



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

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Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

President: Russell Paten
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A naval cadet stands with the new memorial at Woody Point.

New memorial honours naval history

Used with the permission of and gratitude to Moreton Daily a community news outlet on the Redcliffe Peninsula.

Words by Jodie Powell, images by Andrew Kacimaiwai

A ceremony at Woody Point on the Redcliffe Peninsula overlooking Moreton Bay late last year marked three special occasions.

It commemorated the 82nd anniversary of the sinking of *HMAS Sydney II*, saw the unveiling of a new memorial for *HMQS/HMAS Gayundah* and celebrated the 100th birthday of Redcliffe Sub Section of the Naval Association of Australia member Mick Rudkins.

The ceremony was organised by the Redcliffe Sub Section of the Naval Association of Australia and the Australian Navy Cadets attached to Training Ships Moreton Bay and Gayundah.

It was held in parkland 200m from the hulk of *Gayundah*, a 350-tonne gunboat, which with *HMQS Paluma* was brought to Australia in 1884 to protect Queensland.

Gayundah was later remodelled and served in World War I as *HMAS Gayundah* before becoming a gravel barge in Brisbane until her final role as a breakwater at Woody Point.

There had long been a kerbside memorial to the ship but many likened it to a brick barbecue with a flag pole.

The Sub Section worked closely with former Moreton Bay Regional councillor Koliana Winchester and current Moreton Bay City councillor Karl Winchester to have the new memorial built.

The memorial, in the Gayundah Arboretum, was built by the City of Moreton Bay Council and is made from granite, depicting *Gayundah's* bow facing the ocean, along with three flagpoles and landscaping.

The new memorial incorporates plaques from the original brick structure.

Eighty people gathered at the Arboretum to remember those who had fallen with the loss of *HMAS Sydney II* and the history of the *Gayundah* and to watch Mick Rudkins lay flowers on his birthday.

The cadets played a pivotal role in the function, providing a colour party.

Cadet Leading Seaman Jason Murphy gave the introduction, Cadet Petty Officer Christy Hill presented an address in memory of the *Sydney II*, Cadet Leading Seaman Oliver Lovell paid tribute to the *Gayundah* and Cadet Able Seaman

Sienna Avery offered a prayer for the Navy. *The Ode, Last Post*, a minute's silence and *Reveille* were also observed. Commander Ian Fraser of Australian Naval Cadets was master of ceremonies, while sub section president Karl Seddon welcomed the guests.



Naval Association of Australia Redcliffe Sub Section president Karl Seddon addresses the crowd watched by secretary Geoff O'Mara, left, and Commander Ian Fraser ANC.

President's Report

It's always pleasing to write a President's report for an edition of *Tribute* because it means that Alan has put together another set of interesting and informative articles for us.

Since the last edition, we've entered a new year and held our first meeting at Maroochydore RSL. The meeting was well supported with over 20 members attending and we were privileged to be treated to a fascinating presentation by Kathy Mitchell on the activities of the Office of War Graves.

Our next meeting will be held at the Gympie RSL, thanks to the efforts of Wuzzy Alford who has been successful in securing the venue for us. Wuzzy has also secured the services of a speaker, details to be sent out soon.

We have a few initiatives underway at the moment. David Geck is finalising details of polo shirts with the 'MHSA – Qld' logo on for those who have expressed interest, John Steel is arranging a visit to the Museum of Australian Military Intelligence at Canungra (date to be announced in the near future) and Kelly Lyons is now 'on the books' as our new treasurer. Thanks to the undying efforts of Neil Dearberg and Ian Curtis in getting the bank requirements sorted.

I've had a look through this *Tribute* edition with Alan and enjoyed the spread of article topics very much. I hope you get the same enjoyment from it.

Russell Paten

From the Editor

Somehow, I was able to find the energy to look at this year's first newsletter after weeks of festivities and a house full of family including a very energetic 10-month-old Bichoodle. Bit like the first day back at work after leave really.

Anyhow we have cobbled together a few yarns, most of which were contributed and for that I thank you.

Keep up the good work and the email is alanq.tribute@gmail.com.

It's great to see that one of our members (John Casey) has taken advantage of our free service to include an advertisement for his tour company. Any other members can take advantage of this for future editions.

Alan Quinney

Feature Article

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Donald Charles Cameron CMC DSO MID VD

**By “roving reporter” Ian Curtis who is writing a book on Edgar Towner
VC and Donald Cameron plays a small part in his story.**



Source: Australian War Memorial

Donald Chales Cameron was born on 19 November 1879 in Brisbane the son of John and Sarah Annie (nee Lodge) Cameron. His father was born in New Amsterdam, British Guyana and his mother in Moruya NSW. John Cameron migrated to Australia with his family as a young boy and lived in Victoria.

John was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and at Geelong Church of England Grammar School, where “I never did any good beyond being a good Fighter”. He began work as a jackeroo in 1859. In 1861-63, with the Crombie brothers, the Camerons and their flocks pushed northwest from Inverell, New South Wales, to Barcaldine, Queensland.

After 18 months at Barcaldine Downs, John became overseer of Alice Downs and subsequently manager of Wilby. When the Camerons, Crombies, Thomas Mort, James Allan and Herbert Garrett formed a partnership embracing an empire of seven huge runs, John entered the firm.

The partnership was dissolved in 1877 but he retained, with his brother-in-law James Crombie, Kensington Downs and Greenhills. In the same year he married Sarah Anne Lodge in Mudgee on 18 April 1877.

The agreement with Crombie disintegrated in 1881 and Cameron and his mother kept Kensington Downs of 625 square miles (1619 km²), 62 miles (100 km) north-east of Longreach. The Camerons lived there until 1891 when John retired to Brisbane. John and Sarah had three other children John, Percival and Annie.

Donald (named after his Grandfather Donald Charles Cameron) was educated at Toowoomba and Brisbane Grammar Schools and at 18 became a clerk in the Queensland Meat Export and Agency Co of which his father was the Chairman of Directors.

On 26 November, 1893, his mother Sarah died on Kensington Station. In December 1899 John remarried to Louise Christine Heussler and they had a son Westgarth Moore Cameron who died as an infant in 1900.

In 1899 Donald went on a tour of Europe and Asia. He was in China during the Boxer Rebellion and after attaching himself to an American Infantry Regiment which had been dispatched from Manila, accompanied it to Peking. Donald was one of eight Toowoomba Grammar Students to serve in the Boxer Rebellion.

Donald returned to Australia in 1901 and volunteered for service in the 6th Queensland Imperial Bushman Contingent under the command of Lt Col Oliver Allan Turbridge. The original 17 Officers and 384 men with 645 horses sailed on the *Victoria* on 4 April 1901 from Pinkenba. The unit which consisted of three Mounted Squadrons reached Cape Town on 1 May and from there to Durban and for a year participated in patrolling and mopping up operations in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

On 16 June Donald rescued a wounded trooper and was Mentioned in Dispatches for his efforts. The unit returned to Australia aboard the *Devon* on 17 June 1902. They suffered 12 fatalities. For his service Donald was awarded the Queen's Medal with two clasps.

Donald returned to manage the family property, Kensington Downs near Longreach with his brothers and was involved in pastoral and other business activities. He visited Europe and the United States of America in 1903.

It would take four weeks to shear the Kensington Downs Sheep and the family continued to improve their flock by purchasing rams from well-known producers like in 1905 when they purchased 215 two-tooth rams from the White family, Belltrees, Scone. In 1910 25,781 acres of Kensington Downs was opened for ballot at 1½ pounds per acre. It was successfully taken up by Mr L. S. Hudson.

On 18 February 1914 Donald married Evelyn Stella Jardine the grand-daughter of John Jardine, pastoralist and magistrate (Jardine Valley in Queensland is named after him) at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane and soon after toured China and Japan.

The newlyweds had just returned home when World War One broke out. A sum of £14 was raised in two hours to present to Donald in Longreach as he left by train to enlist. On 30 September 1914 Donald, now 35 years old, and with experience in both the Boxer Rebellion and Boer War enlisted in his third war and was appointed Captain in the 7th Light Horse Regiment. However, on 17 November he transferred to the 5th Light Horse Regiment and embarked as C Squadron 2IC onboard *A34 Persic* from Sydney on 21 December 1914.

Donald stood 5 ft 8in tall, weighed 11 stone 10 pounds and gave his wife Evelyn as his next of kin. She moved back to live at Avoca, Albion, Brisbane while Donald was overseas.

The 5th Light Horse arrived in Egypt on 1 February 1915, the same time the Infantry Units were being dispatched to Gallipoli. After heavy casualties at Gallipoli 2nd Light Horse Brigade dismounted and sailed to reinforce the infantry units in May 1915.

On 9 June Donald was wounded by a gunshot to his shoulder and again quite severely on 28 June in the fruitless attack on Turkish trenches known as the Bulkin Gun Pits. He returned to Alexandria and spent the remainder of the year in hospital including being transferred to England for treatment and being promoted to Major on 9 September, not rejoining his unit till 3 January 1916. The second wound would trouble him for the rest of his life as removal of the bullet which had entered just under his ribs was considered too hazardous.

After undertaking a number of short detachments in the Suez Canal area he crossed into the Sinai in April and for the next 10 months commanded his squadron in numerous patrols and skirmishes. Donald fought in the battle of Romani 4 – 5 August. At the end of 1916 Donald was detached temporarily to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade returning to his unit 3 March 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A02884A

Donald on his horse 1916 - Bayoud Oasis, Sinai Peninsula. 3

In February 1917 the Light Horse advanced into Palestine and took part in all three Battles of Gaza and in operations and patrols in the Wadi Ghuzze. The coastal city of Gaza was the heart of the main Turkish defensive position in southern Palestine.

Three major battles were launched in 1917 by British and dominion forces to capture Gaza - only the third succeeded in this object. The first battle of Gaza took place on 26 March 1917. Two British infantry divisions were to attack it

from the south while the mounted troops of the Desert Column would attack from the flanks and north.

When the attack was launched the infantry made slow progress but the mounted troops succeeded in capturing high ground to the north of the city and advancing into it.

Concerned by the lack of progress made by the infantry, and fearing the water supplies vital for the mounted troops would not be captured that night, Lieutenant General Dobell, the British officer commanding the operation, ordered a withdrawal at dusk. The next morning, after realising his mistake, Dobell attempted to resume the battle with the infantry, but with the troops exhausted and the Turks having received reinforcements, the attack floundered.

For his efforts during the first battle of Gaza, Donald was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, the citation as follows; “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an advance over difficult ground, he showed great skill in keeping touch with the brigade on his left, afterwards leading his squadron in a bayonet charge against the enemy trenches, thus enabling two captured enemy guns to be removed”

The second battle of Gaza took place three weeks later, beginning on 17 April 1917. In the interim the Turks had extended and improved their defences. Dobell launched another frontal assault on the Turkish defences, which was supported by six tanks and gas shells. The tanks and the gas were both dismal failures and the attacking forces could make little headway against well-sited Turkish redoubts. After three days of fighting the attack was called off, having not gained any significant ground.

In October Donald was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer of the 12th Light Horse Regiment and led it at Beersheba. The 12th Regiment took the left flank while the 4th Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Murray William James Boucher was on the right flank. Both Regiments were under the command of Brigadier General William Grant.

The third battle of Gaza began as a feint to divert enemy forces to Gaza. The garrison was bombarded for six days, and three divisions deployed, to fool the Turks into believing that another frontal attack was imminent. The real effort, however was to be made at Beersheba, the eastern extremity of the Turkish defensive line.

Beersheba fell on 31 October 1917, allowing the British and dominion forces to outflank and roll-up the Turkish defensive line. This undermined the security of

Gaza, which fell to the British on 7 November 1917 after little resistance from Turkish forces.⁶

During the Palestine campaign, he was three times Mentioned in Despatches, and was awarded the Order of the Nile, as well as being made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George.⁷

In the early months of 1918 Donald went to England on leave, returning in April to resume command for the offensives against the retreating Turks which ended in their capitulation at Ziza on 30 October. Here Donald was faced with the task of protecting the enemy force from Allied Bedouin troops while he arranged the surrender. At the end of the war Donald was detached to 2nd Light Horse Brigade Headquarters.

Donald was an able commanding officer with a gift for obtaining “machine-like discipline” from his men without having to demand it. Morale in his regiment was always high. The writer Ion Idriess, who served under him, remembered him “a nuggety chap, not very tall, with a rugged face that [broke] easily into a smile, in action he was ‘never flustered’; and was a ‘cool but a quick thinker’.”.

Donald was appointed Brevet Major and recommended for Brigade Command at the end of the war. He returned to Australia on 27 June 1919 on *HT Madras* and his appointment was terminated 4 October in Brisbane.

After demobilization David Cameron returned to Kensington Downs and in 1919-31 represented Brisbane for the National Party in the House of Representatives and giving his address as Lennons Hotel, Brisbane.

His health forced his retirement but he was the United Australia Party member for Lilley from 1934-37, giving his address this time as Queensland Club, Alice Street. He contested the Senate election in 1937 but was defeated.

As a parliamentarian he represented Australia at the League of Nations Assembly in 1923 and sat on the joint select committee on Commonwealth electoral law and procedure from 1926-27.

A tireless worker, he always had the interests of ex-servicemen at heart; and in parliament was a leading spokesman for the Returned Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Imperial League of Australia.

When a history of the 5th Light Horse Regiment was printed in 1926, he paid the publishing costs and presented a copy to every member of the regiment. He commanded the 14th Light Horse Regiment in 1921-24, was president or patron

of many social organizations, including the Royal Geographic Society of Australia (Queensland) and hospitaller and almoner of the Order of St John in Australia.

He was appointed KCMG in 1932. In World War II he served as chairman of the New South Wales recruiting drive committee for the Royal Australian Air Force.

After the war Donald lived in retirement in Sydney and Brisbane and towards the end of his life he and his wife were hospitalized in Brisbane. She predeceased him, as did their only daughter. He died on 19 November 1960 and was cremated. In accordance with his wishes his ashes were buried near the grave of his grandfather in the family cemetery on Home Creek station near Barcaldine. His estate was sworn for probate at £2382.

Donald Charles Cameron is remembered on the Brisbane Grammar School Boer War Honour Board, Toowoomba Grammar School South African Honour Roll, Toowoomba Grammar School Sudan War and Boxer Rebellion Honour Roll, Toowoomba Grammar School WW1 Bravery Deeds, Toowoomba Grammar School WW1 Honour Board, Toowoomba Grammar School Wall of Achievement.

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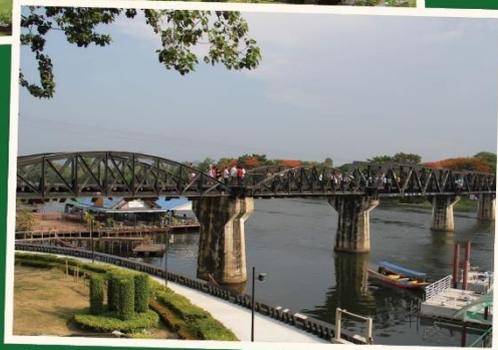
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Cherished canine companion

“General Buller”, C Company, 9th Battalion.

A gallant original ANZAC

Contributed by Peter Burgess

Courage and gallant service took many forms in World War 1. Among Queensland’s first recruits was a handsome, white, pedigree bull terrier named Buller. As a valued and much-loved 9th Battalion mascot, he endured, like other Anzacs, the horrors and trials of Gallipoli and the Western Front. Wounded four times, Buller’s war experience was as intense as any soldier’s.

His owner, Ben Kendrick, a Brisbane bridge carpenter, was one of the first volunteers to take the oath of allegiance at Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace when war was declared.

The next day, on 19 August, Ben left his home at Red Hill to join the other volunteers pitching tents in Bell’s Paddock, Enoggera. Following loyally behind him was his constant and most faithful companion, Buller.

Fortunately, the dog quickly won the hearts of the other soldiers at Enoggera, and, to Ben’s great delight and relief, permission was granted for Buller to remain in camp.

The dog’s popularity quickly grew, and it was soon decided he should become the official mascot for Ben’s C Company. AIF payroll records show he was enlisted as “General Buller”, 9th Battalion C Company, with a regular ration plus a military pay of sixpence a day¹.

Over the next few weeks, the Company’s soldiers mounted a fundraising campaign to purchase a coat and colours for their new mascot. As a result of their enthusiastic efforts, 15 guineas were raised (more than \$1500 in today’s value).

A Brisbane tailor was employed. and a decorated coat of intricate workmanship was fashioned in the Battalion colours². It bore the Australian flag and an embroidered kangaroo with the words, ‘General Buller, C Coy.’

The striking coat remained with Buller throughout the war. (Regrettably, its whereabouts today is a mystery. At war’s end, the coat was forwarded to Sergeant Ben Kendrick but it was never received.)³.



A 9th Batt mascot-postcard (private collection of Mrs L G Holdway, Brisbane)

When Brisbane unofficially farewelled the 9th Battalion, five days before the troops embarked for overseas service, General Buller took a significant role.

Some 2000 men from the Light Horse, Artillery, Infantry and Medical Corps marched from Enoggera to the City, and proudly leading the Infantry section was their mascot, General Buller. The march of several miles on sun-baked roads was arduous but Buller led with a resolute energetic stride.

Their city reception was extraordinary. Pavements overflowed with well-wishers, and, at every window, veranda and vantage point, spectators cheered. Wickham Street, George Street and Queen Street were a blaze with flags and streamers.

Colonel Lee on horseback was at the head of the Infantry and immediately behind was 'General Buller' with Ben. The *Brisbane Telegraph* newspaper reported, "Buller was in the glory of a brightly coloured tunic and looked fully conscious of his honours."⁴.

From the march, he gained almost a celebrity status within the community. By the time of their next farewell parade, held weeks later in Melbourne, postcards of General Buller had been printed and passed about.⁵

Buller travelled with the 9th Battalion on the troopship *Omrah* to Egypt. At their desert camp, while the Battalion carried out four months of rigorous training, Buller was kept equally as busy.

As always, he was a prominent feature on parades. Also, he was employed to “discourage” the itinerant Egyptian hawkers who constantly harassed the troops. His other work was to rid the camp of pariah dogs.

In a letter home, in 1915, Ben boasted that Buller is “quite a soldier” now and that “he knows all the bugle calls as well as we do.”⁶

At Gallipoli, General Buller was a reassuring comfort and reminder of home. He accompanied the anxious troops on the battleship, *Queen*, as they moved towards Gallipoli. At the landing, on the 25 April, he remained onboard but was brought onshore later in the day. That evening, it is said Buller was a conspicuous figure on the beach.⁷



No 1 Section, C Coy, 9th Batt Enoggera Camp 1914 (private collection of Mrs L G Holdway, Brisbane)

For almost the next two months, he served with the 9th Battalion in Gallipoli's trenches. He left in June after a serious gunshot wound to the ear forced his evacuation. A long period of convalescence followed at the Auxiliary Hospital at Abbassia in Cairo.

Here Buller found a new important role. For soldiers, recovering from the horrific experiences of battle, his faithful companionship became a psychological and healing comfort.⁸

Likewise, when Buller later served in the trenches in France, soldiers took much solace from his presence on the battlefield. At the Somme, Ypres and numerous other posts, he was engaged chiefly with transport work, guarding horses and supplies but, for battle-worn soldiers, he was also a welcome distraction and a treasured reminder of home.

They held him in the highest regard and honoured him as an "Original" Anzac. While on the Western Front, regrettably, Buller suffered three more wounds. In 1918, after four years active service, carried out mostly on the frontline, the veteran was retired to England.

He survived the war but, sadly, when the war ended, unlike other veterans, Buller could not return home to Australia. He spent the remainder of his life in a military dogs' home outside London. The much-loved 9th Battalion mascot died in 1932, aged 19 years.⁹

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Air Force

Bound to be a world leader



CA-15 Kangaroo – When Australia Built One of the Fastest Piston Fighters Ever

From Plane Historia by Jake Lee Howarth

The CAC CA-15 was an Australian piston-engine fighter that was considered as the successor to the Boomerang. Its development was ultimately hampered by the delays caused by wartime logistical problems, accidents, and the postwar arrival of state-of-the-art jet technology

Projected to be more powerful and faster than even the Spitfire, in an alternative universe where the jet engine had not made such a timely appearance, the CA-15 would have been the fastest piston-engine fighter ever made and perhaps Australia, rather than the USA, would now be world leaders in aviation.

The CA-15 was first proposed in mid-1942 at the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) by its general manager, Lawrence Wackett, as an updated version of the Boomerang fighter and was to use the Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Twin Row Wasp engine. The Pratt & Whitney R-2800 was a 46 litre, 18-cylinder radial engine that developed around 2,200 hp. It was used in large numbers in aircraft such as the P-47 Thunderbolt, the F4U Corsair and the F6F Hellcat.

Interestingly, the chief designer was Friedrich David, an Austrian Jew who had escaped Germany before the outbreak of the World War Two, and who had been involved in the development of several German war planes as an employee of the Heinkel company.

David had next moved to Japan to work for the Tokyo Denki company, where he had contributed to the Aichi HED3A torpedo bomber responsible for the assault on Pearl Harbor that had caused the Americans to enter World War Two.

Having fled to Australia, David was now entrusted with making another fighter that would inevitably face-off against many of the enemy planes he had helped create.

By February 1943 a wooden mock-up had been assembled around the same time that the project was officially christened CA-15. In June 1943, following approval by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), the design was registered as specification 2/43 issue 1 and development commenced.

In a revealing report from August 1943, Wackett made clear that the purpose of the endeavour was not even to create an end product, but to instead provide intellectual stimulation to the more junior members of the company: “After considering all aspects of the matter, and having regard to the commitments in hand and others ahead in the form of establishment of CA-17 (Mustang) production, it is considered advisable to regard the CA-15 as an exercise to keep alive the spirit of design, rather than a war weapon for urgent development. Accordingly, it is proposed to employ some of the most promising younger design engineers on this job and to give it a low order of priority for the next six months, and avoid the job becoming an embarrassment to an already overloaded production department.”.

In October 1945 the Department of Aircraft Production issued order No. CS1502 for one CA-15 fighter, expected to be constructed with a budget of \$150,000 and flightworthy within three months. No longer a mere academic exercise Wackett, reassigning many of his workers to the job, now wanted something concrete.

Before the first prototype was assembled, a 1/6 scale model of the CA-15 was aerodynamically evaluated at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), where it produced respectable lift-to-drag ratios. (Ed: In 1949, CSIR ceased all defence work for the military and was renamed CSIRO, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.)

The CAC CA-15 was a piston fighter with a length of 11.03 metres, a height of 4.34 metres, and a loaded weight of 4882 kilograms. Propelled by a Griffon 61 V12 engine with 2035 horsepower, its predicted top speed was 495 miles per hour, while it was anticipated to have an altitude ceiling of 28,000 feet that it could climb to at 5570 feet per minute.

Its wings, which had a span of 10.97 metres, were the first of any Australian craft to utilize NACA 6000 laminar flow aerofoil sections, which markedly improved performance by reducing wing drag, and were much better than older configurations such as the British and American NACA 4 figure segments, which suffered from transitional flow over the upper wing surface.

The rest of the CA-15 was more conventional, and featured a semi-monocoque fuselage with stressed skin, a cockpit with a bubble perspex canopy protected by an armoured glass windscreen, and a tailplane that had a span of 4.22 metres.

Although never installed, the CA-15 was anticipated to carry either six 0.5-inch Browning machine guns each with a capacity of 250 rounds, four 20mm cannons loaded with 120 rounds each, or two of each armament with mounting stations pre-built into the wing structure.

Provision was also made for an undercarriage that could be equipped with one bomb of any type weighing up to 500 pounds.

Source: Sitrep, newsletter of the Air Force Association NSW.

Sorry officers but ...

Contributed by Garry Sanderson, 49th Battalion Assoc.

Two Brisbane Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on Cunningham H/way SH15 just west of the Amberley Air force Base at Ipswich.

The officers were using hand held radar devices to check speeding vehicles hour.

The officers attempted to reset the radar guns, but they would not reset and then turned off approaching the crest of a hill.

The officers were suddenly surprised when their radar guns began reading 500 kms per.

Just then a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to an RAAF F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low flying exercise near the location.



Back at the Queensland Traffic Control Headquarters the Patrol Sergeant fired off a complaint to the RAAF Base Commander.

The reply came back in true RAAF style:

“Thank you for your letter. We can now complete the file on this incident.

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down.

Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment location. Fortunately, the Senior Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defence system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position.

The pilot also suggests you cover your mouths when cursing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech.

The officer holding the left radar gun should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.

Thank you for your concern.” Wing Commander Brown, SFO RAAF, Amberley, Ipswich, Queensland.

“Sort of story that appeals to a lot of us,” says Garry.

Military humour

Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.

- Unknown

Important Dates for February

February 1, 1943 – Last Australian forces sail for home from the Middle East.

February 2, 1942 – First Japanese air attack on Port Moresby.

February 2, 1968 – Baria recaptured. The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment captured Baria after the Tet offensive.

February 3, 1915 – Turkish forces attack the Suez Canal but attempts to capture the canal were repulsed.

February 3, 1943 – Australians counter-attack at Wau and the Japanese forces were forced to retreat.

February 4, 1945 – Yalta conference with Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill discussing the shape of post-war Europe.

February 6, 1941 – 6th Division enter Benghazi, Libya.

February 8, 1942 – Japanese invade Singapore.

February 9, 1943 – Japanese defeat on Guadalcanal. Japanese reversals here contributed to their having to withdraw from the Kokoda trail in 1942 when they were almost within sight of Port Moresby.

February 10, 1944 – End of Japanese resistance on the Houn Peninsula.

February 11, 1951 – Chinese offensive, Korea.

February 12, 1900 – Action at Pink Hill, Cape Colony, South Africa.

February 12, 1940 – First convoy of Second AIF reaches the Middle East. First land campaign of WWII for Australians, against Italians.

February 13, 1946 – Main contingent of BCOF sailed for Japan from Morotai.

February 13, 1965 – First Australian SAS Squadron advance party departs for Borneo. They conducted reconnaissance patrols.

February 14, 1942 – *SS Vyner Brooke* sunk by Japanese aircraft.

February 15, 1942 – Fall of Singapore.

February 16, 1942 – Banka Island massacre of 22 nurses and survivors from the *SS Vyner Brooke* sinking. Sister Vivian Bullwinkel survived.

February 17, 1900 – Action at Paardeburg in the Orange Free State, South Africa.

February 18, 1941 – Australian troops arrive in Singapore.

February 18, 1943 – 9th Division arrives in Fremantle after ordered from Middle East to help with defence against the Japanese.

February 19, 1915 – Allied warships shell Dardanelles.

February 19, 1942 – First Japanese air raid on Darwin. There were 64 raids between February 1942 and November 1943.

February 19, 1943 – Defence Bill approved introducing conscription for service in the south-west Pacific war zone.

February 20, 1942 – Japanese land in Portuguese Timor.

February 21, 1942 – Battle of Verdun on the Western Front.

February 21, 1956 – Australian and British aircraft bomb Kluang, Malaya.

February 22, 1942 – General Douglas MacArthur ordered to leave the Philippines. He vowed to return.

February 23, 1942 – Main Australian force on Timor surrenders to the Japanese.

February 23, 1956 – 1 Squadron RAAF bombs communist camps near Kuala Lumpur during the Malayan Emergency.

February 23, 1967 – Victoria Cross for Major P.J. Badcoe for bravery in Vietnam.

February 24, 1971 – Military Cross and Bar for Captain J.J. Smith for actions in Vietnam.

February 25, 1951 – 12 Platoon D Company, 3rd Battalion RAR captures Hill 614 in Korea.

February 26, 1943 – End of weeks of heavy fighting at Wau as Japanese defeated.

February 27, 1942 – Battle of Java Sea when *HMAS Perth* was involved and survived.

February 28, 1942 – Japanese invade Java.

February 28, 1991 – Gulf War ends.

February 29, 1972 – HMAS Sydney arrives at Vung Tau. One of 21 voyages the ship made to Vietnam.

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2023 – 24

President	Russell Paten
Vice President	Glen Lyons
Honorary Secretary	Russell Paten
Honorary Treasurer	Kelly Lyons
Committee Members	Scott Meares, Neil Dearberg, David Geck, Wuzzy Alford and Sean Carwadine

<h3><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></h3>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 9 - Bi-monthly meeting at • Gympie RSL. |
|--|

Contact details

President: Russell Paten /	Editor: Alan Quinney
Phone: 0427 207 307	Phone: 0439 557475
Email: patens@bigpond.com.au	Email: alanq.tribute@gmail.com
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Address: 27/11 Innovation Parkway, Birtinya. Qld 4575	Annual Membership Fees Ordinary Member \$50 Family Membership \$55



MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

Membership Application

Queensland Division

Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)

Name/s

Postal Address

.....

Telephone

E-mail

Date/year joined the Society.....

Military Interests

I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

OPT IN I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items of interest to members (including members' notices) **YES /NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

OPT IN I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). **YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time

As part of your membership, you will receive a quarterly edition of Sabretache, the journal of the MHSA. **I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)**

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Military Historical Society of Australia

27/11 Innovation Parkway

Birtinya. Qld 4575.

Email: patens@bigpond.com.au

Or,

Direct deposit to the Qld Division MHSA Westpac Account at Maryborough, Qld.

BSB No. 034-128 Account No. 23-3618

If paying by Direct deposit, reference your name and forward the application form as well.