



# In The Trenches

Military Historical Society Of Australia - Geelong Branch Inc.

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## Back In Action!

Well first of all let me apologise for the lack of *Trenches* recently. I can only make the excuse that the first half of the year is my busiest workwise, and almost every spare minute has been unequally spread between family and Barwon Park preparation.

## Anzac Day.

As usual for Anzac Day the GMRG was in demand and we attend what services we can.

The day started early with the Torquay Dawn Service attended by a reported 9000 people. Apparently it is now ranked as the fifth largest Dawn Service in the country.

We were represented by Robin and Gail M, Mike M, Chris C, Paul K, Sam K and Don M. There was a nice shot of Robin saluting on the Channel 7 news, and the Firing Party made the cover of the Geelong Advertiser Web Site.

In the afternoon I was fortunate enough to join the crew as we performed a firing salute at the local football Service at Drew Reserve.

To quote Paul K *"I would heartily recommend re-enactors (who have not done this before) to get an Aussie impression & practice some drill. It's a fantastic feeling being in that noble uniform on such a significant day!"*

I fully concur with Paul. It is an absolute honour and privilege to be able to commemorate our fallen service personnel in this way.

These Services really boost our public profile and add legitimacy to our reasons for being able to hold the licences and equipment that we have. We are seen by thousands, including politicians and dignitaries.



## AGM - Friday 1st July.

It is time for the Annual General Meeting.

It is important for you to be present and cast your vote if you want to have a say on how our group is run, and who runs it.

Members are encouraged to attend and have an input.

## Syllabus 2011.

### July:

- 1st - Friday - Monthly Meeting.  
- Annual General Meeting.
- 3rd - Sunday - Waurin Ponds.  
- Annual Waurin Ponds Commemoration.  
- Firing Party, Guard, and 25lb Gun Crew.
- 8th - Friday - Committee Meeting.
- 30th - Saturday - Annual Dinner.  
- Details to be announced.

### August:

- 5th - Friday - Monthly Meeting.  
- Theme Night - Naval.
- 19th - Friday - Committee Meeting.
- 21st - Sunday - Vietnam Vets. Guard.

### September:

- 9th - Friday - Monthly Meeting.  
- Details to be announced.

### October:

- 7th - Friday - Committee Meeting.

### November:

- 4th - Friday - Monthly Meeting.  
- Details to be announced.
- 11th - Friday - Remembrance Day.
- 18th - Friday - Committee Meeting.

### December:

- 3rd - Saturday - Christmas Party.  
- Details to be announced.

## Barwon Park 2011.

Well the dust has settled, the smoke has cleared, and Barwon Park mansion has returned to 2011. The event was a resounding success for all concerned; the public POV, the reenactors POV and officialdom POV. We all had a great time and raised some for some very worthwhile causes.

Tributes have been pouring in alongside requests to hold the event each year and to expand upon it and really drive it further.

Most of you will be unaware of the true extents of the efforts that went in to creating this event. When you consider the logistics behind gathering nearly a hundred reenactors from four states, the legal hassles for transporting and storing the weapons and equipment, the preparation, the organising and running, the cleanup etc, it is truly mind boggling.

The GMRG and the MHSA-GB would like to thank everyone who attended the event and helped to make it the success that it was.

And in particular there are several herculean efforts that I would like to single out and mention.

### **Robin M and David K.**

These guys initiated the event and drove it from behind the scenes. Without their work it would not have happened. They began working hard from at least six months prior to the event.

Robin was spending at least two days a week on preparations, and David wasn't far behind. Their efforts extended to a couple of weeks after the event during the cleanup, storage and retrieval of vehicles and equipment.

That the event ran so smooth was testament to their work and pre-planning.

### **John N, Jake N and Mike M.**

Didn't you see much of these guys on the day?

That's because they spent most of the event out in the battlefield preparing the pyrotechnics for the battle scenarios. And whilst the rest of us were running around the battle, they were setting off the explosions and keeping an eye on safety.

Our pyros were described as "better than Beltring". Is there any better praise than that!

### **The Well-Travelled.**

The reenactors and crew behind the scenes came from all over the place. Mostly from Geelong and District, many from Melbourne, and still more from regional Victoria.

Special efforts worth mentioning:

- Reenact SA who travelled all the way from SA and were a great group to work with.
- Chris U who came all the way from Sydney with the Kubel and the Nebelwerfer.
- The guys from Tassie who again supported us and are great to have around.
- Tim S with the amount of vehicles and gear that he ships over vast distances.

### **The Doers.**

These events don't just happen. It takes dedicated people who put in so much of their time and effort and expense to create the experience.

Special efforts worth mentioning:

- Rod S who manufactures things, maintains and keeps vehicles going.
- Gino D and Dave F whose display was an astounding amount of work and transport.
- Leo whose efforts kept the yanks full of K Rations.
- Mike M who is there for every event building, filling, reloading, setup/cleanup, everything.

And there are many others behind the scenes, unknown and largely unthanked. We appreciate the efforts of everyone who put into this event, and would like to let you know that you can do it all over again for the next event!



## Marine's .45 shot by sniper on Iwo Jima.

One of the older technicians at work was telling me a story today about a pistol that was in his in-laws family.

He tells me that his wife's late father, who was a marine in the battle of Iwo Jima, had brought back his pistol from the war.

I'm thinking, ok must be a nice old 1911 model, one that has probably seen more than a few soldiers hands. Then comes the rest of the story.

Turns out that the guy's father in law, had a camera with him in his sack, and had taken some pictures of when they raised the flag on Mt. Suribachi . He submitted his photo, but it was not chosen as the one that is now famous. The family still has this picture hanging in their living room.

A few days after the flag raising, the Japanese attacked the marines, and another fight broke out.

As they are in the middle of everything, a Japanese sniper takes a shot at him. The bullet hits him in the right wrist, and hits his gun hanging from his belt. The round, after completely disabling his right hand, penetrates his leather pistol holster, and embeds itself into the slide of his 1911.

Fragments from the round penetrate through the other side of the holster, and into his leg, injuring him further. The marine was able to get to the medic, where he was then evacuated to care for his injuries.

So the technician asks me if I would like to see it. After telling him the obvious, he calls his wife's brother and asks if he could bring it up to the shop.

Here are the pictures I took after listening to the same story again from the Marine's son. (it was a good story, I had no problem listening twice.

I asked him if he would mind me posting them on here, as long as I blocked out the serial number. He said go right ahead.

Although I had to blur out the serial #, it fell into the early/mid 600,000 range. Found this Colt: S/N 450,000 to 629,500 = Oct.. 24, 1918 to April 10, 1919

The Marine's name was Horace Arthur Smith "Arty". He passed away 3 years ago.

**Sent in by Paul K.**



## Experts Examine WW2 Era Bomb Find.

Posted Wed Jan 5, 2011 10:10am AEDT Source ABC Website

Military bomb experts are examining World War Two era explosives that were found in Melbourne's bayside at the weekend.

The shells, believed to be from a military cannon, were found sitting next to wheelie bins on a nature strip in Salisbury Road in Brighton on Sunday night.

One of the shells was missing its primer and was deemed to be safe, but ordnance experts are examining a second explosive.

Police are unsure how the explosives got there.

## WWII Diggers To Receive Gallantry Awards.

TWENTY Australian soldiers killed while attempting to escape Japanese forces during World War II will be honoured with posthumous gallantry awards.

The independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal looked into their cases and decided the men deserved recognition.

Among the diggers are the Tavoy Eight, members of the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment executed by firing squad in Burma on June 6, 1942, while others were held at the notorious Sandakan prisoner of war camp in what is now Malaysian Borneo during 1943.

Junior Defence Minister David Feeney accepted the tribunal's recommendations and called for the soldier's next of kin to come forward and accept the Commendation for Gallantry awards.

"Each (serviceman) has his own story. Some were killed while trying to escape, others executed after being recaptured," he said on Sunday.

"But what is common to all 20 men is the Australian spirit they showed before their deaths."

*Sent in by Steve C.*



*Gunner Albert Neil Cleary was only 22 when he died after a heroic bid for freedom from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp.*

## Do You Know What This Is? Or Where It Is?

This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi palace, now home to the 4th Infantry division. It will eventually be shipped home and put in the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

The statue was created by an Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad.

Kalat was so grateful for the Americans liberation of his country; he melted 3 of the heads of the fallen Saddam and made the statue as a memorial to the American soldiers and their fallen warriors.

Kalat worked on this memorial night and day for several months. To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms.

Do you know why we don't hear about this in the news? Because it is heart warming and praise worthy. The media avoids it because it does not have the shock effect. But we can do something about it. We can pass this along to as many people as we can in honour of all our brave military who ARE making a difference.



*Sent in by Paul K.*

## Web Sites To Check.

Graham Wilson forwarded details of this one for the interest of members.

<http://www.navingallipoli.com/index.html>

Which covers Gallipoli Naval operations in 1915.

The website [www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net) has Royal Navy and British Army despatches from the 1914-20 editions of the London Gazette.

Also Royal Navy honours and Gallantry Awards from same source.

For example, see this page,

<http://www.naval-history.net/WW1NavyBritishLGDispatchesArmyNavyIndex.htm>

I leave it to the navy experts to check the completeness of these resources.

Regards, Peter Evans

## MHSA Detention System and Facilities.

ACT Branch member Graham Wilson has put in the following request for assistance.

Congrats to Graham and I hope our members can help him out...

I published a paper in Sabretache several years ago on the history of the AIF Detention Barrack, Lewes, Sussex, UK 1917-1919 several years ago and have recently added to that with some research on the AMF detention system and facilities 1939-1947.

I now have enough information I think to form the basis of a book dealing with the subject of AMF detention from 1914-1947 and have discussed the matter with Roger Lee at the Army History and sent him a formal proposal.

I am now casting about for sources of information on the various facilities which were established in Australia and overseas during the Second World War.

For information, the list of facilities is:

- 1 (2/1) AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK MOUNT ZION, JERUSALEM, PALESTINE<
- 2 (2/2) AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK HILL 69 CAMP, PALESTINE
- 3 (2/3) AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK NUSEIRAT CAMP, PALESTINE

AIF DETENTION CAMP, UK  
STONEHENGE AND COLCHESTER, UK

AIF DETENTION BARRACK MALAYA  
PORT SWETTENHAM, MALAYA

1 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK GROVELY, QUEENSLAND

2 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK PUCKAPUNYAL, VICTORIA

3 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK CHARTER'S TOWERS, QUEENSLAND

4 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK WARWICK, QUEENSLAND

5 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK HOLSWORTHY, NEW SOUTH WALES

6 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK ORANGE, NEW SOUTH WALES

7 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK BENDIGO, VICTORIA

8 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK GEELONG, VICTORIA

9 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK GLADSTONE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

10 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK PORTSEA, VICTORIA

11 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK FREMANTLE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

12 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK CONARA, TASMANIA

13 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK BROCK'S CREEK, NORTHERN TERRITORY

14 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK WEST TAMWORTH, NEW SOUTH WALES

15 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK NORTH TAMWORTH, NEW SOUTH WALES

16 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK PORT MORESBY AND LAE, NEW GUINEA

17 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK ALBURY, NEW SOUTH WALES

18 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK MALABAR, NEW SOUTH WALES

19 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK MIRANDA, NEW SOUTH WALES

20 AUSTRALIAN DETENTION BARRACK MOROTAI, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

1 AUSTRALIAN GUARD COMPOUND ROYAL PARK, VICTORIA

2 AUSTRALIAN GUARD COMPOUND RANDWICK, NEW SOUTH WALES

3 AUSTRALIAN GUARD COMPOUND WARWICK, QUEENSLAND

4 AUSTRALIAN GUARD COMPOUND PENTRIDGE GAOL, VICTORIA

5 AUSTRALIAN GUARD COMPOUND KISSING POINT, QUEENSLAND

6 AUSTRALIAN GUARD COMPOUND PADDINGTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

If anyone has any information of any of these facilities, or thinks that they know of a source of information (other than AWM and NAA), I would be very pleased to hear from them.

I have already e-mailed or written to every local historical society and museum that I can identify in the locale of the various facilities, but hopefully someone in the Society might know something about the local facility or facilities in their particular state.

Regards,

Graham W

ACT Branch member Jean Main has advised that a new book on the Korean War has been published

### **Scorched Earth, Black Snow. Britain and Australia in the Korean War 1950** by Andrew Salmon

This book has just been released by Aurum Press in the UK and 300 copies are on their way to Australia.

ISBN 9781845136192. Price and availability are not certain at this stage but keep an eye out for it.

Andrew Salmon covers the Koreas for Forbes, Monocle, The South China Morning Post and The Washington Times.

His "To the Last Round: The Epic British Stand on the Imjin River, Korea 1951" was the unanimous winner of the Hampshire Libraries/Osprey Publishing Best Military Book of 2009 award and in 2010 was named as one of the Top 10 books on Korea by the Wall St Journal.

I have spoken to Neil at Hylands Bookshop in Melbourne. He will be stocking this so, if you are interested in this account, contact Neil and mention this email. He will put you on the order list and offer a special 10% discount to MHSA members ordering. (p&p additional for mail order)

Hylands Bookshop is located at:  
Level 1, 29-31 Heffernan Lane  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
Phone: 03 9654 7448  
Email: Neil@HylandsBookshop.com.au

## Apologies - Trip Report.

Frank V submitted a great seven page trip report covering the Barwon Park event. I haven't had time to type up the seven pages as yet so it didn't make it into this edition. Hopefully it will be in the next Trenches.

## Endure and Fight,

**A detailed History of the 4th Light Horse Regiment, AIF, 1914-1919.**

**by Dr David Holloway.**

Will be launched by Major General Mike O'Brien, CSC at the Shrine of Remembrance on Wednesday 15 June 2011 and will be available immediately thereafter.

Two editions of Endure and Fight are available: a standard edition of 513 copies (the number of original other ranks of the regiment) and a special half-leather bound edition of just 25 copies (the number of original officers of the regiment).

The book in both editions is hard cover and includes:

- a message from HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales,
- a foreword by Major General Greg Garde, AO, RFD, QC,
- eighteen chapters,
- numerous photographs, many not published before
- eight coloured pages,
- more than 20 maps and charts,
- ten appendices, including:
  - battle honours,
  - the original embarkation roll,
  - a complete roll of all members of the regiment,
  - a list of all who did not return,
  - a comprehensive list of decorations,
  - the regimental association and more.
- over 100 pages of endnotes,
- bibliography,
- two detailed indices.

Endure and Fight is arguably the most comprehensive unit history of any Australian First World War unit, fitting for the only Australian unit to have served on each of the three major fronts where Australians fought.

Dr David Holloway is a retired secondary school history teacher with an abiding interest in Australian Military History; the First World War and the Light Horse in general, his beloved 4th Light Horse Regiment in particular.

He served in the ranks of the 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment during the 1960s and was commissioned in the 1970s.

He is Patron of the 4th Light Horse Regiment Memorial Association, President of the 4th/19th Regimental Association and an Honorary Life Member of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association.

David holds, amongst other qualifications, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education and is a member of both the Military History Society of Australia and Military History and Heritage Victoria. He is also a volunteer guide at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

Endure and Fight is his third book.

Copies can be obtained from the author through the

4th Light Horse Regiment Memorial Association  
Box 6/103 Beach Street Port Melbourne, VIC 3207  
phone (03) 9645-3136  
email: dkholloway@bigpond.com

Prices: Standard edition: \$ 110.00;  
Special edition: \$ 650.00

## VIP Offer for MHSa Members from Big Sky Publishing.

Hallo again

I have an exciting offer from one of the sponsors of the Sabretache Writers Prize, Big Sky Publishing, who in the last year or so have published a number of excellent military publications, including the quality Army History Unit titles.

EXCLUSIVE to our members, Big Sky Publishing are offering a special MHSa VIP offer. If you buy online, you will receive 20% off your purchase. This applies to total purchases across the Big Sky Publishing catalogue, not just their military titles.

The offer extends from NOW until 30 June. All you have to do is search their website, [www.bigskypublishing.com.au](http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au), quote the promotion code MHSa at checkout and make your selection.

Even better news: Big Sky Publishing are offering post free for orders of \$50.00 or more.

Of particular interest are two books by MHSa members: [http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/images/uploads/220\\_3d01b72fc](http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/images/uploads/220_3d01b72fc)

Damien Finlayson is one of our newer members and his Crumps and Camouflets. Australian Tunnelling Companies on the Western Front has been selling so well it has gone into reprint. It is a joint Army History Unit Big Sky Publishing venture and is an example of the high quality, value for money publishing values that they espouse. Details:

Description: Hard cover dust wrapper 480pp lots of b&w photos and lots of maps and diagrams. \$34.99 (and 20% off with the VIP offer!)

Comment: Within the vast array of Great War literature there is scant reference to the Australian tunnelling companies. This redresses that: Crumps and Camouflets, is the first complete history of Australia's role in the tunnelling war of 1914-1919. Australian tunnelling companies took part in the battles of Fromelles, Arras, Messines, Passchendaele, Cambrai, the defence of Amiens, Lys, and the famous last 100 days. The tunnellers served a war within a war in its most literal sense. Their secret war culminated in the simultaneous blowing of nineteen huge mines, with a combined payload of almost 450,000 tonnes of high explosives, beneath the Messines Ridge. Over 4,500 Australians served on the Western Front in three Australian tunnelling companies and their unique support unit, the Alphabet Company. Around 330 men did not return. Includes roll of honour of the men of the Australian Tunnelling Companies and Australian Electrical Mechanical Mining and Boring Company, honours and awards, and award citations

Roger Lee is one of our long term members and, as Head of the Army History Unit, has an important role in the publication of the Australian Army Campaign Series, as well as other Army History/Big Sky Titles. His recent contribution to the Campaign Series is The Battle of Fromelles. 1916. Australian Army Campaign Series No 8.

Description: Card covers with flaps 206pp b&w and colour photos, colour illustrations by Jeff Issacs and maps. \$19.99 (and 20% off with the VIP offer!)

Comment: The Battle of Fromelles - until recently largely forgotten in the accounts of Australia's experiences in World War One - remains the single bloodiest day in terms of numbers of soldiers killed, wounded or missing, in Australia's military history. The battle now is also one of the most controversial military episodes in Australian history. This book attempts to look at the battle, free from emotion, and place the course of events and the unfolding of the tragedy into its tactical, operational and strategic setting. Includes: before the battle. the strategic setting, details of the opposing armies, reasons why the battle was fought, detailed account of the attack, why the attack failed and details of the German counter-attack, and conclusions drawn from the events. Also includes biographies of key personnel and an epilogue 94 years on which includes details of the search for and recovery of the missing Australians.

NOTE: The Campaign Series by the Australian Army History Unit offer comprehensive and approachable books for all ages. Rich in detail and history the titles in this series are written and researched by some of Australia's most prominent military historians.

So, start browsing and take advantage of this great VIP offer! Remember, it closes on 30 June 2011

best wishes

Kristen Alexander  
Federal Secretary  
Military Historical Society of Australia