headdress, mess silver.

The most imposing display is the awards and decorations. This brilliant colourful display is, firstly, the honours and awards under the Imperial system and, secondly, the honours and awards from the Australian system which replaced the Imperial system in 1975. This display is in magnificent colour and a brilliant record of honours and awards.

A distinctive piece of furniture made of WA Jarrah, houses former Western Australian Infantry unit colours including WA's infantry Battalions, 11, 16, 28, 44 and 10 Light Horse guidon. Visitors can read a detailed historical text on unit colours.

A close replica of an early "Trophy of Arms", comprising mounted cut and thrust swords and bayonets arranged in a semi-circle around a Black Swan, above a motto "Vigilans" a variation of an original military forces badge design which was used in early WA. The original badge was modified in 1904 and used through both World Wars, (known as the as the "Rising Sun").

by Graeme Smith

Job well done! One of our own volunteers, Andrew Pittaway, who is a researcher from Fallen Diggers Inc, has successfully found the final resting place of Lance- Corporal Taylor's grave in Villers-Brettoneaux War Cemetery in France which had been labelled as "unknown".

Andrew and Dennis Frank, also a researcher, said they were able to cross reference unknown graves with L/Cpl Taylor's date and location of death, his battalion number and his service history to enable them to pinpoint his burial location.

Incredibly, Dennis was also able to track down L/Cpl's Taylor's nephew, 93yo Vivian George Taylor after his late uncle.

L/Cpl Taylor is a great Uncle of Graeme Smith.

Visit to the Special Air Service Regiment Collection

by Graeme Smith

In July, as part of Army Museum Volunteers' Training, two visits were organised on separate occasions to view the SASR Collection at Swanbourne Barracks.

Fifty of our volunteers were provided with the opportunity to visit another military museum to experience how other organizations display their collectible items of militaria.

The SASR “museum” is referred to as a Collection as they do not come under the umbrella of the Australian Army History Unit, AAHU. The visitors were surprised and impressed to view the amount of military equipment that they had on display. It was Big Toys for Big Boys.

There was plenty to see and read and the two hours we had at the SASR went very quickly and thanks go to the SASR volunteers and to the Army for supplying the bus transport.

Museum Quiz

1. Artillery Barracks were constructed in two stages, what were they?
a. 1901 - 1914 b. 1902 - 1913
c. 1910 - 1914 d. 1910 - 1913
 2. Who designed the original concept for the buildings and spaces?
a. Kim Beasley b. Hillson Beasley c. Hugh Russell
 3. What was the barracks used for during World War One?
a. Ammunition depot b. Ordnance depot c. Hospital
 4. Who does the maintenance of our Artillery Barracks?
a. Curatorial b. Foundation Board c. Dept. of Defence
 5. Match the bunting:
a. Colours, Banners, Guidons
b. Royal Military College, 10 Light Horse, Infantry Battalions
 6. What is the magazine capacity for the 106 mm Recoilless rifles .50 Cal spotting barrel?
a. 1 b. 3 c. 5
 7. Who in the Army Museum is related to Lt Hugh Russell?
a. Pauline Steel b. Bev Barry c. Robin Hoffman
 8. The Battle of Long Tan on the 18 August 1966, D Coy 6 RAR was awarded?
a. DCM b. US Presidential Citation c. Medal of Honour
 9. AATTV stands for?
a. Australian American Training Team Vietnam
b. Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
c. American Australian Training Team Vietnam
 10. The Secret operations against the Indonesians forces in Borneo were called?
a. Port b. Claret c. Red d. Chardonnay
 11. How many countries sent contingents to serve under the UN banner in Korea?
a. 15 b. 5 c. 11 d. 21
 12. What does BCOF stand for?
a. British Canadian Officer Force
b. British Canadian Offensive Fighting
c. British Commonwealth Occupation Force
 13. RAR was formed from the 65, 66 and 67 Battalions; they went on to become what?
 14. Where was the Mena army camp?
a. Lemnos b. France
c. base of the Pyramids Cairo d. Suez canal area
 15. What happened to Vivian Bullwinkel during the world war 2?
 16. What was so significant about Nurse Doyle?
 17. What sort of soldiers was drafted into the camel corps?
 18. Who was the commander of UN Mission to Cambodia in 1992-1993?
a. Col. Howard b. Maj Gen. Gordon c. Lt-. Gen. Sanderson
 19. In what World War 2 theatre was Tom Starcevich awarded his VC?
a. Bougainville b. New Brittan c. Borneo d. Malaya
 20. Surrender swords, the army sword- SNCO this version has a cast steel handle these were produced pre-war under contract by:
a. USA b. Australia c. New Zealand d. Britain
- Answers on Pg. 8

Answers on Pg. 8

Heirisson Swan River Expedition

*Compiled from the Freycinet Collection of the State Library of WA
by Robert Mitchell*

On 17 June 1801, an expedition led by François Heirisson from the French vessel the *Naturaliste* began to explore the Swan River. After three attempts they managed to pass through the bar at Fremantle. Lots of eucalyptus and flocks of parrots, animated the otherwise unknown, deserted, wild shores.

As the party traveled up the river through what is now Fremantle, East Fremantle and Blackwall Reach, they noted the steep limestone cliffs which lined one, then the other side of the Swan River. The rock was incrustated with shells, roots, petrified tree trunks, giving the impression of ancient ruins.

Soon the river opened into a relatively shallow basin, surrounded by low-lying land. On the left bank they observed the opening to what is now the Canning River, which the party assumed communicated with the sea. They camped on a little sandy beach at the foot of a steep cliff now known as Mount Eliza. On one side they could see the upper reaches of the river extending towards distant mountains, on the other the lower reaches extending towards the ocean.

On 18 June, the boat ran aground in soft, thick, clinging mud and spent much time dragging it through. The river was barred by a group of low, swampy islands which they named Iles Heirisson after their commander. Here the sailors saw black swans for the first time.

The terrain the Frenchmen were now passing through was low and swampy, a layer of coarse sand covering a bank of red, clinging clay. This change in the makeup of the soil meant that rain water was trapped on the surface of the soil, causing rivulets of fresh water to join the river and decrease its salinity. The group camped overnight by the river (probably near present-day South Guildford).

The next morning, 19 June, they continued hoping to reach the source of the river, but realised, after traveling all day, that it was still far away and that they were running out of provisions.

On the 20th they started back down river. Next day, they got stuck in the shallows again but after 13 hours of struggling a breeze finally helped them to sail the boat out of this difficult spot. The next day, 22 June, they continued down river and finally reached the mouth, and in the evening were back on board the *Naturaliste*, exhausted and starving.

A copy of the chart prepared during this journey now forms part of the entry to the Pre 1914 Gallery. The names of modern suburbs have been superimposed on the 1801

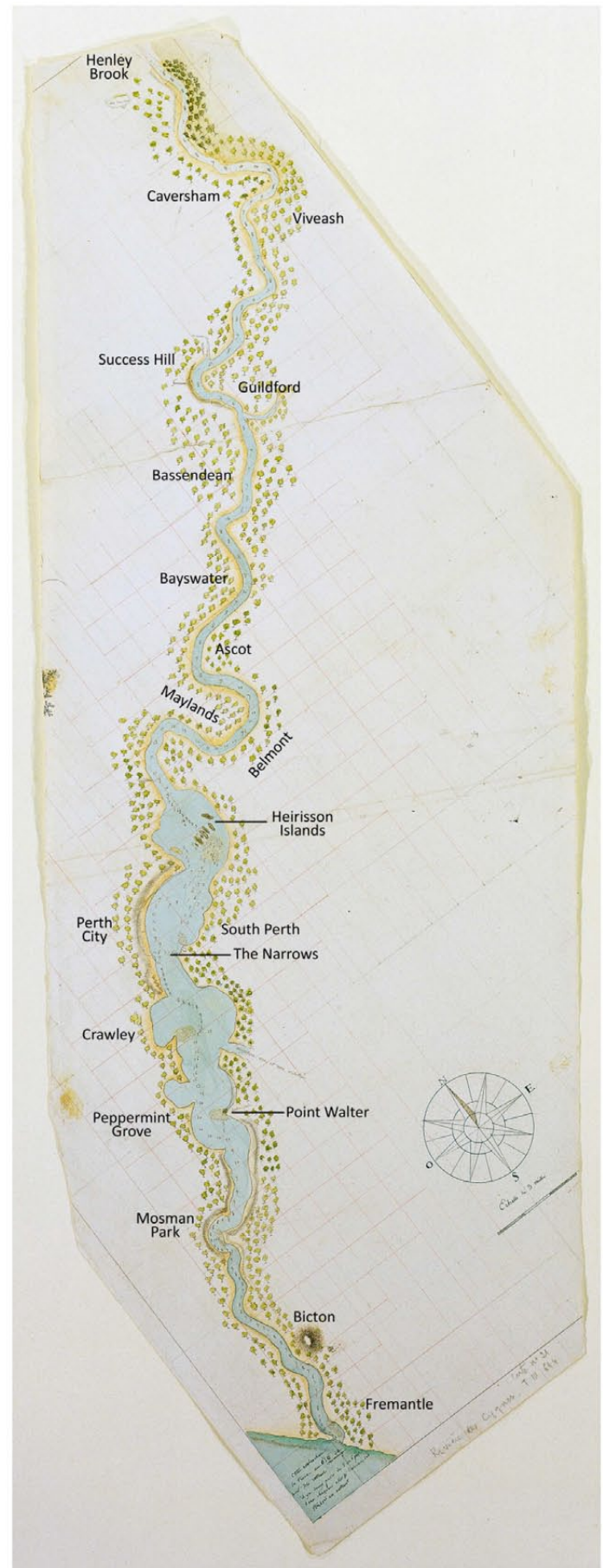
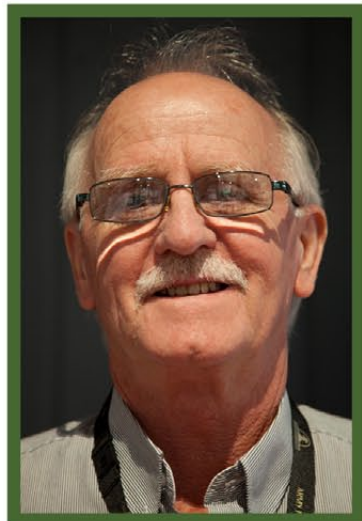


chart. The chart also helps to identify features on the Alan Muller painting of Derbal Yerrigan on the wall above. Counter poised on the adjacent wall is a copy of the George Pitt Morison painting *The Foundation of Perth*. Only 28 years separate the two events and but for the Battle of Waterloo, this article might have been in French and our state named *Australie Occidentale*.



I was working for the Main Roads Department in Northam in mid-1968 when I received my call-up papers for National Service and so, having passed my medical, I was ordered to report to Karrakatta on 2nd October 1968,

where I was sworn into the Army for the next two years. They flew us to Seymour in Victoria and then bussed us to Puckapunyal, which would be my home for the next ten weeks of recruit training. Wonderful place, NOT.

After recruit training, a group of us were selected for Infantry Corps training with 7 Battalion in Holsworthy, instead of corps training at Singleton and I remained with 7RAR for the remainder of my time in the Army, including service with the battalion in South Vietnam.

I returned to working with Main Roads on my discharge from the Army, initially back in Northam and then in Head Office in Perth, where I worked with Syd Jenkins, who was one of the original curators of the museum when it was located at Dilhorn House in East Perth.

Upon my retirement from the public service in 2011, I started working at the museum, initially as a gallery attendant, then as a tour guide and volunteer duty officer. I was appointed to the AMWAF board in 2015.

Answers To The Quiz

1. 1910 – 1913
2. Hillson Beasley
3. Hospital
4. Dept of Defence
5. Colours =Infantry Battalions, Banners = RMC, Guidons= 10 Light Horse
6. 5 rounds
7. Beverly Barry
8. US Presidential Citation
9. Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
10. Claret

11. 21 Countries
12. British Commonwealth Occupation Force
13. 1RAR, 2 RAR, 3 RAR
14. At the base of the Pyramids Cairo
15. Her ship was torpedoed and she was shot and wounded by the Japanese.
16. She paid her own way to England and enlisted in the Queens Alexander Imperial Nursing Service
17. Unruly fellows
18. Lt Gen Sanderson
19. Borneo
20. USA



Artillery Barracks
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Open 10.30am - 3pm (last entry 1pm)
Wednesday - Sunday

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