

Military Historical Society of Australia  
Victorian Branch Inc.

# Despatches

Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
to our members  
and their families.



Quarterly Newsletter

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December 2010 - February 2011

## Victorian Branch Inc. Committee 2010-11

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Victorian Branch Inc. website: [www.mhsavictoria.com](http://www.mhsavictoria.com)

### Meetings Venue

Branch Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month  
(except December) at the Oakleigh RSL, Drummond Street,  
Oakleigh starting at 8.00 pm. Visitors most welcome.

## Editorial by VicSec

Welcome to the December 2010 – February 2011 edition of *Despatches*. Another year has whizzed by. Hate to tell you this, but we are all getting older, so everything does seem to speed up. Or is it just that we've had another busy year? Either way, Christmas is upon us once again.

Our thoughts go out to the soldiers serving overseas and to their families at home. This year I'm one with those thoughts, with my daughter's partner serving in Afghanistan with the Mentoring Task Force. On behalf of the Committee we certainly wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and wonderful New Year.

Anyway, what's been happening over the past few months and what's coming up? There's been ups and downs.

**Oh What a Lovely Year.** And what a year it's been! It started with our member's own night on the theme of 'Obscure Militaria' in January, then Sean Young from the ACWRT presented on 'Johnston vs Sherman in the American Civil War', a field trip to Werribee in March to see the B-24 Liberator restoration followed that month by Peter Beckett presenting 'Postcard from Ismailia – the case of Herbert Ambrose Reid'. In April we hosted the national MHSAs Conference as well as held the first of our annual member Collector's and Militaria Night.

And we listened to Debra Parry, a Conservator, Records Operation and Preservation Section, National Archives of Australia on 'Caring for your Collection'. In May we had the effervescent Michael Lawriwsky talk about 'Hard Jacka' -the story of the exploits of Albert Jacka, VC' and in June we held the inaugural Arthur Cobby Oration, delivered by MHSAs Patron Air Marshal I B Gratton, AO AFC (Rtd). Then the AGM. Will Davies spoke on 'Beneath Hill 60' in August, drawing a good crowd, but the anticipated field trip to Fort Queenscliff in September was unavoidably cancelled. However, we held our usual annual Quiz Night with questions prepared by Neil Smith. Once again, a terrific night and a good turn-out. Always lots of fun.

**The Oakleigh Commemoration Project.** October started on a high note as our Branch Project Team (led by Andrew Kilsby, Helen Gobbi and Peter Beckett), with help from a number of others, not only finished their book '*fallen leaves*' but also opened on time the Oakleigh WWI Commemorative Exhibition at the Monash Federation Centre.

For those of you who haven't popped down from the RSL to look at it, you have time before it wraps up before Christmas. It really is worth a look with a range of great memorabilia, audio-visual and posters, some donated by MHSAs members including David Howell, Graeme Savige, George Ward, Peter and Andrew. By the way, if you don't have a copy already, please support your Branch funds by purchasing a copy of '*fallen leaves*' for just \$25!

On 28<sup>th</sup> October the Exhibition was opened by MHSAs Vice-Patron Peter Haddad with Guest of Honour Ann Barker, State MP for Oakleigh. The guard of honour provided by the Australian Great War Association (with David Howell in command) and a bugler from 5/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, RVR in full Scottish rig played the Last Post. It was another terrific Branch event – thanks to everyone concerned.

November saw Ross McMullin present on the 'radical genius' Will Dyason, which was the last on our speaker programme for the year. And the year isn't even over yet! No wonder some heads are spinning. In December is our Branch dinner at the RSL and Branch BBQ at David Howell's abode – then the usual quiet start to the 2011.

**January/February 2011.** January's member's own is 'My Family Hero' (thanks Mark Moncrieff for the idea). Come along and talk about any member of your family who might have served in colonial or Federation days, in a war or in peacetime. Here's your chance to tell that story – bring along your personal memorabilia and talk for 5 minutes or so...**February 2011** will be a joint speaker event with the Anglo-Boer War Study Group as we bring you a battlefield historian from South Africa, Garth Bennyworth, to talk about the battle in which Colonel Umphelby, commander of Victoria's artillery and the most senior Australian casualty of the war, was mortally wounded.

# fallen leaves



## *Commemorating Oakleigh district men who served and died during World War I.*

The Companion Book to the 'Saluting Their Service' Oakleigh District Commemoration Exhibition. Provides the local and service history of all 68 Oakleigh men who died on service in WWI.

Available to order at the RSL or directly from the  
Monash Federation Centre  
for \$25

Proceeds to the MHSA Victorian Branch, the Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL and the Oakleigh & District Historical Society

**Speaker programme changes and innovations.** Some decisions of the Committee re our speaker programme for 2011 and beyond – we decided to *combine the Militaria trading and 'show and tell' night with the Quiz in September* and give April's meeting to an annual *Veteran's Night* (another Mark Moncreiff suggestion). In March we plan a double header member night; June will see our 2<sup>nd</sup> Cobby Oration. Anyway, keep your eye on the website for more details.

**Speaker Audio** – for those challenged by age or otherwise hard of hearing due to shot and shell, you'll be pleased to know that we expect to have a speaker box available to amplify speaker presentations etc.

**New Branch Members, Departing Branch Members, new Branch.** New members in are Lucy Kilsby, a Naval Reservist who due to the training cuts, can no longer train as a diver...but she has an interest in...wait for it – diving and submarines – Garth Bennyworth, who decided he'd join the Branch as a corresponding member; and Tony Hastings, who has a strong interest in the Australian war in the SWPA. Outgoing members include John Presser, from Hobart, who is the new Secretary of the *Tasmanian Branch* – just being formed with Tony Peck as president....

**New Logo.** The sharp-eyed among you will notice the new logo on the cover of *Despatches*. This is the logo used in the *Wartime* ad for the national conference in April, except that we've added our Branch particulars to give us our own branch logo.

**Federal Council representation.** We decided to directly represent ourselves on the Federal Council and have appointed Andrew Kilsby as our Federal Councillor under the MHSA Constitution S.7 (d).

**Branch Website.** Have a look at our Branch website [www.mhsavictoria.com](http://www.mhsavictoria.com) to see all of the latest information on what's going on in the Branch. Many thanks to Peter Beckett for maintaining this over the past year – but our website is only as good as the content that goes into it; take for example 'Over the Top'. Here's a section that is crying out for your travel photos from anywhere in the globe. Just send in your 'jpegs' to Peter with a simple caption.

**RSL Carnegie Room 'Home'.** One thing that will be happening progressively into next year will be the planning of the development of the Carnegie Room at the Oakleigh RSL as 'our home'. Your Committee sought the agreement of the RSL Committee to 'take over' the Carnegie Room for the purpose.

Bill Black, Steve Gray and Robbie Dalton have volunteered to work the room up to a standard for our meetings by planning for display cases for members' collectibles and memorabilia. Anyone interested to help please?

**Meeting Projector.** The RSL has agreed to purchase a projector for power point presentations and we have agreed to make a donation towards that purchase in order to get use of it for our meetings.

**Victorian Branch Inc. Annual Militaria Show.** Another thing we're looking at is our own MHSA Militaria Show, in the Mechanics' Institute Hall across the road from the RSL for a Saturday - just so as you are not confused, this is NOT our annual members only trading and militaria night which in 2011 will be held in September with our Quiz night. George Ward in charge.

**Branch Projects.** Our strategic plan has identified some projects that the Branch could undertake. Some are small - like starting a new annual event like a Militaria Day. Some are very much larger - like the proposed Camp Pell project. So if you have some spare time and have an interest to support the Branch with its activities, let a Committee member know.

**Branch Xmas Dinner - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at the RSL. 6.30 for 7pm - smart casual dress; turkey and ham; monster Xmas hamper for the raffle & other prizes! \$30 a head and own drinks. Book with George Ward.

**Branch Xmas BBQ - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December** at 12 Frederick Street, Balwyn 3103 for 12:00 midday. Call 0405 007 700 if you need more info. BYO food, drinks and seats. Those who want to vie for the Display Prize, please bring along your memorabilia - and maybe a card table to put it on!

**Affiliations.** Our affiliations are growing. Here's one of them: **The Victorian Branch of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia.** Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the RAAF Association, 24 Camberwell Rd, Hawthorn East, in the auditorium. The meetings start at 7.30pm - ring the bell if the front door is shut. Parking is available under the building - car park entry is from the lane at the south end. Visitors are welcome - contact Antony Grage through VicSec.



AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

RECORDING THE NATION'S FLYING HERITAGE

### Did you Know?

The British trialled 500 of the French Casque Adrian helmet in 1915 and found that it did reduce head injuries. But the British decided they needed a helmet to protect the head *and* shoulders of the British soldiers, so began trials on a helmet shape used by English soldiers fighting the French in medieval times.



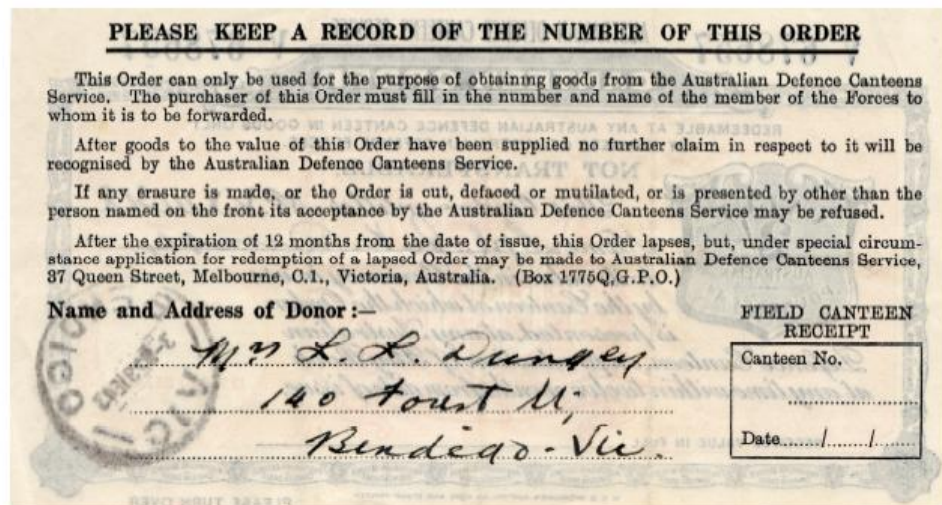
Picture shows British version of the French helmet. Source: Great War Collection ©

### The Baker's Horse - A Curious Case

'Last week a heavy draught horse valued at 30 pounds, the property of F. Schultz, died suddenly when apparently in the best of health. A post mortem disclosed the fact that the stomach contained 6lbs of lead, in small particles, like rifle bullet lead, a wire nail, three pieces of steel with glass and small stones and a hairpin. The horse formerly belonged to C. A. Schmidt, baker Dandenong and at one time was running on the Rifle Range at Williamstown. It is surmised it picked up the lead around the targets there. The animal had been working up to the day of its death.'

*Oakleigh and Ferntree Gully Times*, 11 October, 1902, npn.  
Contributed by Helen Gobbi

An example of an Australian WW2 Canteen Order issued to Cpl R.K. Dungey VX 111318 of Bendigo Vic. The Canteen Order was donated by his mother Mrs L. Dungey of Forest Street, Bendigo. Cpl Dungey served in the 2/1 Australian Composite A.A. Regiment.



Contributed by Dr. Bob Marmion

### Biographical

Introducing a new segment for *Despatches* – a series of biographies of interesting men and women with military interests; some permanent military, some militia, some Volunteers – who helped shape our military history.

**TARRANT, HARLEY (1860-1949)**, businessman, was born on 6 April 1860 at Clunes, Victoria, son of Joseph Tarrant, miner, and his wife Caroline, née Brownlow, both from Oxford, England. His father owned the *Clunes Gazette* and, later, the *St Kilda Chronicle* and *Prahran Chronicle*. After attending Clunes Grammar School, Harley was articled to a firm of civil engineers; he worked as a surveyor on the Nullarbor Plain and from 1884 for the New South Wales Department of Lands. In 1888 he set up his own surveying business in Melbourne and undertook commissions for the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

His interest in motoring began in this period. In 1897-98, basing his account primarily on overseas journals, he helped to publicize the new motor car in the cycling monthly *Austral Wheel*. His rural background and surveying experience had made him aware of its potential value in a country of immense distances and relatively few railway lines. In August 1897 he patented an engine powered by kerosene, a fuel which he declared to be safe, cheap and readily available, whereas electric motors needed recharging stations, and steam-driven machines were dangerous and 'too heavy for rough country roads'. Although his first car was a failure, its kerosene motor proved suitable for such stationary work as pumping water to farm houses. By 1899 he sold his engines as far afield as Western Australia. With larger premises, he also imported cars, beginning in February 1900 with a Benz.

Business boomed and the profits enabled Tarrant and his partner in Tarrant Motor & Engineering Co., W. H. H. Lewis, to build one of the earliest Australian-made, petrol-driven cars: completed in 1901, it had an imported Benz engine. Two years later their next machine was 90 per cent locally made, including the engine, and became the prototype for at least eight others, all built – to suit Australian conditions – for endurance rather than speed. Tarrant's victory in the two Dunlop reliability trials of 1905 and the success of a Tarrant car in 1906 helped to develop confidence in local manufacturing, but he could not compete with...

imports produced in larger numbers for a bigger market, especially after Tarrant Motors Pty Ltd acquired the Victorian franchise for Ford in 1907. Nevertheless, the firm made three aero engines for the military in 1915 and continued to manufacture motor bodies which, being bulky, were expensive to import. During World War I the company began assembling chassis from imported components; by this time it also had a thriving spare parts, accessories and repair business.

Tarrant played an important role in local motoring affairs. He lobbied on behalf of the Motor Importers' Association for better traffic regulations and served in 1906-10 on the governing committee of the Automobile Club of Victoria, helping to demonstrate the capabilities of the motor car by organizing and participating in the club's competitions and tours. In 1904 he had won his event in the club's first motor race meeting, averaging 26 miles (42 km) per hour.

In 1908 Tarrant had become first commanding officer of the Victorian branch of the part-time Australian Volunteer Automobile Corps and from September 1914, with the rank of colonel, was in charge of Commonwealth military motor transport. The magnitude and urgency of wartime needs made mistakes inevitable. A 1918 royal commission report charged his administration with inefficiency and waste, alleging that the public had been misled by the extent to which Tarrant Motors was favoured with repair contracts. Harley accepted responsibility by resigning, but in 1920 was appointed M.B.E.

After the war Tarrant retired from the business, complaining of physical exhaustion and a skin rash. Sufficiently wealthy not to need to work, he freely indulged his passion for camping and overseas travel. In 1932 he came out of retirement to take over production supervision at Ruskin Motor Bodies Pty Ltd, an affiliate of the Tarrant company. A tall, dignified man with a bushy moustache, he had done much to pioneer and consolidate the first phase of the Australian motor industry. His wife Charlotte Jane, née Gill, whom he had married on 20 March 1901 at Balaclava with Australian Church forms, died in 1945. Survived by a daughter, Tarrant died on 25 February 1949 at his Toorak home and was cremated with Anglican rites. The company was sold in 1950 to the Austin Motor Co. (British Motor Corporation).

Rich, J., 'Tarrant, Harley (1860 - 1949)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 12, Melbourne University Press, 1990, pp. 168-169

## **Differences in fighting techniques in the Graeco-Persian Wars - Why the West usually won**

by Blake Shorthouse

Nearly everybody is familiar with the heroic story of King Leonidas and his 300 Spartans holding off the Persians at Thermopylae and finally dying bravely saying "Tell Sparta we obeyed her Law." There is no doubt that it was an heroic episode but it didn't happen in a vacuum. It was a meeting between two different cultures and styles of warfare.

Politically, the Greeks were, in some degree or other, free men. Soldiers were citizens of their city and citizens had rights which could be enforced against fellow-citizens and even against the State. Politically, the Persian Empire was feudal, the Great King's word was law and everyone else was technically a slave. One presumes that this difference affected morale: the Persians were commanded, the Greeks were fighting for their homes and rights.

Persia had in about 70 years grown from a single Iranian tribe to a multinational empire stretching from the Nile to the Indus. They had done this through military conquest and a reputation for justice and mercy. Their army was feudal, contingents headed by their local chiefs: the cavalry, particularly the Persian aristocracy, was good but even the elite foot soldiers - the Medes and the "Immortals" of the King's personal guard - were light infantry, carrying wicker shields and little armour, equipped with spears and bows. Like nearly all Oriental soldiery of the time, their preferred tactic was loose order, skirmishing, and archery.

The Greeks city-states - there were over 100 of them - frequently fought each other and had developed heavy infantry. The normal Greek army was a citizen infantry militia where men provided their own equipment, about 20 kilos of it including helmet and armour, a shield nearly a metre in diameter, a two-metre thrusting spear and a short sword. Thus accoutred, the armies of warring states would meet on a suitable ground and form facing one another, shoulder to shoulder, as wide as the ground allowed and preferably at least eight ranks deep - the phalanx formation later perfected by Macedon. The two lines would crash together and fight...

### Graeco-Persian Wars cont...

hand to hand. This was actually not easy: only the front two ranks could engage, and the foe was so heavily armoured that only his eyes and throat were visible. Progress was achieved like a scrum: the rear ranks pushed the backs of the ranks in front and eventually one side broke and ran. That was when the killing started: fleeing soldiers would lose discipline, throw away their weapons and become easy meat.

When these two differing armies clashed, the Greeks generally won in pitched battle, which happened in the three great land engagements of the Persian Wars - Marathon (490BC), Thermopylae (480) and Plataea (479). In no case were the Persians able to use cavalry properly and the Greek heavy infantry was much more effective: at Thermopylae, 5,000 odd Greek infantry, fighting in a narrow valley with their flanks secure, fought off the Persian army of over 100,000 for three days, and were overwhelmed only after the position was betrayed, the Persians turned their flank, and most of the Greeks withdrew leaving Leonidas and his stalwarts.

The main deficiency of the Greek system was lack of cavalry. A hundred years later, Philip II of Macedon and his son Alexander II (the Great) developed an effective cavalry arm and tactics to use it, pinning the enemy army with the phalanx and attacking with the cavalry when opportunity presented. Alexander defeated armies all over Asia and carried his rule further than the Persians had gone, using the same basic Greek approach of a heavily armed, disciplined body of free men engaging in close combat. The Greek approach was picked up by the Romans and high-intensity warfare has remained the Western norm ever since.



### Mystery Objects

Does anyone know what these objects are? And what do they have to do with 'pothunters'? And what are orthoptics anyway?



What about this button - with the initials WVA?

See Cossum, J.K., *Buttons of the Defence Forces of Australia*



### Preservation, Education, Re-enactment, Research

The Australian Great War Association is dedicated to preserving the memories of those who fought and died in the First World War. We take part in days of remembrance, tactical demonstrations, parades and living history camps and displays showcasing the daily life of our men in this epic conflict. Through such events we hope to give the public a better understanding of the crucial role played by Australian in this "war to end all wars". For more information contact Graeme Savige through Vic Sec.

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**Living History.** Living History & Historical Re-enactment are the practices of recreating as accurately as possible, artefacts, details, events or settings from an historical period. This is often conducted by costumed 're-enactors' as part of public performances for commemorative events, historic anniversaries, community festivals, museums, educational displays, or for private gatherings of member groups who wish to immerse themselves in history.

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### Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA)

From 27 July 1942 To 31 December 1945

The Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA) was established as a national organisation, reporting to the Director-General of Manpower. The aim of the AWLA was to replace the male farm workers who had either enlisted in the armed services or were working in other essential war work such as munitions. The AWLA was not an enlisted service, but rather a voluntary group whose members were paid by the farmer, rather than the government or military forces. Membership of the AWLA was open to women who were British subjects and between the ages of 18 and 50 years. Source: <http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0393b.htm>





## MILITARY BOOKS by David A. Jenner

**The Skies of Gallipoli** - Rev. and expanded 2nd ed. by *Cenk Avcı*, published 2003 by Nart Yayıncılık in Kadıköy, Istanbul (written in English).

Published in 2003, this book is repetitious, contains factual errors, has no glossary and according to Google the author is either a Turkish engineer or a real-estate agent. The English translation from the (presumably) original Turkish contains some interesting mistakes .

That said, it is none-the-less a most interesting contribution to early aviation - in particular the parts relating to the R.N.A.S. with the world's first aircraft carrier (?), an account of the early Turkish air force, and for much of the book a diary of especially the British, French and even an Australian contribution, to the air war.

The major functions of the under-equipped airmen were air photography, artillery spotting (with both aeroplane and balloon), bombing of lines of communication, ships and submarines, guns, aerodromes and personnel; even torpedoing surface craft. Late in 1915 and 1916 (!), dogfights occurred with more modern aircraft equipped with machine guns, and German pilots flying for the Turkish side.

I found overall great interest in this tale and would be delighted to find a much more detailed account of this air campaign. Does one exist ?

**Editor's Note:** Squadron Leader Hugh Dolan, RAAF is completing his doctorate at the Australian Defence Force Academy on this very subject - no doubt a book will follow.

**MUR - Centenary Year.** The Melbourne University Regiment (or MUR) is an officer training unit in the Australian Army Reserve. It has a depot at Grattan Street in Carlton. MUR traces its origins to 1884 as D company, 4th Battalion of the Victorian Rifles, at which time it was known as the University Company. General Sir John Monash was a Colour Sergeant of this unit before taking a commission in the colonial and later Commonwealth militia. The unit became the Melbourne University Rifles in 1910, providing military training for members of Melbourne University and the public schools of Melbourne and Geelong.



As a University Regiment the unit did not deploy with the AIF in either of the world wars and as such, it carries no Battle Honours on its Colours. However, many officers and soldiers of AIF units had received their initial military training or commissions with the University Rifles. In the post war structure of the Australian Army the University Rifles was reformed as the present Melbourne University Regiment, officially raised on April 1948.

Currently MUR is a sub unit of 4th Brigade which is located at Simpson Barracks, Watsonia, in the north east suburbs of Melbourne. MUR is a direct command training unit of 4 Bde and as part of the 2nd Division, responsible for training of ARes OCDTs and ORs. MUR conducts training at 2 separate facilities. OCDT training at the Grattan St Carlton depot and OR training at Building 6 at Simpson Barracks at Watsonia.

**Honorary Colonel** - Major General G.H. Garde. AM, RFD, QC  
**Prominent former members of MUR** - Sir Robert Menzies, the former Australian Prime Minister and founder of the Liberal Party; Sir Ninian Stephen, the former judge of the High Court and Governor-General of Australia; Sir Henry Winneke, the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria and Governor of Victoria; Barry Humphries, the comedian; Andrew Peacock, the former Minister for the Army, Liberal Opposition Leader and Australian Ambassador to the US.

Happy 100 years to one of the icons of Victorian military history.

## The Battle of Kapyong – Korean War 23-24 April 1951

*“At last I felt like an Anzac, and I imagine there were 600 others like me.”*  
Captain Reg Saunders, Officer Commanding, C Company, 3 RAR

Kapyong came to be the most significant and important battle for Australian troops in Korea.

In April 1951 the Chinese launched their spring offensive with the aim of retaking the city of Seoul. They quickly overran South Korean forces defending one of the major approach routes, the valley of the Kapyong River. Thirty kilometres further south, the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade hastily occupied defensive positions in an attempt to halt the Chinese advance.

On 23 April, the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Ferguson, and the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, occupied prominent hills on either side of the seven-kilometre-wide valley, where a small tributary joined the Kapyong River. Also forward were headquarters units, tanks and artillery. The 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, were to the rear.

Early in the evening, retreating South Koreans streamed past the Commonwealth position, with Chinese forces closely intermingled. Soon afterwards a platoon of American tanks supporting 3 RAR was overrun. The Kapyong valley was too large an area to defend with the forces available, and the brigade was spread very thinly. Throughout the night the Chinese repeatedly pressed the Australian positions, attacking in waves over their own dead and wounded.

At dawn, A Company, under the command of Major Bernard "Ben" O'Dowd, found that the Chinese had infiltrated its position, but a counter-attack was able to eject them. Meanwhile B Company, which had spent the night on a hill near the river, discovered Chinese occupying some old bunkers on a small knoll. Hand-to-hand fighting ensued with grenades...

## Kapyong Cont...

and bayonets. C Company, under the command of Captain Reg Saunders, was in position to reinforce both A and B Companies.

"Major O'Dowd then directed the radio operator to contact anyone. The American 1st Marine Division answered but their operator refused to believe who our operator was speaking for. Major O'Dowd took the phone and demanded to speak to the commanding officer. The general in charge of the [Marine] division came on the phone and told O'Dowd we didn't exist as we had been wiped out the night before. Major O'Dowd said, 'I've got news for you, we are still here and we are staying here.'" Private Patrick Knowles, 3 RAR, on the morning of 24 April 1951

Fighting continued throughout the day with the Australians holding their positions, and the Chinese also engaging D Company. But late on 24 April, with their position now untenable, the Australians were forced into a fighting withdrawal down a ridge to the valley, where they rejoined the brigade. Their withdrawal was supported by New Zealand artillery from the 16th Field Regiment. Having found the Canadian position unassailable, the Chinese made no further attacks. By the afternoon of 25 April the road through to the Canadians had been cleared of Chinese and 2 PPCLI was relieved by US Army units. On Anzac Day 1951, the Australians rested after a long fight.

Thirty-two Australians were killed and 53 were wounded for their part in stalling the Chinese advance and preventing Seoul from falling into enemy hands.

Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Ferguson was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his skilful leadership, and the Australian and Canadian battalions both received United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations for their part in the battle.

Source:

<http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/korea/operations/kapyong/>

## Collector's Corner



### Korean Medal

The Korean Medal was issued in recognition for service in Korea between 1 July 1950 and 27 July 1953. A bronze oak leaf on the ribbon signifies dispatch recognition. A United States of America Presidential Unit Citation was also awarded to members of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. The Korean Medal was issued with two obverse legends. The first features Queen Elizabeth II DEI.GRA.BRITT.OMN.REGINA.F.D.; the second rarer edition features Queen Elizabeth II DEI.GRATIA.REGINA F.D. It is interesting to note that despite the fact that King George VI was still alive until 1952, the medal's obverse only features the first of later version of Queen Elizabeth who reigned from 1953.



### The Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam

As the name suggests the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV) was specially formed for service in support of allied forces during the Vietnam War. Mr Allen Fairhall, Minister for Defence, announced the formation of this unit on July 14, 1967. The new flight was integrated with the United States Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) flying Iroquois helicopters in both the utility and gun-ship configurations.

The integration of a helicopter flight into a US Army aviation company was an event unique in the history of the Royal Australian Navy. The RANHFV was continuously engaged in offensive operations in its four-year deployment to Vietnam earning not only the aviators but also the maintenance and support staff of the flight a reputation second to none. The gallantry and distinguished service of RANHFV members was recognised by the award of three MBEs, eight DSCs, five DFCs, one BEM, twenty-four Mentioned-in-Dispatches and numerous Vietnamese and United States decorations. 723 Squadron, RANHFV's parent unit, was awarded the battle honour Vietnam 1967-71 on December 22, 1972. Source: [www.navy.gov.au/RAN\\_Helicopter\\_Flight\\_Vietnam](http://www.navy.gov.au/RAN_Helicopter_Flight_Vietnam)



## WARGAMING

### "THE WAR GAME."

A tactical study for officers of the citizen and senior cadet forces was conducted on Thursday evening at the United Service Institute, by Captain E. M. Williams, general staff officer.

A simple tactical scheme, embracing the work of a flank guard, was set and worked out in detail on the large war game table provided by the institute. This table is in reality a large relief map, from which one obtains a very realistic bird's-eye view of a fairly extensive piece of country, all natural and artificial features being shown to scale, and in their natural colours.

*The Argus* 13th July 1912, p.19.

