



School Holidays Fun



In an effort to attract visitors during the July School Holidays, the Board decided children under 15 would be free. We also had our friends from Pinjarra-Kelmscott Light Horse and the Great War Living History Group join us on the first day. Amongst other things there were some vehicles that could be climbed in, a target practice area, 'make a poppy' craft, extra camouflage uniforms for trying on and a weapons display.

The response from visitors was very positive. The target practice was a big 'hit' and the Morse code was popular. Access to the vehicles was probably the most popular 'activity', and hopefully this can be part of our usual practice.

There was a bit of organising to make it happen, but hopefully we can repeat it for future holidays. It certainly gave us ideas of additional things we can do to improve the visitor experience. Thank you to the volunteers who assisted in delivering two weeks of school holiday activities.

Mid-Year Function for Volunteers

The mid-year function is a great opportunity for volunteers to meet and mingle with Army staff, Board members and others from different days, and this year was no different, with 40 volunteers and Army staff enjoying an afternoon at the Officers Mess on the last Sunday in July. The move away from a 'Sausage Sizzle' to a catered event with finger food proved popular. The board members behind the bar were kept busy 'hydrating' the guests, responsibly of course, as they snacked on beef sliders, chicken kebabs and sandwiches.

Lots of conversations were had, exchanging experiences and ideas to make the museum better.

A big "Thank You" to all those who came along and to the Board for organising the event.



Some of the Museum volunteers enjoying the function.



AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA MANAGEMENT

Museum Manager
Capt. Stephen Muir

**Museum Assistant
Manager**
Capt. Sean Collopy

Museum Curator
Steven Sinclair

Museum Deputy Curator
Richard Bennett

FOUNDATION DIRECTORATE

Chairman
Graeme Smith

Deputy Chairman
Garry Hugo

**Treasurer/
Company Secretary**
Peter Dennis

Directors
Lisa Devlyn
Dianne Hornby
Geoff Murray

From the Museum Manager



It's been another busy year at the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia, with more fun and excitement to come. I'd like to once again congratulate the three people who were awarded

Army History Unit Commendations at the end of last year. Ken Carter, Jen Brittain and Victoria Canova were recognised for their excellent work and dedication during the year and those awards were well deserved. It would also be remiss of me not to mention Mr Robert Mitchell who was recognised this year with an Australia Day medallion for his hard work and dedication over many years. Finally, congratulations to Andrew Pittaway on the award of the Order of Australia this year – a very well deserved honour.

On a lighter note, those who were present at the Christmas party last year were witness to the inaugural "Clownie" awards. I have my spies out gathering intelligence for the 2023 "Clownie" awards, but if you know of any deserving recipients who might have done something foolish this year, please let me know.

We have big plans for the future and we have already begun the reorganisation of office spaces. By now you would be aware that Education section has relocated to the Administration office and Curatorial section has moved into building 26. We are in the process of getting the old Curatorial building refurbished before moving the shop and reception area to the front gate (building 11). This move is well overdue and will streamline the operations of the Museum as a whole. Although all of these moves have caused considerable disruption for many of you, it will be worth it in the end, but in any case I'd still like to say thank you for your patience and understanding while we move things around.

Once these moves are complete we will begin the process of developing our new

gallery where the current shop is. The Curatorial team have been hard at work coming up with ideas for this new gallery but we are open to suggestions from the volunteers. The main inclusion in this gallery will be the 15 pounder quick firing gun from building 25 which will hopefully sit on the brick piers that used to support the billiard table legs in the WAUR Soldier's Mess (our current shop).

Don't forget that the Sunset Concert is planned for Sunday 1 October this year. The last Sunset Concert was held in 2019 just before COVID lock downs were put in place, so we are excited to be able to revive this event.

I'd also like to remind you that there are many opportunities for you to expand your horizons and branch out into other areas of the museum. We are keen to establish a succession plan for key positions in the Education, IT and Treasury departments. If you are interested in finding out more about these opportunities please speak to me or Graeme Smith, but essentially we'd like to get people trained up in those departments so that the future of the Foundation, and the Museum, is secure.

Our morning teas have been a great success so far. In case you weren't aware, we have morning tea once each month, and all volunteers are welcome regardless of whether or not you are rostered for duty that day. This is a great opportunity to have a snack and catch up with other volunteers before we open the gates in the morning. Keep an eye on the Wednesday meeting notes for the next morning tea date and time.

In conclusion, remember that my door is always open if you have any concerns or ideas regarding the way we do things at the museum. I am always impressed and inspired by your devotion to duty and your willingness to pitch in and get the job done, regardless of season, weather or terrain.

Steve Muir
Captain
Manager AAMWA

Chairman's Report



Firstly, I would like to thank all Museum Volunteers who perform a variety of tasks within the Museum, Curatorial, Treasury, Administration, Education, Marketing, IT, Visitor Services, Archives, Research, Textiles, Work Shops, social media, Website, Duty Officers and the team

who patrol the Galleries.

Without our dedicated Volunteers our museum would not be able to open.

The Board has decided to only produce one magazine per year due to limited amount of new items / material that the editor receives. In addition, it was decided to produce a monthly newsletter beginning next year to include items that the Curatorial have but have not been on display at the museum.

The first time in many years the Museum has started a School Holiday Program (SHSP). This event was very successful and free entry to under 15-year-olds. The weapon display and being able to climb in the old military vehicles was a great success. If anybody has any new ideas that could enhance the SHP, please contact Lisa Devlyn. I would like to thank Lisa for her hard work putting the SHP together.

The next big event for the Museum is the October Band Concert, the planning for this event is well under way and keep all updated as it progresses.

The impact of COVID-19 has seen the number of people volunteering reduce as many retirees are now going back to work due to the high cost of living. We are continuing to work with Volunteer agencies and we are still receiving inquiries from time to time. We have been lucky enough to find a new Volunteer to take over marketing roll.

We are still looking for volunteers for Sunday so if any Volunteer would like to change their roster or add an additional day please inform HR.

The Annual Christmas function has been scheduled for Sunday 17th December 2023 and again this will be a catered event, so put this date in your diary.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their support and the extra hours they provide to making decisions to help keep the Museum running and The Australian Army History Unit, and OUR OWN Army Staff for their support, co-operation and friendship. It is a great team effort.

THANK YOU!

Graeme Smith
Chairman

Friday Crew

The photo below shows the "Friday Crew" testing out the Anderson Shelter in the WWII Gallery.



L to R: Len Cullen, Brian Houlston, Ross Atkins, Les Horrocks, Pam Mikus, Tony Paulin, Richard Farrar

From the Curator



It has again been a very constructive and busy period in the museum since our last newsletter.

I hope you all had a good break over the Christmas period and enjoyed time with family.

There have been several changes in the museum in the past 12 months and they have all added to the richness of the displays and museum content.

We received two new map cabinets provided by Army History Unit HQ (AHUHQ) and these have been installed in the resource centre. These new cabinets have added to the ability to store and sort out map collection along with storage of large photographic items.

The map audit is still happening and will near completion soon.

The WW1 Digger that has been installed in the museum entry draws a lot of comment and the museum was fortunate enough to host the donor family for a visit in the early part of 2023 and they were extremely happy to see the uniform in its glory.

In late 2022 the museum was able to host members of the Sheridan family who visited the museum to see the Sheridan Badge Press and associated ephemera. The visit was timed to occur with the sale of the family company at the time and to mark the end of a long presence of over 100 years in Perth industry by the family.

In mid-2022 the museum received a significant Gallipoli historical item from the family of Peter McCracken, the Grand Son of Maj ALAN LOVE former 2IC of 10LH Regt when they were sent to Gallipoli.

The map that was drawn by Maj Love was done after he arranged to get a board a destroyer situated

off the coast of Anzac Cove. He wanted to get a better view of the topography of the land than he could get onshore.

The donation by Mr McCracken is the original map which was sent home to Australia.

The map hangs in the 1915 gallery. In Apr 2023 the museum was able to host the family and visitors from the eastern States to view the map.

Over the past 5 months we have been dealing with a mould outbreak in the Textile Store because of moisture. This issue is proving to be a significant challenge and hard work to clean it up. My thanks to Jennifer Britain and Victoria Canova for their hard work

As part of the 5-year plan for the museum Curatorial was required to move from the front building at the gate to allow the shop to be located at the gate into the Admin building into the old education office. This task has taken some months and was completed in early June.

In late 2022 it was decided to create a Communications display drawing on the large amount of communications equipment that has been stored in building 15 for some years.

The location chosen is the old workshop room / shower block upstairs opposite the entry to the WW2 gallery. Work was commenced on the restoration of this room in early Apr. The work has now been completed with painting and a new floor laid. Display cases supplied by AHUHQ will be installed on the 9.10th Aug. Once these are installed the process of installing all the display equipment will commence. It is anticipated this will take approx. 6- 9 months to fully complete including research and display information signs.

Finally I wish to pass on my thanks to all the curatorial personal for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months to ensure the museum is well run and maintains its reputation for excellence.

Stephen Sinclair
Curator



24 hours of heroes is an event run to honour men and women (and K9s) that have lost their lives serving their country, or as a result of mental health related issues. The event raises awareness and much needed funds for Wounded heroes Australia and their homeless heroes program.

The concept of the event is to complete 24 CrossFit style workouts, on the hour every hour, each one in honour of a fallen hero. Each team participating is made up of 6 members and must work together to complete the designated workouts. Being somebody who has never participated in CrossFit before, nor did I have friends

who did – it begs the question as to how I became involved in such an event.

The Army Museum was contacted by one of the event organisers to see if we were able to set up a station for a period of time during the event. Unfortunately, due to a conflict with another event, the Museum was unable to accommodate the request. I contacted the event organiser and put my name forward as a person in uniform to attend.



Army CrossFit team prior to the first workout

so once again I was faced with stepping outside of my comfort zone. I started by speaking to the Museum Manager, MAJ Steve Muir, and requested permission to place posters around the Museum with a QR code that linked to the donation page. MAJ Muir went one step further and sent the poster to HQ in order to increase the exposure.

After some discussion, it was noted that some members may find it difficult to utilise a QR code or feel uncomfortable putting their card details online and so the decision was made to utilise a money tin. Counting down to the event, each day the organisers would release a workout and the story of who it was in honour of and why. These were printed and placed inside a display folder that was located with the money tin. The day before the event, the tin was opened and a bulk donation was made on behalf of the Museum to our team. I was blown away as we counted the money and exceeded \$400!



Before I knew it, I had agreed to participate. I became the final member of the Army CrossFit team, which was made up of soldiers from 13 Brigade. It was only after registration was complete that I came to realise the extent of what I had just signed up for and the fear well and truly set in. Not only was I new to CrossFit, I also did not know these people and was feeling very much outside of my comfort zone – but growth doesn't come from being comfortable.

As a team, we had to raise a minimum of \$600 prior to the event starting. Asking for donations is something I do not feel comfortable with and



Having not had experience in CrossFit prior to this event, I had to research some of the exercises named in the workouts of the day (WODs) to get a basic understanding of what I was about to attempt. Majority of the WODs were individual effort, two were to be conducted in pairs and the final WOD was a complete team effort and was named the Veteran memorial workout.

My individual WODs were dedicated to PTE Benjamin Ranudo (0800h), LCPL Luke Gavin (1300h), SGT Brendan Hurst (1900h) and K9 Chucky (0200h). I made sure to read their stories prior to starting each one to help give me that extra drive to push through the pain and exhaustion I was feeling.

To my surprise, I managed to hit a personal best (PB) in a

barbell deadlift during the K9 chucky work out, lifting the equivalent of just over my own body weight.

By the end of the event, our team raised a total of \$2,687 towards the cause. I was thrilled to learn that not only had I raised the most for my team, a total of \$1,345, but I had the highest individual total for the state! Most of that financial support came from the Army Museum staff and volunteers, and so I feel compelled to pass on that achievement to them.

The support that I received through this experience was incredible. My team supported me through the gruelling workouts and showed me how to conduct CrossFit movements, as to minimise my risk of injury. I had people come to support me during the event, bringing moral support and food - including the 0200h session! My two amazing little girls came to watch me during the day and I felt a huge sense of pride showing them that you can do hard things, even when your body hurts, your mind has a strength that is beyond measure.



Army CrossFit team post Veteran Memorial workout

I have signed myself up to some crazy things. From the 21km Beast Spartan in 2017, to the rush rumble obstacle course and the bloody long walk in 2018, but this event took the cake. I was the walking wounded for a few days after and was adamant that I would never do anything like this to my body again. Yet, just a few months later I find myself researching the next event to tackle!

CPL Kristy-Lee Boyd



Volunteer Service and Awards 2022

At the last Christmas Party, in the absence of Chairman Graeme Smith, Deputy Chairman Garry Hugo presented long service awards, not only from the Foundation but also awards from the Australian Army History Unit. These AAHU awards have been recently produced and will eventually replace the Foundation Awards. As a result, several volunteers received multiple awards as follows:

Foundation Awards:

15 YEARS

William Tennant, Clarence Cole, George Sulc

10 YEARS

Mary Goldthorpe, Richard Shepherd

5 YEARS

Daren Sinclair, Tony Paulin

AAHU Awards:

25 YEARS

Helen Birch, Andrew Pittaway, Gil Bulliard

15 YEARS

Graham Berry, Wayne Smith, Mary Tomshin, Patrick Sobon, William Tennant, Clarence Cole, George Sulc

10 YEARS

Graeme Johnson, George Neilson, Rod Bird, Robert Mitchell, Sophia Jarmolowicz, Geoff Murray, Len Cullen, Mary Goldthorpe, Bruce Hamling, Igor Iskra, Richard Shepherd

5 YEARS

David Cornell, Ken Carter, Peter Dennis, Richard Farrar, Dorothy Farrell, Ros Currie, Lisa Devlyn, Dianne Hornby, Brian Houliston, Greg Wilson, Garry Hugo, Pam Mikus, Daren Sinclair, Tony Paulin

The montage on this page shows some of the award recipients receiving their awards from Garry.



At the height of the three year conflict 17000 Commonwealth troops were involved. Units came from Australia, New Zealand, Malaya and included several British Army Gurkha regiments from Nepal.

CLARET Operations

Most of the fighting was done by the SAS and infantry who carried out patrol and ambush operations and took part in secret incursions across the border into Kalimantan. Codenamed 'CLARET', these incursions involved sending small numbers of troops, often by helicopter, into remote jungle to gather intelligence or ambush Indonesian insurgents and regular soldiers.

The Claret infiltrations had to be kept secret because a state of war did not officially exist between Indonesia and the Commonwealth countries. Were it to be known that Commonwealth troops were fighting on Indonesian soil, Indonesia might have been forced to declare war.

In March 1966 Sukarno was deposed by General Suharto in a military coup. The new President realised that Indonesia was not going to win the confrontation. It was also crippling the economy and on 11th August 1966 a peace treaty was signed.

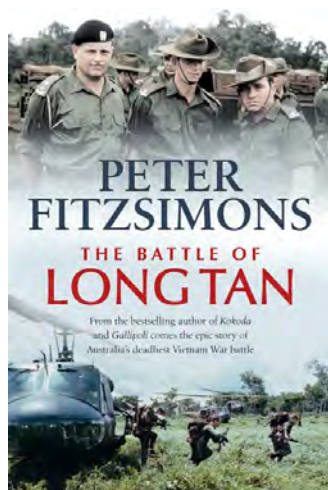
Australian Units that fought during the confrontation did so as part of a larger British and Commonwealth force. Along with the Malayan Emergency (1950-62) when Australia supported British forces in quelling a decade -long communist uprising in Malaya, fighting during this confrontation was a positive step in a peace-making move. Malaysia came to be and has proved a sound and prosperous partner and Indonesia today is also a sound and peace-loving partner.

This article acknowledges James H and Denis Sheil Small "The Undeclared War" 1971 University of Malaya Press.



THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN By PETER FITZSIMONS

Book review by Mark Ryan



Yes another book on Long Tan! I think that I have probably read more than 9 other books on this pivotal battle for the Australian Army in the Vietnam war. The book is not one of the better ones on this subject.

The book is not a serious military history of the battle but rather a 'popular history' that looks at the battle from the perspective of the immediate participants. It is typical of the popular history that Fitzsimons mass-produces at a rapid rate and that appear regularly to dominate the shelves in our book stores.

Fitzsimons appears to many to be more of an editor than an author, as he freely acknowledges he employs a large team of 'researchers' who do all the 'hard work', which he then pulls together into a book. I am being slightly critical here but, certainly his books all seem to fit the same template; take a popular Australian historical subject, research and document the subject and then turn it out relatively quickly as a book. I wonder perhaps if the phrase; 'quantity over quality' applies here? Having read a number of his books I personally believe it does. I usually will not buy his books but if I have an interest in one of his subject titles, I will get a copy from my local library as was the case in this instance.

The book itself reads like a movie script and if you viewed the movie "Long Tan; Danger Close", and you read this book you will see the immediate style connection here. The book focuses on the battle through the characters mainly of D Company 6 RAR, and looks closely at their backgrounds and roles. The book well illustrates the tough battle and

the bravery shown by the members of D Coy and their supporting elements. However, it treats rather harshly those who were not at the 'front end' of the battle. For example it claims that during the battle the Task Force Commander, Brigadier Jackson, was forced to 'lay down in his tent' and leave the running of TF operations centre to the CO of the Field Regiment (LTCOL Cubis); this of course shows the author's ignorance of how an operation is managed at the TF level and reflects that classic approach found in some popular military books that adopt the standard 'lions led by donkeys' theme that is often seen. The author is also very scathing of the CO of 6 RAR and is dismissive of his command style and decision-making. Objectivity is not a strong point of the book.

I found nothing new in the book that has not appeared in the other books on this subject, but it was interesting to see how it approaches the well discussed topic of whether or not the NVA/VC intended to actually assault the vulnerable Nui Dat base; it almost subscribes to a conspiracy theory perspective on the subject.

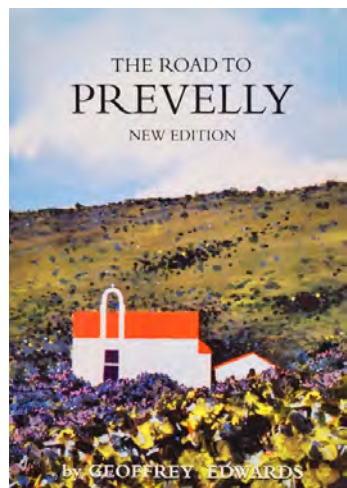
The best section of the book in my opinion is the epilogue which looks at the post-Vietnam experience of the veterans and how they, and Australian society, dealt with post-war realities and perceptions. The epilogue is well written and almost moving. It is in a very different style to the rest of the book.

Overall the book succeeds as a superficial popular history of the battle of Long Tan, it is not a serious military history, so if it was purchased to be simply entertainment on a rainy day, it would probably fit the bill. This book will certainly not find a place in my personal library and I would recommend that if you want to read it, get copy from your local library, save your money. After all, how many red bandanas does a man really need?

The Road to Prevelly By Geoffrey Edwards

Published by E.G.Edwards 1989

Book review by Jennifer Brittain



I picked up this book in The Chart and Map Shop as the cover caught my eye. What I enjoyed most about reading Geoff's book were his descriptions and anecdotes about his experiences and people he met.

Geoffrey Edwards

served in the 2/11th Battalion, 6th Australian Division, 2nd AIF. After dairy work, he enlisted at the Northam Military Camp on his 21st birthday in 1939, WX778 Private E. G. Edwards (Eric Geoffrey). Part of the machine gun platoon, he doesn't mention the hard fighting in the desert campaign at Bardia, Tobruk or Derna, but that the burnt-out smell of tanks leaves a horrible smell. From Alexandria they took Bren Gun carriers, their freighter bombed on the way to Greece. With his two mates, Corporal Arthur Liddell {NCO} and Private Arthur Pedersen {driver}, they worked well as a crew. They made it as far north as Veria in trying to hold the German forces, but in retreat Arthur Liddell was killed at Brallos passage. The battalion headed to Crete and Geoff refers to Cretans as "strong, stubborn, independent people" their motto being freedom or death. They defended the Rethymnon airstrip and in the Crete section of our World War II gallery, we have a "Medal of the Town of Rethymnon", which was presented as a gesture of recognition and thanks to the Australian units who took part in the defence of the airfield, including the 2/11th Battalion. Geoff says the war was unusual with no front line due to paratroopers dispersed across the island. Captured, the prison camp held 69 men from 2/11th Battalion and Geoff and Private William McCarrey (Bill) made a daring decision to escape.

What I found interesting was how they evaded the Germans and the risks taken by the people of Crete, you could picture the Greek villagers and countryside. A shepherd gave Geoff a long sheepskin coat which was warm but also covered his army shorts! At Preveli Monastery the Abbott and monks provided food, shelter and escape for many Australian, British and New Zealand soldiers hiding out nearby. Any Cretan assisting soldiers faced a firing squad. Geoff and Bill left Crete by a British submarine HMS 'Thresher'.

After marrying and doing a rehabilitation course in carpentry and joinery, they built their first home in Scarborough and then camped out on land building Prevelly Park from bush to become a caravan/ camping resort. Following a trip back to Preveli Monastery in Crete, Geoff thought about building a chapel at Prevelly to honour the monks, villagers and the fallen. It was built on the hill overlooking the coast with donations from the Greek community and ex-servicemen associations. Geoff provides quite a bit of detail about what was involved and it is amazing that the Chapel was built some 38 years after his time in Greece and even survived a bushfire.

Returning to Greece for the 40th anniversary of the conflict, he visited Arthur Liddell's grave, which would have been an emotional experience. Geoff's personal account makes you wonder how different his life and others may have been if the men and women of Greece who endangered their lives had not given them friendship and the little they had to help them survive the war. Prevelly, the Chapel and memorials on Crete are symbolic of how much it meant to him and also for those who never made it back.



3399 Corporal T L Axford VC, MM, 16 Battalion, AIF

by S J SINCLAIR (Curator)

In Mid-January this year Mrs Darlene Pearson along with her Husband visited the museum and enquired as to donating some items that belonged to her grandfather.

Her Grandfather was Thomas Leslie AXFORD VC MM of the 16TH BN AIF

She met with Capt. Collopy and spoke at length as to the items involved and asked if someone from the museum could contact her.

The Curator contacted Mrs Pearson a few days later and the process was put in place for the donation to take place. Two weeks later all the items were handed over to the museum as a permanent donation. Mrs Pearson and her Husband have been considering the donation for some time based on several factors in recent years. They included the potential for family not having any interest in its military history and the safe keeping of her grandfather's artefacts.

The Army Museum of WA is now very proud to say that the artifacts have been placed into our care and will be placed on display in the VC room in due course.





Thomas Leslie AXFORD

Regimental number	3399
Date of birth	18 June 1894
Place of birth	Carrieton, South Australia
School	State School, Coolgardie, Western Australia
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	Labourer
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21
Height	5' 7.25"
Weight	137 lbs
Next of kin	W R Axford, 13 Bourke Street, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
Previous military service	Served in the 84th Infantry, Citizen Military Forces
Enlistment date	9 August 1915
Place of enlistment	Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	<u>16th Battalion, 11th Reinforcement</u>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/33/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAS A24 Benalla on 27 October 1915
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board HMAS A24 Benalla on 1 November 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Corporal
Unit from Nominal Roll	16th Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Military Medal Recommendation date: 25 May 1918 Victoria Cross (altered to Distinguished Conduct Medal) Recommendation date: 5 July 1918
Fate	Returned to Australia 19 October 1918
Medals	Victoria Cross – Military Medal

'For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations. When the barrage lifted, and an infantry advance commenced his platoon was able to reach the first enemy defences through gaps which had been cut in the wire. The adjoining platoon being delayed in uncut wire, enemy machine guns got into action, and inflicted many casualties, including the company commander. Lance Corporal Axford, with great initiative and magnificent courage, at once dashed to the flank, threw his bombs amongst the machine gun crews, jumped into the trench, and charged with his bayonet. Unaided he killed ten of the enemy and took six prisoners; he threw the machine guns over the parapet and called out to the delayed platoon to come on. He then rejoined his own platoon and fought with it during the remainder of the operation. Prior to the incidents above mentioned, he had assisted in the laying out of the tape for the jumping off position, which was within 100 yards of the enemy. When the tapes were laid, he remained out as a special patrol to ensure that the enemy did not discover any unusual movement on our side. His initiative and gallantry undoubtedly saved many casualties, and most materially assisted towards the complete success of his company in the task assigned to it.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 191

Date: 12 December 1918

Military Medal

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 15

Date: 4 February 1919

Discharge date

6 February 1919

Family/military connections

Brother: 1581 Sergeant Harry Arnold AXFORD,
10th Bn, returned to Australia, 11 January 1918.

Other details

War service: Egypt, Western Front

Taken on strength, 16th Bn, Tel el Kebir, 7 March 1916.

Proceeded from Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force, 1 June 1916; disembarked Marseilles, 9 June 1916.

Wounded in action, France, 11 August 1916 (shell shock); rejoined Bn, 13 August 1916.

Found guilty, 7 November 1916 of being absent without leave from night operations from 1700 to 2100 on 6.11.16: awarded 7 days' Field Punishment No 2.

Wounded in action (2nd occasion), 10 August 1917 (gunshot wound, left knee), and admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance and thence to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station; transferred to 3rd Australian General Hospital, 11 August 1917; to England, 16 August 1917, and admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, same day; to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, 25 September 1917. Discharged on furlough, 25 October 1917, to report to No 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, 8 November 1917. Marched in to No 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, 12 December 1917; to No 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, 18 December 1917; to Overseas Training

(Continued on next page)

Brigade, Longbridge Deverill, 5 January 1918. Proceeded overseas to France, 17 January 1918; rejoined unit in the field, 26 January 1918.

Appointed Lance Corporal, 14 February 1918.

Awarded Military Medal.

Detached to Corps Gas School, 19 May 1918; rejoined unit from detachment, 26 May 1918. Promoted Corporal, 14 July 1918.

Awarded Victoria Cross.

Detached to Australian Corps School, 24 August 1918; rejoined unit from detachment, 18 September 1918.

Marched out to England for return to Australia, 14 September 1918.

Commenced return to Australia on board HT 'Sardinia', 19 October 1918; reached Fremantle, 16 December 1918; discharged, 6 February 1919.

Medals: Victoria Cross, Military Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal.

Also served in World War II, Service No W18283, Australian Military Forces, 25 June 1941-14 April 1947 (Western Australian Echelon and Records Office; discharged as Sergeant).

Date of death

11 October 1983

T L Axford artifacts (actually worn by CPL Axford) now in the museum's care:



Artifacts as shown:

- 1914 -15 star
- Australian Rising Sun hat badge
- Miniature medal bar:
 - VC
 - MM
 - 1914-15 medal.
 - War medal WW1
 - Victory medal WW1
 - George 6 Coronation medal
 - Queen Elizabeth II coronation medal
- Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal
- Gold life pass to Tivoli Theatres
- Note. Mr Axford's Victoria Cross and Military Medal are held in the Australian War Memorial Canberra.



Gold life pass to Tivoli Theatres – the Tivoli Theatre chain decided to make available to all WW1 Victoria Cross winners in Australia a free pass to the chain of theatres for the life. This took the form of the gold badge above and was individually presented.

National RSL Bowls Carnival



The National RSL Bowls Carnival was recently held in Perth at the Manning Bowling Club from April 29th to May 6th, comprising the interstate Test Series between the states and the National Fours competition. In the Test Series, competing teams included teams from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and an Allies team made up with a number of players from different states as Tasmania were unable to form a side. Saturday April 29th, after the opening ceremony, saw WA up against NSW in the morning and the Allies in the afternoon, with WA winning both games. The following day saw WA up against SA and the big "V", with WA once again winning both games. Monday May 1st, it was WA against Qld, the only other unbeaten side, so it was a grand final. In a closely fought match, WA headed into the last end four shots up and ended up winning by two, the first time WA had won the Test Series in 46 years and Geoff Murray and Di

Hornby's husband Allan were both members of the winning WA State Side and Geoff is pictured with the perpetual trophy.

After a rest day on Tuesday 2nd May, the second part of the carnival commenced on Wed. 3rd with a National Fours competition, with teams from each state competing for the championship. The team Geoff was in won their section and then played in the quarter-finals Friday afternoon, which they won putting them in the first semi-final. Heavy overnight rain and Saturday morning drizzle meant that the semi-finals and final had to be transferred to the undercover synthetic green at Rossmoyne Bowling Club. Geoff's team went down in their first semi to another WA side, who went on to beat a Victorian side in the final, making it a clean sweep for WA, winning the Test Series as well as the National Fours. It was a wonderful carnival, with players catching up with past opponents and the usual good-natured sledging that goes with events like this and all players are looking forward to next year's carnival in Adelaide.

Uniforms and Textiles in the Army Museum of WA

Collection by Jennifer Brittain

The museum has an estimated number of items in its textile collection of around 3,500 the majority of which are donated. The range is incredible and includes the following for men and women who served:

- Flags, guidon, banners, pennants, silk maps;
- Battle dress and greatcoats;
- Service dress (summer and winter);
- Riding breeches and winter tunics;
- Nursing uniforms with capes, aprons, dresses, skirts, shirts, veils;
- Ceremonial blues;
- Safari suits and jackets;
- Jungle greens/camouflage uniform in disruptive patterns and desert patterns;
- Mess dress (summer and winter), including band dress;
- Physical training gear (t-shirts, shorts, jackets), sweaters, socks and skivvies;
- Tanks suits, flying suits and overalls;
- Sewing kits {housewives} and a needlework kit provided for occupational therapy when wounded;
- Forage caps, berets, Glengarries, service caps, bush hats, pith helmets and slouch hats;
- Spats, anklets, braces, gloves, officer's regimental dress belts, ties, bow ties, cravats, kilts and kilt aprons, cummerbunds, puggarees, lanyards, arm bands, hat bands, and brassards;
- Quite a lot of sweat rags from the Vietnam war, even men's underpants from World War Two;
- Countless buttons, badges, shoulder slides, boards and epaulettes.

There are quite a few textile souvenirs from overseas, including handkerchiefs (plain, printed, embroidered, signed), World War One embroidered French postcards with messages like "Happy Birthday", "1918 Greetings from the Trenches" and "Keep smiling from 5th Pioneer Battalion" to cushion covers and wall hangings from Egypt and Palestine from both World Wars.

Frank Beardmore and many volunteers have recorded all of these items. We are transferring handwritten inventory to spreadsheets and including as much information about the person who wore the uniform as possible as this helps with provenance and collection relevance. Di Hornby recently asked if we think about the people whose uniform we are caring for and the quick reply was "yes, we do". Helping in textiles is a chance to be hands on with army history. Victoria has experience with textiles at the Embroiderer's Guild of WA and enjoys the secret finds we sometimes come across hidden in pockets, whilst Chanelle's time serving is helpful in identifying army uniform. So far, we have found items in pockets like a train ticket of Major General Talbot Hobb's, a leather identity disc belonging to Private Hazel Shields {AWAS} and even a small Christmas card of a couple sitting beside the fire, a man smoking a pipe and a woman knitting with arrows drawn in pen to the couple by the soldier's wife, tucked in the lining of Lieutenant Robert William's service cap from World War Two. Volunteers are always welcome to come and have a look at the collection. Whilst many uniforms and other textiles are on display in the galleries, these are some of our favourite items complete with Western Australian provenance.

Aerial Despatch Signal Ribbon World War One

This aerial despatch signal ribbon is accompanied by a typed note from nurse Margaret Dorothy Edis {**Biography - Margaret Dorothy (Dot) Edis - Australian Dictionary of Biography (anu.edu.au) who served in both World Wars**} when she saw the ribbon dropped in France in World War One. Being a motorcycle despatch rider as part of the Royal Engineers Signal Service was a dangerous job and men often risked their lives in World War One delivering verbal and written messages to officers on the front lines.



The note reads as follows {verbatim}:
“One afternoon in 1917 Sister Kirkham and I of AGH 22 were walking in a cleared field in the Somme Valley when a plane flew over then started circling and when fairly low buzzed us. The pilot waved pointing to the west then threw out this aerial despatch ribbon. It came to land a short distance away and we walked and picked it up. As we started walking the pilot satisfied we understood, circled low again waved

and flew away. We continued walking and soon saw a motor cyclist in the distance. We waved the ribbon and he came directly to us. He was a despatch rider attached to an aerodrome about a mile distance sent to find the message. From his pocket write the message and give me the ribbon. After talking a while he started back and we retraced our steps to the Somme road and back to BEF No. 2 B Stationary Hospital where we two Australians had been sent.”

Margaret was born on 18 April 1890 at Kybram Victoria, but grew up in Kalgoorlie and trained at Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Northam and Albany and Hospitals between 1911 and 1914. She was appointed as a staff nurse in the Australian Army Nursing Service on 10 August 1915 at the age of 25 and sailed to serve in Egypt before then going to the Western Front in 1916. She worked in both Australian and British hospitals and the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station and was made a sister in October 1918. She also worked at Woodman's Point Quarantine Station in 1919 and was discharged on 9 December 1919. After World War One she worked at King Edward Memorial Hospital. In April 1940 she left with 15 members of W.A.A.N.S. and was matron of 2/2 AGH at El Kantara a 1,200-bed hospital one mile from the Suez Canal. In July 1940 she became Principal Matron for Western Command. She also set up Casualty Clearing Stations at Moora (No. 4) and Mullewa (No. 8). She retired from military service in 1943 as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1948 she was matron of the Home of Peace Subiaco and she retired in 1966. She was awarded an Order of the British Empire (MBE) “in recognition of her outstanding public service in the interests of persons suffering from incurable diseases”. She was also awarded the Florence Nightingale medal in 1965 by the International Committee of the Red Cross. She was president of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association (1945-1950) and helped to establish the College of Nursing Australia (1945). She died in Perth on 14 August 1981 aged 91 years.

Photograph of 16th Battalion Tunic (Boyd)

A khaki wool tunic from 16th Battalion AIF (colour patch shown on left shoulder) which belonged to Private William Leighton Boyd 7028. William was born in Perth on 30 June 1898 and was a Clerk when he enlisted at the age of 18 in the 28th Infantry Battalion, 21st reinforcements on 21 February 1917. He embarked on HMAT A16 Port Melbourne, Albany on 24 July 1917. The 28th Battalion fought against the German army on their retreating defensive line. The 28th attacked as part of the third phase at the battle of Menin Road in late September 1917 and they also fought a muddy battle at Poelcappelle in October as part of capturing the Passchendaele Ridge. On 29 January 1918, Private Boyd was transferred to the 16th Infantry Battalion. This battalion was involved in helping stop the German Spring offensive between March and April of 1918, as well as near Amiens in August 1918. He was discharged from the army on 16 September 1919. He also served as W67116 with the 2nd Battalion of the Volunteer Defence Corps, Fremantle in World War Two. He died in Wembley on 22 July 1980 at the age of 82.



This extract below is from a letter to his father dated Wednesday 25th September 1918 held in our museum:

"You will notice that I never mention about what it is in the trenches, etc., the reason is that nearly all the letters I write, are written out of the line or in some safe and quiet place, and also written in spare time and we do not want to be writing about war then, as it is best to forget all about it for as long as possible. Besides doing turns of different periods in trenches since I've been in this country, I've participated in four hop-over the bags as they call it, three were big ones and one little one, they were all successful, I find as is the general opinion amongst us that it is that it is a better job to that of holding the line, standing in a trench from one week to the other."



AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WA *Presents*

SUNSET CONCERT

Sunday 1st October 2023, from 3pm
Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle

Featuring

Australian Army Band Perth

Royal Australian Navy Band WA

Including

Pipes and Drums



Please see our website for details and Terms & Conditions

Tickets available through www.trybooking.com

Adults	\$25.00
Family (2+2)	\$60.00
Concession	\$20.00
Children under 18	\$15.00

Booking fees apply.

- This price includes free museum visit prior to the concert
- Seating provided
- BYO alcohol and food
- Plastic drinking glasses ONLY
- Ice creams and coffee available for purchase

www.armymuseumwa.com.au  

Army Museum of Western Australia • Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle WA 6160 • Contact: 9430 2535



Artillery Barracks
 Burt Street, Fremantle WA 6160
 Open 10.30am - 3pm (last entry 1pm)
 Wednesday - Friday

Phone: (08) 9430 2535
 Fax: (08) 9430 2519
 Email: info@armymuseumwa.com.au
 Web: www.armymuseumwa.com.au
 /armymuseumwa  @armymuseumwa

Our Sponsors:



VOYAGER ESTATE
 MARGARET RIVER

