In Ages Past



Allan Mawdsley

In Ages Past…

Authors dedication :

To my Best Man, Adrian Holst, for his intellectual stimulus and lifelong friendship, and to my family for their tolerance and support.

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by St John Ambulance Australia

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Written by Dr Allan Mawdsley KStJ

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In Ages Past…

100 years of St John Volunteer First Aid in Victoria

Allan Mawdsley

The Anglican Hymn Book 1965

Hymn 244

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719

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PREFACE

When I began my volunteer work at the St John Museum in 2002 there was no information available about our early Commissioners. I undertook to research a little of their history and to make it available to the Historical Society.

The Chapters of this book give biographical notes on each of the eighteen Commissioners who presided over the first hundred years of St John volunteer First Aid service in Victoria. In writing the book, however, it became apparent that there were several themes underpinning the story. Probably the most important of these is the ethic of service to others.

The mottoes of the Order of St John – *Pro Fide* (For the Faith) and *Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For the Service of Mankind) – have not been merely words on the page but have been genuinely lived. Some of the members have been deeply religious though most have not, but all have shown a deep commitment to the ethic of our second motto. The words of the Anglican Hymn that provide the title of this book touch on the connection between the two mottoes.

A second theme has been the contribution to civilian First Aid from military medicine. Best practice civilian medicine is the starting point for military practice, but the exigencies of warfare often lead to innovation and trialing of new methods which later come to enrich civilian practice. In addition to improvements in professional practice there has been a persistent wish on the part of military doctors to encourage First Aid for the injured which has greatly improved survival rates in warfare and which is brought back to civilian First Aid. The involvement of military doctors in St John history has been quite remarkable.

Each of the Chapters tells of impressive individual achievements by remarkable people. Their stories are overtly linked by positions of leadership in this volunteer organization but there is also often a covert linkage through personal friendships and trust. The appointments and promotion of “mates” may be derided in political circles as “jobs for the boys” but it is the way business was done in the early days and it has served this organization well. What also became clearer was the way in which the fortunes of individuals were set against the backdrop of the history of the Nation.

Beginning with the visit of the Great White Fleet and Prime Minister Andrew Fisher's wish to forge an alliance with the new American superpower, the history covers two world wars, the Great Depression and the rising influence of the corporate business model in determining which charitable endeavours thrive. It has been an exciting and humbling experience to record the story.

Allan Mawdsley

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Prologue

The beginnings of St John Ambulance Brigade

The role of the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John in providing care for sick and injured pilgrims in the Holy Land is well known. So, too, is their political role in the governing of Jerusalem following its successful capture in the First Crusade. After holding Jerusalem for a brief period of less than a hundred years the Christians were pushed out. They occupied fortifications around the Mediterranean coast, the remains of which can still be seen today. Despite further Crusades they never recaptured Jerusalem but were, in fact, pushed further and further westwards from Palestine to Rhodes and eventually to Malta. [1,2]

Granted governance of Malta by Emperor Charles V in 1530AD the Knights ruled for more than 250 years until eventually relinquishing it to Napoleon in 1798. Malta marked the dividing line between the Christian west and the Muslim east. The multi-national composition of the Order of St John must have been a great diplomatic strength. Money and members came from the eight langues, or ethnic groupings, that made up the Order, and doubtless also forged political linkages. However, this also proved an Achilles Heel because the Knights of the French Langue prevailed upon their colleagues to submit to Napoleon's demand without a fight, so ending a five hundred year reign of one of the most formidable fighting forces in history. The Great Siege of Malta in 1565 is still regarded as one of the most awesome battles in military history.

The English langue, based at the Priory of St John in Clerkenwell, just outside the ancient city walls of London, not only had the farmlands within the Priory walls but also had subsidiary Commanderies scattered throughout England to generate the wealth needed to support its contribution to Malta.



Figure 1 Sir William Drogo Montagu, Seventh Duke of Manchester, co-founder of St John Ambulance Association and Grand Prior of the Sovereign and Illustrious Order of St John of Jerusalem : Anglia

The Priory in England, however, had its problems with Henry VIII. When he broke with the Pope to form the Church of England he closed the monasteries and confiscated the property of the religious Orders, including the Order of St John. Although briefly restored by Mary following Henry's death, it was soon suppressed again by Queen Elizabeth I when she vanquished Mary. The Order in England remained officially dissolved from that time although some English Knights continued to serve in Malta and the Order overseas continued the pretence that the English langue still existed. [3,4]

Dispossessed of Malta, many of the Knights returned to their countries of origin except for some dissidents who were offered refuge in Russia where they elected the Tsar as the new Grand Master of the Order. By the time the Vatican had reconstituted the Order, and given it a new home and official status in Rome as the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Malta, the Russian organization had fragmented into several competing schisms each claiming the name and heritage of the Order of St John. These spread through Europe and eventually to Shickshinny in Pennsylvania, USA. Some fragments remained interested in charitable work for the sick and injured but many were more interested in the ceremonial titles, political connections and potential financial advantages of the prestigious historical reputation.

Early in the nineteenth century strenuous efforts were made to achieve an official restoration of the English langue of the Order of St John. The motivations appear to have been largely to do with the international politics of the Order rather than any humanitarian or charitable function, and met with limited success. Particular difficulties were encountered with Vatican's reluctance to accept members of the Anglican faith. The eventual result was the founding of an independent organization, 'The Sovereign and Illustrious Order of St John of Jerusalem : Anglia' in 1831, which does not appear to have any more legitimacy than the previously mentioned European claimants. It elected the Chaplain to King George IV, the Reverend Dr Sir Robert Peat, to be the first active Grand Prior in England for almost 300 years. [4]



Figure 2 : St John's Gate, the only remaining fragment of the Priory wall at Clerkenwell, purchased as Headquarters to represent the connection with the ancient Order.



Figure 3 : The first St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, another symbolic connection with the ancient Order.

However, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, when Sir William Drogo Montagu, Seventh Duke of Manchester became Grand Prior, the organization rediscovered its *raison d'etre*.

The industrial revolution which made Great Britain a dominant world power also had a significant human cost. There were many serious industrial accidents and the public clamoured for safety laws. Medical Practitioners, particularly those associated with the military forces, were keen to promote emergency treatment for the civilian population. The Duke of Manchester and his trio of associates, Sir John Lechmere, Sir John Furley and Colonel Francis Duncan, founded the St John Ambulance Association in 1877, which set up ambulance transport services and began the teaching of First Aid to the public. Within a short few years the Association had trained thousands of people. More importantly, its certificate was recognized as the benchmark qualification for First Aid. Many collieries, factories, quarries and mines proudly hosted First Aid teams under the St John logo.

Suddenly the Order of St John in England was seen to be sponsoring valuable work that was worthy of support. Nobility were recruited to high office within the Order and the medical profession gave considerable honorary support through teaching at public First Aid classes. The opportunity for symbolic gestures was not lost upon the Duke of Manchester. An early move was to purchase St John's Gate, one of the last remaining fragments of the walls that once surrounded the twelfth century Priory of St John at Clerkenwell, establishing the Headquarters of the revived organization in the associated buildings. The idea of continuity with the ancient Order was fostered at every opportunity. [4]

A number of members of the Royal household gained their St John First Aid certificates, with considerable resultant publicity. The Duke of Manchester also used his friendship with the Prince of Wales to achieve a remarkable public relations feat. The Prince of Wales approached the Ottoman Sultan, Sultan Abdul Hamid II, for a grant of land by the Turkish Government for the building of a hospital in Jerusalem.



Figure 4 Tibshelf Colliery St John Ambulance Association team 1878



Figure 5 St John Ambulance Brigade's first public duty at Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations in London, 1887

The land was granted and a new ophthalmic hospital was built. The Order chose to build an eye hospital rather than a general hospital because of the high prevalence of eye diseases in the Arab population. This specialist contribution immediately gained considerable support for the project and cemented a long-term connection between the hospital and the British medical establishment. Moorfields Eye Hospital in London is still the major source of specialist ophthalmic expertise to the Jerusalem Hospital today.

Over and above the charitable humanitarian value of the hospital itself was the symbolic value to the Order in England. It was providing help to the sick and injured in the Holy Land, just as the Hospitallers of the ancient Order had done almost a thousand years ago. The niceties of whether or not it was the same Order were tactfully ignored in the praise of the importance of the here and now.

Five years later another St John humanitarian project proved to be the decisive public relations coup. This was the founding of St John Ambulance Brigade. For a long time it had been recognized that there was a need for emergency medical care at large public gatherings but there was no system in place to provide it. Injured individuals could be taken to hospital by the recently devised ambulance service but only after members of the public had made the necessary arrangements. The time delay could be considerable and the outcome much worse than if early aid had been available. As preparations began for Queen Victoria's Jubilee it was clear that London would see the biggest crowds in England's history and something would need to be done to provide emergency medical care. [4]

St John Ambulance Association took advantage of the existing assemblage of trained industrial First Aid teams by gathering them together in a para-military structure. Officers were appointed in charge of the local groupings, named after their host locations. Local and regional groupings were accountable to the senior officers at Headquarters in St John's Gate through an hierarchical chain of command as in the army.



Figure 6 : Dr James Edward Neild, who called a public meeting to form a branch of St John Ambulance Association in Melbourne in 1883.

The whole organization was put together in a relatively short space of time and the first large-scale public event at which the volunteer First-Aiders gave service was at the Queen's Jubilee celebrations on 21st June 1887. It was an outstanding success.

Queen Victoria was very pleased. The public had been well looked after by the new volunteer First Aid organization which was set to continue its work in future public events. The organization had been doing good work in teaching First Aid and in the provision of civil ambulance services. It had also been doing good international charitable work at the Jerusalem Eye Hospital in which her son, the Prince of Wales was actively interested. She was probably glad to have the opportunity to encourage his involvement in charitable activities to counteract the gossip about his playboy activities. A few months after her Jubilee Queen Victoria granted the Order a Royal Charter, promulgated in 1888, making it an official British Order of Chivalry known as the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. She was the Sovereign Head and the Prince of Wales was Grand Prior. The emblem was changed by the addition of the 'Royal Beasts', the lion and the unicorn, between the arms of the white Maltese Cross to indicate the Royal patronage. The enhancement of the title to 'Most Venerable Order' was done at a later re-issue of the Royal Charter.

The Royal Family has remained actively involved in the affairs of the Order for more than a century. When Queen Victoria died her son, the Prince of Wales, who had been Grand Prior, became King Edward VII, Sovereign Head. His son, the new Prince of Wales became Grand Prior until his succession to the throne as King George V, when his father's brother, the Duke of Connaught, became Grand Prior for thirty two years from 1910-42. He was followed by Henry, Duke of Gloucester, and in turn by his son Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the present Grand Prior. Other members of the Royal Family have had a variety of roles within St John. [4]



Figure 7 : The Honourable George Coppin MLA, who chaired the public meeting.

Within Britain and around the whole British Empire the name St John became synonymous with First aid and ambulance work. It was not only to do with Royal patronage, although that certainly helped the cause. In 1883, only five years after the founding of St John Ambulance Association in Britain, and a full five years before the granting of the Royal Charter, St John had become established in Australia.

Dr James Edward Neild called a public meeting to canvass whether there was support for the establishment of a Branch of St John Ambulance Association in Melbourne. Neild was a very prominent person. He was an English doctor who had migrated in the gold rush, took his higher degree in medicine at the new medical school at the University of Melbourne, became city coroner, editor of the Medical Journal of Australia, and a notable theatre critic. He is said to have 'discovered' Dame Nellie Melba in that he recommended that she concentrate upon a singing career rather than being a pianist as she had intended. [5]

The public meeting was chaired by the colourful local politician and theatrical entrepreneur, George Coppin. Enough prominent supporters and honorary medical lecturers pledged their involvement for the first Centre in Australia to be established in Melbourne. Within a short time hundreds of First Aid certificates were being issued each year and within a decade St John had developed the first civilian ambulance service in Melbourne. Although the success of the St John Ambulance Brigade volunteer First Aid service in Britain was known to officials in Melbourne soon after its beginnings in 1887, it was another twenty one years before it happened here. A Branch had begun at Glebe in New South Wales in 1904 but it took a special incentive for Victorians to take the step. How and why it happened is the subject of the next Chapter, and how it progressed for the next hundred years is the subject of this book.



Figure 8 : The first civilian ambulance service in Melbourne, corner Swanston and Franklin Streets, circa 1912



Figure 9 : Ships of the Great White Fleet, 1908

Chapter One

Lieutenant-Colonel George Horne KStJ VD

First Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1909-1921

President Theodore Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet on a world tour in 1908 to tell the world that America was now a super-power. The Japanese, in particular, were meant to notice that America could put a battle fleet in the Pacific as well as in its usual habitat, the Atlantic. Forays into Manchuria were to be discouraged.

This was the biggest exercise ever undertaken to this time by the US Navy. Roosevelt made it clear that this was a battle fleet. He said, in a speech before its departure, "*I want all the failures, blunders and shortcomings to be made apparent in time of peace and not in time of war*". The fleet of sixteen coal-fired battleships and seven auxiliary ships, manned by 14,000 sailors, was commanded by Rear Admiral Charles Sperry. It was called the Great White Fleet because the ships were painted white, with gilded scrollwork on the bows.

The fleet covered some 43,000 miles and made twenty port calls on six continents. After moving from the Atlantic to the Pacific it travelled west from San Francisco to Honolulu, Auckland, Sydney and Melbourne. Andrew Fisher, the Australian Prime Minister, invited the fleet to visit Australia, somewhat to the displeasure of Whitehall which wished Britain to continue to be seen as the protector of its erstwhile colony. However, Fisher wanted Australia to forge an alliance with the new super-power.

Melbourne was the location of the Federal Parliament for the two decades before Canberra was built as the new national capital. The Great White Fleet visited Melbourne from 29th August to 5th September 1908. Two and a half thousand American sailors marched the six kilometres from Port



Figure 10 : Surgeon-Major George Horne of Medical Militia, Victorian Colonial Army.

Melbourne to the city where they received the keys to the city and a civic welcome.

This was the first time an American Fleet had visited Victoria and the public excitement was intense. In the years before the start of public radio broadcasts there were only occasional major public events but this one was eagerly anticipated and extremely popular. Nearly half of the population of 600,000 people came to see the fleet and watch the sailors marching.

Surgeon-Major George Horne, in charge of the Militia Ambulance Corps, was responsible for emergency medical services. He knew that his small number of Corpsmen would need considerable help to deal with the huge crowd spread out over such a distance. He planned sixteen aid posts along the route of the march and at strategic locations in the city, and he recruited St John Ambulance first aid medallion-holders to help his militia men provide the aid. The plan was an outstanding success. The First Aid Volunteers Association, as it was then named, treated more than five hundred casualties on the day of the march.

The 1909 St John Council Annual Report says, *"Ability to render 'First Aid' is an important branch of knowledge. This was strikingly illustrated on the day the members of the American Fleet marched through Melbourne. On that occasion a number of men and women trained by the Association volunteered their services as an Ambulance Corps. They were stationed in groups at the intersections of the streets, and rendered 'First Aid' and assistance to over 500 persons. This so plainly shows the desirability of having a trained body of workers at hand on all such occasions, or in the event of any large and serious accident, that the Council intends to take steps towards the formation of an Ambulance Brigade, similar to the Brigade at Home, in New South Wales, and New Zealand, and hopes that the women and men who did such splendid service at Fleet time will be the first recruits. In the meantime the 'First Aid' Volunteer Association, which any certified member of the Association can join, has been formed for the purpose of keeping the workers in Fleet Week together, and affording opportunities for practice."*



Figure 11 : First Aid Volunteers Association, 1908.



Figure 12 : City of Melbourne Division, St John Ambulance Brigade, circa 1913.

When approval was received from London for establishment of an Overseas Branch of the St John Ambulance Brigade George Horne was appointed as the Acting Assistant Commissioner. He was confirmed as Assistant Commissioner and continued in charge from 1909 to 1921. At that time it was necessary to be a Knight of the Order of St John to hold the rank of Commissioner, and Horne did not achieve this high honour until after his retirement so he was only designated Assistant Commissioner. In the early years at least, he was the District's only headquarters officer.

George Horne was President of the First Aid Volunteers Association from the outset. For several years the First Aid Volunteers Association continued side by side with the Brigade but in 1915 the St John Ambulance Association withdrew its endorsement of FAVA. Although the FAVA 1915 Annual Report says that they have sought an explanation they had received only an acknowledgment of the letter. George Horne remained as their nominal President but clearly was no longer involved in their activities. The FAVA faded away and disbanded at the end of WW I, whilst the Brigade rapidly gained in strength.

Horne's involvement with St John at Fleet time was no happenstance. He had already been involved for some years. He had been teaching public first aid classes for St John from soon after it began in Melbourne in 1883. He had been a lecturer and examiner for St John and is mentioned in the Annual Reports of the Association from as early as 1892. He joined St John Council from 1904. For a number of years Reports mention that at the St John Ambulance Association "Annual Demonstration" George Horne was in charge of a detachment of militia that formed a guard of honour to receive the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor at the event. These were grand occasions, usually at the Melbourne Town Hall, where first-aiders showed their skills on simulated accident victims, speeches were made about spectacular rescues, and triple certificate-holders were awarded their medallions by the Governor. St John no longer has such "demonstrations" but customarily each year there is a parade of uniformed volunteer first aid members at Government House where the Governor

presents certificates and awards recognizing the outstanding service to the community by these volunteers.

Horne's contribution to St John as an honorary lecturer and member of Council, together with the additional tasks this entailed, was part of an ethos of charitable service which was very strongly inculcated in the medical profession at that time. Doctors were taught that they belonged to a great and honourable profession which had considerable power, influence and respect but which had corresponding obligations and responsibilities. It was customary to charge higher fees for the rich who could afford them and lower fees or no fee for the poor. It was also usual to provide honorary service in public hospitals and to contribute to other charitable institutions in the community. George Horne did all of these things.

He came from a cultured and well-educated family. His father, George Horne Snr, came from Southampton, England, and was the manager of the National Bank of Australasia at Launceston, Tasmania. [2] He is listed in the Athenaeum Index [3] in 1857 as the Editor/ Translator of a book, "Aphorisms and Opinions". George Horne Snr married Martha Kelly in 1856.[4] The family moved to Melbourne and had six children. Their oldest daughter, Mary, was born in 1857 [5]. George jnr was born on August 16, 1860, in Brunswick[1]. Charles, who died at 16 years of age[6], was born in 1862, Robert Alexander, who became a doctor at Broken Hill, in 1865 [7], and Herbert Roger, who became a doctor in Gippsland, in 1866[8]. Their youngest daughter, Amy [9], born in 1868, married Dr Arthur Syme of Lilydale, a son of David Syme, founder of the Melbourne "Age" newspaper. [10]

George Jnr was educated at Carlton College. At fourteen he gained the English, arithmetic and algebra prizes. In the following year he was *dux* in mathematics and again gained prizes in English and in French. In 1876 he won the first prize in mathematics. He then left the Carlton College and in 1878 he was *dux* of his class at Hawthorne Grammar School. In the following year he was *dux* of the school. [11] Both of these were private schools geared towards matriculating students for entry to Melbourne University before the systematic development of the State secondary school system. [12]

In 1880, at the age of nineteen, he entered the Medical School of the University of Melbourne. At the end of his first year he took second class honours in his preliminary subjects. In the next year he gained a scholarship in chemistry, mineralogy, botany, comparative anatomy and zoology and second class honours. He completed his arts course in 1883, obtaining three exhibitions and the scholarship in Natural Science. In February 1884, he gained third class honours and in October he graduated in medicine and surgery with Master of Arts (MA), Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and Bachelor of Surgery (ChB) degrees. He was also a champion athlete in running. [11]

After graduation he entered into partnership with Dr C J Daniel of Clifton Hill. In 1886 he started a practice of his own at the same place with the intention of specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology.[11] The Medical Journal of Australia records: *"For several years Dr Horne worked as a general practitioner, gaining in knowledge and reputation and skill and acquiring expert knowledge, especially in obstetrics and gynaecology. He was an intense worker, never tiring in his search for knowledge and never content with the knowledge he had acquired. He was a great student of zoology. At Clifton Hill he built a celebrated aviary and in it he succeeded in keeping in captivity such wild Australian birds as the honey eater and the dainty blue wren."* [11] That year he married Jessie Sarah Hewetson, daughter of the late James Hewetson and Elizabeth Hewetson, nee Gardner,[14] of Upper Hawthorn. The marriage took place at Mount Prior homestead, Gooramadda, near Chiltern and Rutherglen in northern Victoria, the historic vineyard property of her mother and stepfather, Mr Alex Caughey. [15]

Jessie died only two years later in her mother's home at Gooramadda on the day of George Horne's 28th birthday. She was 31 years of age, and the cause of death was asphyxia due to 'phthisis', the old term for tuberculosis.[16] She was brought back to Melbourne for burial at Boroondara Cemetery in Kew.
In the year of his wife's death Dr Horne was appointed a Captain in the reserve of officers, medical staff, on 15th June 1888, presumably at Victoria Barracks when Victoria had its own army before Federation. The fine old bluestone main



Figure 13 : Women's Hospital, Melbourne circa 1912.



Figure 14 : Outdoor Infirmary Staff, Women's Hospital, 1912, with Dr Horne in back centre.

building of the barracks was built in the 1860's. [17] He was transferred to the Volunteer Ambulance Corps on 3rd August 1888; and transferred to reserve on disbandment of Volunteer Ambulance Corps on 26th July, 1889. He was reappointed to the active list, medical staff, on 5th February, 1892; appointed to command Militia Ambulance Corps on 8th October 1897; and promoted to the rank of major on 26th May 1899.[11]

He remained with the medical militia during its transition into the Australian Army at Federation and through to the start of the first World War when he joined the Australian Voluntary Hospital on the Western Front. At Federation the Commanding Officer at Victoria Barracks was Major-General M.F.Downes, father of Rupert Downes who was Horne's successor as Commissioner.

In 1895 Dr Horne was appointed Honorary Physician to the Midwifery Department at the Women's Hospital and in the following year Outdoor Infirmary Surgeon. The main building of the Women's Hospital, previously called the Lying-In Hospital, became the Infirmary when a new midwifery section was built about the time when Horne was appointed. [19, 20] Dr Horne held this position until 1912 when he was promoted to the post of Honorary Indoor Infirmary Surgeon.[20] In 1902 he obtained the higher degree of doctor of medicine.[11] In 1916 he was Chairman of the Honorary medical staff of the hospital.[20]

He was for a time lecturer and examiner in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Melbourne. His textbook "Practical Gynaecology" went through two editions and was reportedly practically sold out on both occasions.[34] As a teacher he gained a high reputation. He loved his work at the Womens' Hospital and in consequence, up to the time of his retirement in 1921 at the age of sixty, his wards were eagerly sought by students and practitioners. [11] An obituary highlights his historical position : *"With the passing of Dr George Horne there is a severing of one of the links between the early surgeons of the Women's Hospital and the staff today of that institution."* [11]

The Cyclopedia of Victoria reports that he was honorary medical officer to the Little Sisters of the Poor, although the

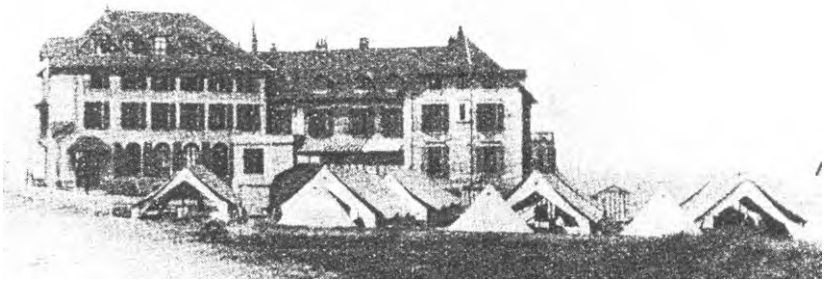


Figure 15 : Australian Voluntary Hospital, Wimmereux, circa 1917.



Figure 16 : One of the illustrations from Horne's book, "Savage Life."

Little Sisters have no record of this.[18] That appointment would be unexpected because their mandate is to care for the poor and homeless. They suggested that Dr Horne may have been an honorary medical officer to one of the charitable agencies dealing with unmarried mothers and their babies, which would have been more in keeping with his medical expertise.

Dr Horne re-married in 1889. His second wife was Miss Helen Bowie, daughter of the late Dr Robert Bowie who had emigrated from England with his family in 1854 to be Superintendent at Yarra Bend. [2, 40] By the time of their marriage, Yarra Bend Hospital had been closed down after a couple of public enquiries into a series of scandals about mistreatment of inmates. Its site became Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital and, more recently, the Thomas Embling Hospital for prisoners with psychiatric disorders, whilst Yarra Bend Hospital was replaced by Willsmere Mental Hospital on the other side of the Yarra in Kew. This grand French Empire building on the Heritage Register has also been de-commissioned as a hospital and sold off as boutique apartments. [28]

Shortly before the first World War Dr Horne visited England and when war broke out he immediately joined the Australian Voluntary Hospital. He saw service with this unit in France and attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. An article by him in the Medical Journal of Australia described the activities of the Australian Voluntary Hospital. [26]The hospital was first at Le Havre, then at St Nazaire on the Bay of Biscay, and later at Wimereux, near Boulogne. The first task at Wimereux was the handling of wounded brought from the first Battle of Ypres near the French-Belgian border. [26]

AG Butler's Official Histories of WW I report some controversy about the importance of pathology laboratory testing and refer to a forum sponsored by the Australian Voluntary Hospital on the topic of treatment of wounds involving fracture of the femur. *"Lieut.-Colonel G Horne, introducing the discussion said, "This is all new ground, and new means must be employed. The experience of the Boer War does not entirely cover this; in particular we have a bacterial flora of greater virulence and variety. The drilled hole of a rifle*

bullet is seldom seen in this campaign; the commonest wound is the smash of shrapnel and shell fragments. The chief problems are those of suppuration and secondary haemorrhage, and of the indications for suturing." The discussion continued with contributions from surgeons of other units and a footnote recorded that Lieut.-Col. Horne was in civil life a highly esteemed and cultured gynaecological surgeon, of Melbourne. [27]

He worked at the hospital until the end of September, 1915, and was then released and returned to Australia. On his return he retained his connexion with the Australian Military Forces and did a considerable amount of work in the examination of recruits for active service abroad. Dr Horne had relinquished general practice before he left Australia. On his return he specialized exclusively in gynaecology. He was one of seven medical practitioners who banded together to build Lister House, one of the most famous specialist medical consulting centres in Collins Street. The photograph of him as a retired military officer was reportedly taken on the rooftop of Lister House.[20]

In keeping with the expectations of eminent Victorian gentlemen, Horne was also at the forefront of some other areas of interest. In particular, he was an ornithologist and an ethnologist of the Australian aborigines. The Medical Journal of Australia reports: *"George Horne was not only an eminent gynaecologist and medical practitioner, he was an ethnologist of world-wide renown. He made a long study of the habits and customs of the Australian aborigines. In close connexion with this he collected a large variety of stone implements, including stone knives, surgical knives, axes, picks, hammers, grinding and throwing stones and throwing and message sticks."* [11] He presented a paper at the Hobart meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1921, which was published as a monograph. [35]

The monograph has illustrations of a number of stone implements. He kept these implements in a series of beautiful blackwood cabinets which he presented with their contents in 1926 to the Australian Museum of Natural History.[11] The

collection is currently housed at the Institute of Anatomy in Canberra [36]

In collaboration with George Aiston, an officer of the South Australian Police who served as Protector of Aborigines, he wrote "Savage Life in Central Australia", a book of record of an expedition to Central Australia in 1922. [37]

He was a member of the Council of the Zoological Gardens and was a keen student of ornithology and lover of birds.[38] An obituary in MJA by Dr Hobill Cole records: *"Ornithology found in him a bird lover and in his well stocked aviaries at Clifton Hill the wildest of the inmates would soon come to perch on his head and shoulders and eat from his hand. In later years it was a pretty sight to see the doctor and his niece feeding the shy little wrens and other small birds in the public gardens. The life history of George Horne presents a fine record of public service."* [39]

In 1920 Dr Horne represented Victoria in the first of a series of meetings chaired by Dr Thomas Storie-Dixson, the Commissioner in New South Wales, aimed at seeking self-governing status for St John in Australia.[21] The ill-fated "Central Council for Australia" which emerged out of these discussions was unable to achieve consensus for the negotiations with Priory Headquarters in England. It was not until almost twenty years later that George Horne's successor, Rupert Downes, was able to persuade the Priory in England that Australian St John was ready for self-government.

Later in 1920 Dr Horne was made an Esquire of the Order of St John. After retiring as Commissioner in 1921, Dr Horne continued on St John Council until 1926. In 1924 he was invested by Lord Stradbroke as a Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Both of these parchments are on display at the St John Museum in Victoria.
George Horne died in 1927. Helen, his second wife, was some 17 years older than George and survived him by only two years, born in 1843 and dying in 1929 at the age of 86 years. [29, 30] They had no children. Jessie, George and Helen are buried together at Boroondara. Also buried with them, but not recorded on the gravestone, is an infant nephew, George, who



Figure 17 : Dr George Horne, circa 1920.

was born and died in 1907, son of George's brother, Dr Herbert Horne, who died at Traralgon in the following year. [31, 32, 33, 40].

The 1927 Annual Report of St John Ambulance Association says, *"It is with the deepest regret that the Council has to record the death of Dr G Horne which took place on November 14th following a long illness. The late Dr Horne was a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John, and had been an active member of the Council for upwards of 25 years, and had lectured and examined for the Centre for over 36 years. In furthering the work of the Association, no request for assistance was ever refused.*

In addition to this work for the Centre, Dr Horne founded the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria in 1910, and was for many years in charge of the Victoria District as Deputy Commissioner. The Officers and members of the Brigade fully recognize their indebtedness to the Doctor, and deeply appreciate his untiring services and join with the Council in recording their deep regret and sorrow at his loss."



Figure 18 : Major-General M.F.Downes, Commandant of Victorian Colonial Army, 1899.

Chapter Two

Major-General Rupert Major Downes CMG VD MS KStJ

Second Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1920-1945

On 5th March 1945, in a severe rainstorm, an RAAF Hudson crashed into the sea two miles north of Cairns airstrip, killing all on board. The pilot had advised against flying in the storm but his high-ranking military passengers were keen to travel. This was particularly so for Major-General George Vasey, who was on his way to the battlefront in the closing stages of the War in the Pacific. In all, eleven military passengers died, including Major-General Rupert Downes, the subject of this chapter.[1,2] This tragedy cut short the life of one of the most remarkable men in St John history.

Rupert Major Downes, surgeon and soldier, was born on 10 February 1885 at Mitcham, Adelaide, youngest of fifteen children of Major General Major Francis Downes and his wife Helen Maria, née Chamberlin. [1] Reflecting the severe infant mortality of the day, only five of the fifteen children survived infancy.[16]

Major-General M F Downes (1834-1923) was a graduate of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in 1852, initially appointed to the Royal Artillery. [3] He served in the Crimean War and later became an Instructor in gunnery. Whilst in command of a troop of horse artillery he was offered the post of Military Commandant in the colony of South Australia for which he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. After four years, instead of returning to Britain, he agreed to continue in the role and retired from the British Army as an Honorary Major-General. He remained as Commandant in Adelaide until 1885, the year of Rupert's birth, when he took up an appointment as the inaugural Secretary of the Department of Defence of the Colony of Victoria. This



Figure 19 : Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, built c.1865.



Figure 20 : Statue of General Gordon who died at Khartoum in 1885.

appointment is an important event in Australia's Defence history because Victoria was the only colony ever to have maintained a Department of State concerned solely with matters of Defence. The present Commonwealth Department of Defence has its historical origins in this Department.

Downes senior initially had his office in the Treasury Place building occupied by the Minister for Defence, whence it had been moved from Victoria Barracks two years earlier in the midst of a conflict between the Minister and the Victorian Military Commandant who saw himself as answerable to the Governor rather than to politicians.

Downes not only had to deal with the residual sensitivities of this issue but also with the perceived threat of a Russian invasion requiring fortifications and artillery emplacements at point Nepean and Point Lonsdale covering Port Phillip Heads. Circular gun emplacements can still be seen on the headland in Point Nepean National Park and on South Channel Fort. The Pope's Eye Marine National Park is another artificial island partially constructed as part of these fortifications before the project was abandoned when the threat diminished.

In 1885 he was also a prime mover in the successful campaign to erect a memorial in Melbourne to the death of General Gordon at Khartoum. The heroic statue stands in a small park between Parliament House and the Treasury Building, two of our finest Victorian buildings. Although people today are barely conscious of the north African "troubles" of the nineteenth century and may wonder why Melbourne has such a grand monument to a forgotten, distant war, the statue is a reminder of the strength of British Colonial ties. It is also a reminder of the great influence wielded by powerful people in the establishment, and of the "networking" of the day. What happened in one part of the Empire affected all the other parts, not only because it was the Empire but also because the players were often kin. Gordon and Downes had been friends at Woolwich College, had served together in the Crimean War and later at Sandhurst.

A year later, in November 1886, his office was moved back to Victoria Barracks. Downes managed these issues well, and his services were greatly valued, but he was unhappy with paper

work and he declined to renew his appointment at the end of his three year term. He was immediately offered his old post as Military Commandant in South Australia, which he accepted. He remained there from 1888 to 1893. He retired at the age of 59, to live near his son, Robin Downes, at Geelong. He and his wife moved to Brighton two years later on advice about his wife's health.[3]

In 1899 the Victorian Government sent a contingent to the Boer War at the same time as the Military Commandant retired and they were negotiating the transfer of the Victorian Army into the Australian Army at federation. As a transitional measure they prevailed upon Downes to serve temporarily as Military Commandant of the Victorian Army until permanent arrangements were made after federation. He remained in this post until final retirement in 1902. By this strange quirk of fate he thus became the last Commandant of the Victorian Army and the Commanding Officer of Surgeon-Major George Horne. Horne was in charge of the Militia medical service and became the first Commissioner for St John in Victoria.

It was in this quintessentially British military household where Rupert Downes spent his childhood, and from an early age it was clear that he would follow his father's footsteps. When the family moved to Brighton he was ten years old.[3] Rupert was educated at Haileybury College, Melbourne[1]

When still at school, he had joined the Victorian Voluntary Field Artillery (St.Kilda "B" Battery) as a trumpeter, and in that capacity at the age of 16, took part in the ceremony of the opening of the first Australian Federal Parliament by the late King George V (then Duke of Cornwall and York) in 1901 [4]

He entered the University of Melbourne Medical School and was resident at Ormond College. He graduated MB.Ch.B. in 1907. Also in his class was Dr Arthur Sherwin, a resident of Trinity College, who became his close friend and Best Man at his wedding. Sherwin was later to become Victorian St John Commissioner after Downes's death. As a student Downes served in the Melbourne University Rifles, and in July 1908 he was commissioned as a captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps.[1]

The first six years of his career were fruitful and happy ones. Army medical activities could occupy only a part of his time while he was in the volunteer forces, and so his remaining time was occupied in private practice, in teaching as a demonstrator in anatomy at the University of Melbourne, in tutoring at Ormond College, and working as a clinical surgical assistant at the Melbourne and Children's Hospitals.

In 1911 he obtained the MD higher degree in medicine. In 1912 he was successful in the examination for the Master of Surgery degree in the University of Melbourne. At the same time he threw himself into the work of the Australian Army Medical Corps, being promoted major in 1913.[1]

On 20 November 1913 he married Doris Mary Robb, the daughter of Arthur and Ethel (nee Richardson) Robb. The wedding took place at St John's Church, Toorak. They subsequently had three children : Rosemary (Mrs Campbell), Valerie (Mrs Howse), and John.

It seemed likely that before very long he might look forward to an appointment on the honorary surgical staff of the Melbourne Hospital. This, however, was not to be, for with the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined the Australian Imperial Force and went abroad. [5] When the Australian Imperial Force was raised in 1914, Downes was given command of the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance and promoted lieutenant-colonel, the youngest in the AIF. During training and preparations at Broadmeadows before sailing for Egypt it was re-designated the 3rd Light Horse. He led this unit on Gallipoli where he won a name as an outstanding commander.[1]

On the formation of the Anzac Mounted Division in March 1916, Downes became its Assistant Director of Medical Services with the rank of colonel. General Harry Chauvel had a policy of placing proved Australians in key administrative positions affecting the wellbeing of the troops. Thus, when he formed the Desert Mounted Corps in 1917 he brought Downes with him to run his medical services.[6] Downes was appointed Assistant



Figure 21 : Light Horse Field Ambulance in Palestine, 1917.



Figure 22 : Colonel Rupert Downes.

Director of Medical Services of the Desert Mounted Corps, and also Assistant Director of Medical Services of the Australian Empire Force (Middle East), based in Egypt, successfully combining the two roles for the remainder of the war.[6,1]

Downes was remarkable as innovator and organizer.[1] He devised methods such as the use of camel cacolets and sledges for transport of casualties over the soft sands of the Sinai Desert. Cacolets were couplets of stretchers counterbalanced on each side of the camel by a yoke across its back. They were very unpopular with patients because of motion sickness but they were effective where vehicles could not travel. By division of a light field ambulance into two sections, a mobile and a tented, he was able to overcome the lack of a casualty clearing station and provide immediate treatment for casualties at the scene of action before conveyance back over the long stretches of desert to the tented section. In the swift advances which resulted from Allenby's later victories in Palestine and Syria he surmounted great difficulties in transporting casualties over tremendous distances with the aid of motor ambulances.[4]

In the Jordan Valley in 1918, his anti-malarial measures kept sickness at acceptable levels; and he was greatly assisted by the Anzac Field Laboratory which he had raised in 1916.[1] He also organized a mobile surgical unit which was able to provide skilled surgical attention in the forward areas, thus foreshadowing the present-day mobile surgical team.

He took vital steps to reduce the danger of dysentery and cholera, while his anti-malarial campaign was so vigorous and successful that the Desert Mounted Corps was able to garrison the Jordan Valley during the summer of 1917 and advance to rout the Turks at Damascus in the winter of 1918.[1] During the battle for Es Salt in May, he requested pilot Ross Smith to drop medical supplies in tyre tubes from the aircraft, and reported in his diary that this had been a success.[6]

His most challenging difficulties occurred at Damascus. After a two hundred miles advance through country previously occupied by the Turks, the troops became heavily infected with malaria and an outbreak of influenza. The influenza epidemic

went on to kill 20 million people worldwide, and was unexpectedly more severe in young persons compared to the usual pattern of greater severity in the elderly. This, coupled with the capture of enemy sick and wounded who were without medical attention, presented an immense problem.[4,1] There were also considerable difficulties with Colonel T.E.Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, advocating on behalf of Arabic political leaders. Stricken himself with malaria, Downes remained at his post and carried the medical service through one of the most difficult and trying periods of its history. In a letter to his wife General Chauvel said he, himself, kept going "by the Mercy of God and the loyalty of Rupert Downes".[6]

Downes was mentioned in dispatches six times. In January 1918 he was awarded the C.M.G. At the same time his wife, Doris, was awarded the O.B.E. for her work among soldiers' families.

After the War he was invited to write the section on the Sinai and Palestine campaign in Volume I of the Official history of the Australian Army Medical Services Colonel A G Butler, the editor of the history wrote, *"When, in the early stages of the work, Colonel Downes was invited to write on the medical history of the Light Horse, he wished to tackle the job on the lines of a series of self-contained studies on various problems, which should be related to events and operations by a general narrative. My own plan for the history, as medical editor, envisaged a direct and immediate association of professional and technical problems with the actual course of military events. Though it went against his own opinion and preference, Downes accepted without demur, though with regret, my views on the writing of his section (which was, and I think still is, the most exact study yet made of Light Horse medical work)"* [8,9]

While engaged in this work he was attempting to rebuild his surgical practice in Melbourne.[1] The Medical Journal obituary reports that he was an applicant for a vacancy on the staff of the Melbourne Hospital as an outpatient surgeon. *"Although he was still a young man, there were other applicants a little younger who were thought to be of the age more suitable for appointment, having in view the age at which they would become eligible for in-patient surgeon appointments, and Rupert Downes did not*

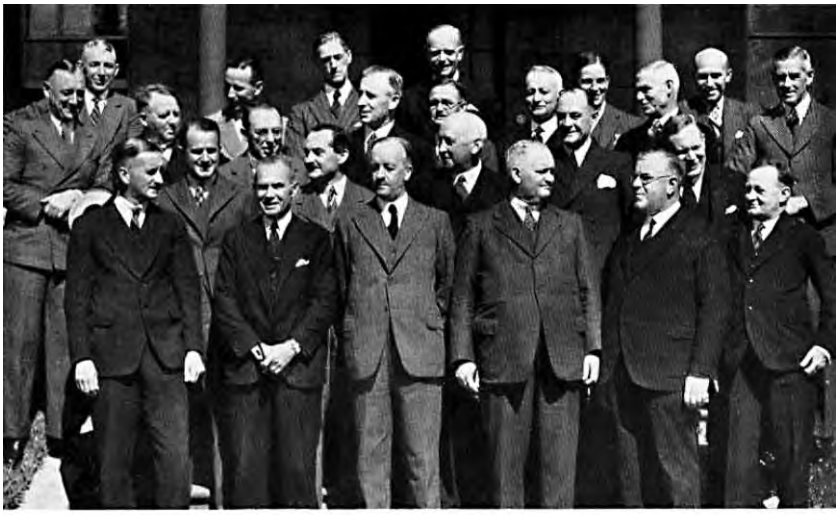
receive an appointment. He felt this very much, but it was characteristic of his nature and code of behaviour, that he remained friendly with his younger successful competitors and advanced their interests when it lay in his powers to do so."[5]

Downes became an honorary consulting surgeon at the Children's and Victorian Eye and Ear hospitals, honorary surgeon at Prince Henry Hospital, and in 1927 a foundation fellow of the College of Surgeons of Australasia. [1] As an honorary surgeon to the Children's Hospital he took an active part in setting up the orthopaedic hospital at Frankston. [5]

With the retirement of Lt-Col.George Horne in 1921, Colonel Rupert Downes was appointed Commissioner of St John Ambulance Brigade, Victoria District. He remained in that role for a record 25 years. This record will never be broken because nowadays these appointments are triennial with a maximum of two re-appointments.

Downes passion for military medicine had taken him back to the post-war army in 1919 as an area medical officer. In 1921 he was a member of the committee planning reorganization of the Army Medical Service and the employment of the profession during an emergency. He was also appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services, 3rd Military District (Victoria)[1]. His surgical connections with various hospitals enabled him to meet young doctors and stir them with something of his own enthusiasm, producing a continuous stream of applicants for commission. But he realized that war experience was often a valuable asset and so induced a certain number of older men to continue on the active list.[4]

Using his great experience of mobile warfare, he held tactical exercises which stimulated the keenness of the young medical officers. These were held approximately twice a year and actively involved medical officers of all grades. Carefully prepared in conjunction with the General Staff, these exercises were of considerable value in bringing the medical service into



Medical officers attending tactical exercise April 1936.

Front Row: Lieut-Colonel W. A. B. Steele, Major-General O. F. Phillips, Major-General R. M. Downes, Brigadier J. L. Hardie, Colonel F. A. Maguire, Lieut-Colonel W. Vickers.
Second Row: Major A. W. Morrow, Colonel A. L. Buchanan, Colonel N. L. Speirs, Major R. W. Walsh, Colonel G. W. Macartney.
Third Row: Major R. L. Bennett, Colonel H. N. Butler, Major E. L. Cooper, Colonel W. H. Donald, Colonel E. R. White, Colonel J. A. H. Sherwin, Colonel D. M. McWhae.
Back Row: Lieutenant A. Christie, Lieut-Colonel K. B. Fraser, Lieut-Colonel W. W. S. Johnston, Colonel S. R. Burston, Colonel C. G. Shaw, Lieut-Colonel J. Steigrad, Major K. A. McKenzie.

Figure 23 : Medical staff at Tactical Group exercise in 1936.

closer relationship with other branches. Quite a large proportion of the medical plans actually adopted to meet the threatened Japanese invasion was thus envisaged and tested on the ground in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of WW II.[4] According to Major General Sir Samuel Burston, *'He was never a talker and more by example than by precept he indicated clearly what was expected of an officer of the Army Medical Corps. The officers trained by him during this period were to be amongst the most valued of the senior officers of the corps in World War II'*. [1]

In 1928 Downes joined a committee appointed to examine the mobilization of Australian medical resources for war. He vigorously opposed the concept, already accepted by some, of

conscription of doctors and medical students under the direction of the minister of health.[1]

In 1933 came the tragedy of the death of his only son, John, at the age of ten. John, who was a student at Geelong Grammar, contracted meningitis and (in this pre-antibiotic era) was nursed at home until his death six weeks later. The Medical Journal referred to John as ***"****a boy of bright and most engaging character, who was already making his mark at school with his keen brain and his skill in sport.****"*** [4] Downes immersed himself in his work and shortly afterwards went to Britain and Europe to study army medical problems and developments in surgery of the brain and the central nervous system.[1]

In 1934 Major-General G.W.Barber retired as Director-General of Medical Services. Downes was urged by his friends, who realized the importance of the position and his outstanding qualifications for it, to apply for the appointment.[4] Downes was appointed in August 1934 and was promoted major general next year. In the words of Dr A.J.Hill, "*His earliest ambition of being a regular soldier was achieved, but at the cost of relinquishing his surgical practice. He began work under the shadow of the death of his only son and when the army was starved of men, money and equipment. All his training, experience and interests combined to fit him for his new post at a time when war seemed imminent. He was one of the leaders of his profession, widely read and of great physical energy. He was soon to show that he was also a man of vision".****[1]***

In the five years to the outbreak of war in 1939, Downes selected and trained many leaders of the Australian Army Medical Corps, foresaw civil as well as military medical problems, planned their solution and pioneered major developments in the medical side of recruitment.

He was chairman of the board which in 1935 reorganized army medical equipment. On his initiative funds were provided in 1939 in time to import large quantities of drugs such as quinine, and equipment before war began. It also encouraged local manufacture of many other items of equipment.[1,7] For example, he was responsible for arranging mass production and implementation of blood collection and transfusion sets of one

liter capacity instead of the traditional English pint, for which he endured significant criticism only to be ultimately proven correct in his judgment. His report foreshadowed the wartime control later effected through the Medical Equipment Control Committee.

His work in relation to the coordination of military and civil medical services was equally notable. Early estimates were that, on mobilization, 1160 medical officers would be required, with a 10% reinforcement rate. The civilian community would be allocated one doctor per 3000 instead of the ideal rate of one per 1500, which could be readily achieved because at the outbreak of war Australia had 5610 doctors providing a one in 1244 ratio.[7,10] He had the help initially of only two regular staff officers and he co-operated with Dr J. H. L. Cumpston, Commonwealth director of health.[1] At the peak of the war the Australian Army Medical Corps had a total strength of 32,000 including 2500 doctors, 3500 nursing sisters and 900 non-medical officers.[10]

Downes interest in training was felt throughout the Medical Corps. In 1936 in the first major tactical exercise for medical officers, for five days the medical problems of a Japanese invasion were studied on the ground between Goulburn and Wollongong. He also looked into the future when, in 1937, he called for a report on the medical and hygienic aspects of the Territory of New Guinea.

Outside his heavy military commitments, Downes was also extraordinarily energetic. He was Commissioner of St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria from 1921 until his death in 1945. In 1921 he also joined St John Ambulance Association for teaching first aid to the public, and was President for eight of the years between 1929 and 1942.[11] He also fostered the development of women's services such as the Voluntary Aid Detachments over a long period of time.[1,12] For many years he was a member of the Board of Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, and was President

for the years 1937-1938.[11] He was chairman of the Masseurs' Registration Board, a councillor of the Victorian division of the Australian Red Cross, and chairman of the Red Cross National Council in 1939.[1]

His outstanding services to the Order of St John were first recognized in 1929 by admission as Commander, and in 1937 by promotion to Knight of Grace.[1,11] At this investiture by the Governor, Lord Huntingfield, other recipients included Dr John Newman-Morris (father of Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, a subsequent Commissioner), who became a Commander, Mr Frederick Raven (State Superintendent) who became an Officer Brother, Mrs Doris Mary Downes who became an Officer Sister, and Mr Bill Fyfe (Superintendent of Caulfield Division) who became a Serving Brother.

In the massive bushfires of January 1939, when much of the Eastern half of the State was ablaze, his role was noted in the newspaper reports in the following words, **"***A relief convoy left Red Cross Headquarters in the city this morning to rush medical aid, clothing and food to Wood's Point. The route taken was over the Black Spur and through to Jamieson. A Forest Commission gang went ahead in a truck to clear the road. As it might be necessary for doctors to push ahead on horseback to take medical aid to people injured and burned in the devastated hill country around Wood's Point, pack saddles were taken with the convoy. Horses will be picked up along the road. Splendid work in giving first aid is being done by the St John Ambulance Brigade of volunteers. St John Ambulance motorcycle outfits and cars carrying medical supplies are operating in eleven country centers. The Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Major-General Rupert Downes, who is also Director-General of the Australian Army Medical Services, has gone to the country to supervise the work of his helpers. He is accompanied by the Secretary of the organization (Mr F.F.Raven). The military authorities have offered the State Government all the army medical service resources available.***"*

Downes served on the Victorian Branch Council of the British Medical Association for many years and was elected President in



Figure 24 : Commissioner-in-Chief, Colonel Sir James Sleeman, 1936

1935. He considered this as one of the greatest tributes paid to him by his fellow practitioners. He was proud of his selection by the Council as a suitable member for appointment at the Melbourne Medical School to give a short series of lectures on professional conduct and medical ethics.[1,5]

He was the person most responsible during the late 1930s for setting in motion the train of events that eventually led to the formation of the Australian Priory of the Order[13] These events are extensively described by Dr Howie-Willis in his book, "A Century for Australia" and a paper entitled "The federal movement in St John Ambulance Australia" published in the 2004 Proceedings of the St John Historical Society.[14,15]

The idea of St John in Australia being a self-governing nation-wide organization had been under discussion for almost two decades. The New South Wales Commissioner, Dr Thomas Storie Dixson had proposed a Central St John Council for Australia and convened a number of meetings between 1921 and 1923 at which Downes was a Victorian delegate. Although the eastern states were keen on the idea, Western Australia declined participation. They preferred to remain answerable to the Priory in England. The distance from England meant that they already had a fair degree of autonomy, whereas they feared that if they belonged to an Australian organization they would be poor cousins of the powerful eastern states. This was at a time when it took a couple of days to travel to the eastern states and the separatist sentiments in the west were quite strong.

This dissent caused some consternation in England and the Commissioner-in-Chief of the Brigade Overseas, Colonel Sir James Sleeman, made an exhaustive visit to all States to ascertain whether Australia was ready for self-government. The visit to Victoria was described in the 1936 Annual Report of SJAA in the following terms, **"***Representing His Royal Highness, the Grand Prior, the Duke of Cornwall and Strathearn, the Chief Commissioner of St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, Colonel Sir James Sleeman visited Victoria and inspected the Brigade and Association activities.*

During Colonel Sleeman's stay in Victoria he was the guest of His Excellency, the Governor, Lord Huntingfield, at Government

House, St Kilda Road, Melbourne. The itinerary, which was carried out under very favourable weather conditions, embraced a civic reception by the Right Honorable, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, a Public Reception at the Town Hall, Melbourne, at which approximately 2000 members of the community, including 500 St John personnel attended. At the latter gathering, Major-General R.M.Downes CMG, Commissioner of St John Ambulance Brigade, welcomed our distinguished guest and expressed the loyalty of all ranks to the Order of St John. Colonel Sleeman in his reply gave a most enlightening account of the history and work of the Order, which was broadcast through the courtesy of the Wireless Broadcasting Commission. Items of music, ably rendered by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's Band, and a First Aid demonstration, were included in the program.

In order to gain first hand information on the advisability of the formation of a Commandery in Australia, representatives of the Association and Brigade met in conference at Headquarters. Colonel Sleeman was Chairman, and his knowledge of this subject was enlightening, and all present benefited considerably." [17]

The Sleeman report paved the way for Commandery status but highlighted the need for collaboration between the States. After Sleeman's return to the UK, discussion between the state St John bodies continued. The main instigator of the negotiations appears to have been Rupert Downes who wrote a number of letters in support of federating. There is little doubt that Downes saw an important role for St John volunteers in wartime as had already been proven by the Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD) in WW I. With himself as Commissioner, his District Surgeon Colonel Arthur Sherwin as State Comptroller of VAD, and the District Superintendent Frederick Raven as the State Deputy Comptroller and state Organizer of VAD, St John was in a powerful position to bring this vision to fruition.

Dr Howie-Willis noted: *"In March 1939, with war becoming more likely by the day, Downes travelled to the UK for discussions with his British counterparts about placing Australia's medical services on a war footing. As the St John Ambulance foundations, and more especially the Brigade, also had a military function, providing ancillary support for the*

medical services of the armed forces, they too figured in the planning. It was this function that finally made an Australian St John Commandery possible. In early July Downes wrote to the Australian St John bodies to tell them there was little hope of their playing their appointed wartime role unless they federated. He also visited St John's Gate and made the same point there, telling the secretary-general of the Order, Sir Percival Wilkinson, that 'it is impossible [for the Defence Department] to deal with six separate Brigades [in Australia]'. His message was plain: if the leadership of the Order wanted the Australian St John bodies to serve an effective national function in the coming conflict, they must agree to the immediate formation of an Australian Commandery. Coming from one of the most respected Australian St John figures, this was advice that no one could ignore. To add emphasis to his message Downes argued that the matter was so critical for St John that a Commandery consisting of only several states was preferable to no Commandery at all. Further, to continue negotiating with the reluctant states in hope of bringing them all into the Commandery 'would take so long that under the present conditions of urgency it might be too late'. In short, form a Commandery of several states immediately or forget about a prominent wartime role for St John Ambulance in Australia! It was this advice that finally galvanised both St John's Gate and the state St John bodies into the action they might otherwise not have taken for years." [15] St John's Gate authorized a Commandery for Australia (excluding Western Australia), which was finally proclaimed in 1941.

The 1941 Annual Report of the Association in Victoria reports : *"We have been advised by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, through His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, that our petition has been successful and that all States of the Commonwealth, except Western Australia, are embraced. (Western Australia Centre did not participate for geographical reasons). The establishment of the Commandery has now brought the status of the Order in Australia into line with the dominions of Canada, New Zealand and South Africa."* [18]

General Downes became a foundation member and was a member of both the Council and Chapter.[11] Notwithstanding

that Australia had become a Commandery, Certificates continued to be issued under the name of Grand priory.

His 1939 overseas trip visited military and other medical centres in India, the Middle East and Britain, returning in October. He was convinced on his departure that war would come. By the time of his return it had already been declared. While in London, he took steps to obtain the services as consultants of two eminent Australians, the surgeon Sir Thomas Dunhill and (Sir) Neil Fairley, an expert in tropical diseases. Foreseeing the scale of the war, Downes began to press for the building of major military hospitals in the capital cities. He argued that after the war they should be handed over to the Repatriation Commission for the care of sick and disabled ex-service people. Despite strong opposition, especially on the grounds of cost, Downes persisted in his advocacy until in October 1940 he won his case. Time vindicated his judgment: the great hospitals such as Concord and Heidelberg are Rupert Downes's memorial.[1]

He revolutionized the medical side of recruiting for the Australian Imperial Forces. Radiography of the chest was introduced, by means of fluorographic screens photographed on miniature film, despite controversy about the diagnostic accuracy of the new technique; and everyone was x-rayed. Every soldier's blood group was determined and recorded on his identity discs and all were inoculated against tetanus, smallpox, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers. Downes was also concerned that volunteers should be medically examined under proper conditions. He had to cope with ‘the reluctance of some staff officers to regard the Director General of Medical Services as the responsible technical adviser on medical affairs' and there were difficulties with the adjutant general to whom he was responsible. It must have been a solace when Burston wrote from the Middle East: *'I think it is safe to say that there has probably never been a force sent overseas from any country better equipped on the medical side'*. [1]

In November 1940 Downes was appointed Director of Medical Services, A.I.F. (Middle East), but General Sir Thomas Blamey had already appointed Brigadier Samuel Burston to that post, so Downes’ appointment was withdrawn. There the matter rested until March 1941 when Downes was made Inspector-General of medical services by the minister of the army, (Sir)

Percy Spender, without reference to the Military Board. While the growth of the army in Australia and of the A.I.F. overseas may well have justified such an appointment, its manner appears to have been highly irregular. Nevertheless, Downes welcomed the opportunity, implicit in the appointment, to visit operational areas.[1] After inspecting major Australian centres, he went to the Dutch East Indies and Malaya, then on to Egypt, Palestine and Syria and home through India and Ceylon. Early in 1942 he inspected medical units at Port Moresby.

When Blamey reorganized the army in March 1942, he made Burston Director General of Medical Services. Downes went to the Second Army as Director of Medical Services so that he now found himself serving under his recent subordinate and friend of long standing. Though he was in a backwater of the war, his responsibilities extended from the Queensland border to Hobart and Adelaide.[1] As Downes was almost 60 he was soon to retire, but he was invited to write the medical history of Australia in the war. He accepted enthusiastically and began work on the general outline of the project and obtaining, wherever possible, first hand information on the work of the armed forces. He was actively engaged in this way when he decided to accompany Major General George Vasey to New Guinea to see for himself the front-line conditions in this special phase of warfare.[1,4]

The Cairns Post reported,[19] **"***The remains of Major-General G.A.Vasey, Major-General R.M.Downes and Lt-Colonel G.A.Bertram, who were lost in an air crash off Cairns last Monday, were buried in the military section of Cairns Cemetery yesterday afternoon with full military honours. Troops who had served under General Vasey in many campaigns formed the funeral guard of honour. Just before the cortege arrived the troops reversed their arms, with the muzzles of their rifles on their*



Figure 25 General Sir Thomas Blamey

toes, hands across the rifle butts and heads bowed. Motionless, they stayed like that until the funeral service was over.

Opposite the graves stood 100 Officers of the Australian Army and Air Force, many wearing decorations and service ribbons of two wars. The military band with drums draped in black, played a slow, soft funeral march. After the coffins were placed on the wooden supports across the grave tops, General Sir Thomas

Blamey, Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces, and Lieut-General Sir Leslie Morshead stepped in front of the rows of Officers. General Blamey had interrupted his tour of the South-west Pacific area to fly down to Cairns for the funeral service.

General Blamey paid a full tribute to the memory of the soldiers who had died while serving their country. Major-General George Vasey was an original member of my staff through the Middle East, through the desert, Bardia, Tobruk and Cyrenaica. (He) served in Greece (and was) called upon to take over the Australian troops crossing the Kokoda Trail of the Owen Stanley Range in New Guinea. He… was one of our great soldiers, and we loved his special personality.

Major-General Downes, continued General Blamey, was one of those who worked hard for Australia during the time when many forgot that a war could occur. He worked hard to establish and maintain a high standard of efficiency in the Australian Medical Forces. He gathered round him a group of men who, by their research and by their attention to the troops have won the complete confidence of the Army. We are ready to pay service honour to soldiers – I pay tribute to our fallen comrades."

Downes was survived by his wife and two daughters.[1] Mrs Doris Downes OBE, OStJ remained an active member of St John Council for Victoria for many years. She died in 1980.

In his dedicated career, Downes won the admiration of the medical profession in peace and war. Whatever his role, whether surgeon, medical historian or commander, he impressed men by his intelligence, his selflessness and his drive. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons established the triennial Rupert Downes Memorial Lecture in his honour,[20] on **"***subjects related to some aspects of military surgery, medical equipment (military and civil), the surgery of children, neurosurgery, general surgery, medical ethics or medical history : these being subjects in which Major-General Downes was particularly interested.***"**

Early orators included Sir Samuel Burston, Sir Frank Kingsley Norris (both eminent St John members) and Sir Albert Coates.



Figure 26 : Maj-Gen Rupert Downes

To the amazement and dismay of his colleagues, his services from 1919 until his death were accepted by both the army and successive governments without any mark of distinction being bestowed upon him since he received the CMG in WW I.[1,4] The following quote of Colonel Butler hints at the possible reason : "*Both by tradition and by temperament Downes was "a soldier to his finger tips", with, I shall add in friendship and deep respect, the strength and the weakness of the outlook on life engendered thereby. From the professional standpoint, and that also of the medical service, this attitude may at times have had its drawbacks. This is not the place to discuss the far-reaching issues involved. But it is necessary to bear in mind this attitude when assessing General Downes's place in Australian history*".[8]

This final quote is from the citation of the council of the British Medical Association in Victoria recognizing his quality and his contribution to the well-being of Australian soldiers and thus to their success in war: '*His directness, his robustness, his disdain of intrigue in any form, were his inspirational qualities to a rare degree and the success of the Medical Service in this war must be credited to Rupert Downes*'.[1]

Chapter Three

Colonel John Arthur Hopkins Sherwin KStJ VD

Third Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1945-1951

When Rupert Downes was killed his long-time friend and colleague, Arthur Sherwin, was promoted from District Surgeon to District Commissioner as his successor. Sherwin had already had a thirty year involvement with St John.

John Arthur Hopkins Sherwin (1881-1961) was born on 14th December 1881 at Forbes in NSW, and died in Melbourne on 14th August 1961 at the age of 79 years.

The roots of his family lie deep in the history of early Tasmania. His paternal grandfather Sherwin was a landowner near Bothwell in the Clyde Valley, and his maternal great-grandfather Henry Hopkins, originally from London, was a successful Hobart wool merchant, who soon after the settlement of the western district of Victoria acquired the rich grazing properties of Wormbete, Mount Hesse and Murdedirke near Winchelsea. Henry Hopkins was a man of substance and importance. His benefactions both in Tasmania and in Victoria were mainly to the church, and on September 3, 1839, it was he who laid the foundation stone of the original Independent Church in Collins Street, Melbourne, the first permanent building for divine service erected in Victoria. The Reverend William Waterfield was the minister, and John Pascoe Fawkner its treasurer. When this church was rebuilt in its present form in 1866, Henry Hopkins was again present to lay the memorial stone. [1] It is now called St Michael's church.

Arthur Sherwin was born on a pastoral property near Forbes, the son of John Sherwin and Agnes Mary, daughter of Arthur Hopkins. A few months later, John Sherwin was thrown from a horse and killed. [1]

Arthur first attended Kyneton Grammar School, passing on to Geelong Church of England Grammar School where he was a



Figure 27 Arthur Sherwin and fellow Medical Officers, Alfred Hospital 1909



Figure 28 : Mr Hamilton Russell, Honorary Surgeon to Alfred Hospital.

prefect and a keen sportsman.[1] Having matriculated, he entered Melbourne University as a resident student at Trinity College, and although he was not a top level student, he took a prominent part in college and university life. He represented his college in rowing, football and athletics, and in his final year was president of the Trinity College Students' Club. He rowed in four consecutive years, 1902 to 1905, in intervarsity contests.[1] He graduated Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1908.

Sherwin was appointed a resident medical officer at the Alfred Hospital, which then maintained 180 beds. There was no superintendent or registrar, and four residents were considered capable of coping with the work. The appointment was for two years and the duties were divided into four equal sections: (i) in charge of the casualty, control of sepsis, isolation and refractory wards, X-ray assistant, and reliever in the out-patient department in the absence of the honorary medical officer; (ii) in charge of the children's ward, resident anaesthetist, and to do such pathological and bacteriological work as was possible in any spare time available; (iii) in charge of 60 to 70 surgical patients; (iv) in charge of an equal number of medical patients. [1,2]

Though the work was hard and constantly challenging, there were compensations such as working under the incomparable Hamilton Russell, who had been Lord Lister's last House Surgeon at King's College Hospital.

A member of the Melbourne Hunt Club, he occasionally managed to slip away from his duties to take part in an early-morning run with the hounds, or to a drag hunt with the Oaklands Club followed by breakfast at the home of one of the members. The following quote from the obituary written by Dr Ivon Hayes sums up the inter-connectedness of the medical practitioners of the day.[1]

"As a lover of horses, it was natural for him to join a field ambulance, of which there were then only two in the Commonwealth, No. 1 in New South Wales and No. 2 in Victoria. Dr. George Horne was in command of the Victorian unit, and, besides Sherwin, he had as officers J. H. Nattrass and R. Tate Sutherland - these three being colleagues at the Women's Hospital - and R. M. Downes, who later in Palestine in the war of

1914-1918 became the Director-General of Medical Services of perhaps the greatest cavalry force ever assembled."

At the end of his time at the Alfred Hospital, Arthur Sherwin went overseas to follow his interest in gynaecology and obstetrics. He obtained a position on the resident staff of Queen Charlotte's Hospital. He then visited clinics in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paris, Berlin and Vienna, in those days the *grande tour* of the gynaecologically minded, and on his return to London he spent a period in research with Sir Charles Martin at the Lister Institute. In between these medical activities he attended a course of training with the Royal Army Medical Corps at Aldershot, and on another occasion participated in autumn manoeuvres with the army, at which King George V and General Sir John French, who later led the Expeditionary Force to France in 1914, were present.[1]

As Sherwin was about to return home war broke out in the Balkans in 1912. Turkey went to war against Servia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro. The British Red Cross organized and dispatched medical field units to all five belligerents. This war came to an uneasy truce with the initial defeat of Turks and the carving up of the Ottoman territory but dissolved into a further war as the victors squabbled between themselves about inequities in the treaty, such as the future of Macedonia. Dr. Sherwin was attached to the Montenegrin unit, whose activities were directed around Lake Sentari. and northern Albania. In this mountainous terrain the fighting was essentially guerrilla warfare, and medical field work entailed walking long distances, applying first aid and arranging for the more seriously injured to be transported by barge to the head of Lake Sentari, thence to the hospital at Cettinge.[1]

Whilst Britain and Europe generally were not directly involved in the conflict they contributed humanitarian aid and watched with concern as events inexorably led towards World War One.[3]

Now, after more than four years of resident appointments, post-graduate work and travels Sherwin returned home. In 1914 he mmarried Florence Gertrude Jackson, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Jackson. They were later to have two children, a

daughter, Mrs. A.L.Harwood (mentioned in dispatches for work with Australian Red Cross Society during WW II) and a son, Dr Russell Sherwin (also a gynaecologist).[4]

That year he gained his MD degree, using his research work on eclampsia undertaken at the Lister Institute in London, as the topic for his thesis, which also gained him the Dublin Prize.[4]. He also had a hospital appointment, for in 1914 the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, had expanded their honorary staff, and Sherwin had secured one of the six new positions.[1]

However, his objective of working in this field had to be deferred, for on the outbreak of World War I he volunteered and left Australia as a Major with the 3rd Australian General Hospital to serve with that unit at Lemnos and Egypt. In early 1916 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of No.4 Auxiliary Hospital at Abassieh, near Cairo.[1] In mid-1916 he contracted mumps, which can be a serious illness in adults, and was sent back to Australia as Medical Officer on a ship.[3] He was awarded the Victory medal, the 1914-1915 star[3], and also held the Volunteer Decoration.[5]

In 1917, on return to Australia, he commenced general practice in Elsternwick and as a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist in Collins Street. From 1927 he confined his work to that of a consultant gynaecologist. He resumed his post at the Womens Hospital, a post he held until 1946, a long period of 32 years. He gained his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1935 and Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1937.[1]

Besides his activities with the Australian Army Medical Corps, in which he served from 1908 to 1948, Arthur Sherwin's other great interest was the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He had been made an Honorary Life Member of St John Ambulance Association from 1917 to acknowledge his honorary teaching of public first aid classes. It is not clear exactly when he first joined the Brigade, but he certainly would have been recruited by his colleagues George Horne and Rupert Downes. He would

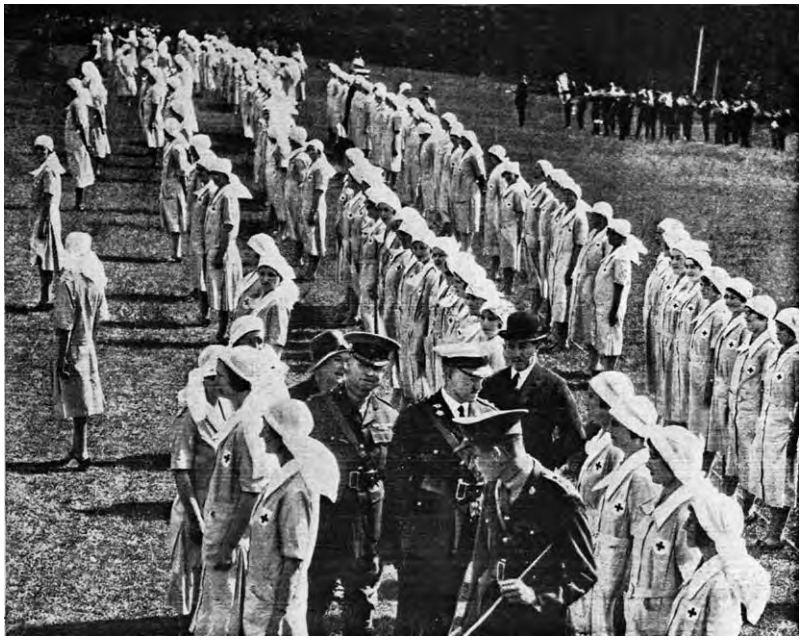


Figure 29: Lord Huntingfield inspecting VADs at Government House in 1936, accompanied by Major-General Rupert Downes and Colonel Arthur Sherwin.



Figure 30: Marie Henderson and her team, winners of the Sherwin Cup and the Herald Cup in 1936.

have had a major influence on the Victorian role of St John in the Voluntary Aid Detachments.

The British War Office in 1909 established Voluntary Aid Detachments of men and women to assist the military medical services. The responsibility for organizing these rested initially with the British Red Cross Society but amendments to the VAD regulations in the following year recognized a Brigade or County Company of the St John Ambulance Association as equivalent to a Voluntary Aid Detachment. There were strict guidelines as to the composition and training of Detachments.[6]

Nine days after the outbreak of WW I, the Australian Red Cross was established as a Branch of the British Red Cross Society following a meeting called at Government House, Melbourne by Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, wife of the Governor-General. Arthur Sherwin was at that meeting.[7] Almost immediately, approval was given for the establishment of Voluntary Aid Detachments.

As in Great Britain, the VAD organization was administered by a Joint Central Council at Commonwealth level, with Joint State Councils comprising representatives of the Navy, Army and Air Force, the Red Cross Society, St John Ambulance and other relevant organizations. The Commonwealth appointed a Chief Controller, each State Council a State Controller, with Commandants in charge of detachments.[6] St John Ambulance Association in Victoria had a heavy involvement in VAD work during WW I and many members continued with St John after the war.

Sherwin joined the Victorian Division of the Red Cross Society in 1916. From 1930 he was Member of Divisional Council and was Chair of several committees including Handicraft since its inception 1943 until his retirement in 1950. He was one of the medical profession who helped set up the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in 1929, and planning of Red Cross Emergency Service Companies 1938-39. For this contribution he was made an Honorary Life Member in 1951.[7]

It was hard going for the VAD movement in the 1920's and early 1930's. Only a few dedicated, hard working officers and

administrators kept the framework of the organization alive.[6] For sixteen years from 1926 to 1943 Dr Sherwin was honorary organiser of the Voluntary Aid Detachment Services.[5] The program for the 1936 inspection lists him as State Comptroller.[6]

Those Detachments which survived were still strongly supported by VAD's from WW I, encouraged by the sporadic enlistment of young people from a new generation. There was not, however, any spontaneous movement in the community at large to join Detachments until the prospect of war began to loom in the late thirties. Nevertheless, from time to time there were official parades and inspections.[6] Miss Edith Wells, a senior officer on Victorian St John staff, was Commandant of the No.301 Melbourne Detachment. During World War II there was a considerable revival of Voluntary Aid Detachments. Red Cross and St John continued their joint effort in promoting Civil Defence. Historic restrictions on the involvement of volunteers, particularly women, in military activities led to the creation of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) which enabled active military service both at home and abroad.

In 1928 Sherwin was appointed to the Council of St John Ambulance Association. He remained on the Council of the Association, which from 1954 became the St John Council, until his death.[8] During the years 1929 and 1930 he personally typed the Annual report because the Great Depression had so reduced the income of the Association that it could not afford to have them printed.[9,10] In 1931 he was elected President of Council and served in this capacity for one year. He was Acting President for half of 1933 whilst Rupert Downes was overseas, President again in 1938-1939, Chairman of Council 1947-48 and after his retirement was Vice-President 1954-58.[8]

Sherwin was also on the Council of Victorian Civil Ambulance Service for twenty years.[4,5]

In 1932 he instigated the 'Sherwin Cup', initially for the winning women's team in the Victoria District First Aid Competitions, later for teams including either men or women.[9] Miss Marie Henderson and her team won the Sherwin Cup and the Herald Cup in open competition with the men in 1936 and

1937. Miss Henderson, a Serving Sister of the Order, died early in 2006 at the age of 107.

In 1936 Dr Sherwin was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Army, became an Officer Brother of the Order of St John, and was appointed District Surgeon of the Brigade in Victoria. In 1937 he was promoted to Commander Brother.

The 1936 visit of the Commissioner-in-Chief, Colonel Sir James Sleeman, concluded that Australian St John would be capable of self-government. In 1941 Australia, with the exception of Western Australia, became a Commandery of St John. Lord Gowrie, the Knight Commander of the Commandery, called on the States to nominate representatives to the new Commandery Council. Major-General Rupert Downes and Colonel Sherwin represented the Victorian St John Ambulance Association on the Executive of the national body, whilst Frederick Raven (District Superintendent) and Miss Edith Wells (Lady Superintendent) represented Victoria District St John Ambulance Brigade.[11]

War again intervened. Sherwin enlisted on 15th October 1940 at Malvern[3], and was appointed commanding officer of the AGH 115 Heidelberg Military Hospital from 1940 to 1944.[5] This was a tremendous undertaking, since the hospital had to be built, equipped, staffed, organized and administered. Rupert Downes had won the political battle for the money but Sherwin had to make it a reality. Arthur Sherwin's task at Heidelberg has never been fully appreciated, but this hospital is a memorial to his ability, his untiring effort, his tact and his persistence in overcoming the many obstacles and difficulties that were encountered.

Heidelberg hospital was actively involved in the definitive treatment of injured soldiers who were transported there from overseas.. The hospital developed a renowned reconstructive plastic surgery unit with Major BK Rank (later Sir Benjamin Rank, who became Chair and President of St John Council for



Figure 31: Col Arthur Sherwin, Commandant of Heidelberg Military Hospital.



Figure 32: Countess Edwina Mountbatten with St John nurse volunteers and Edith Wells at Heidelberg Hospital in 1945.

Victoria). It was also well known for rehabilitation and prosthetics in conjunction with Caulfield Hospital.

As a special war effort St John ran its first public appeal to raise money to build a recreation hall at Heidelberg Hospital. The appeal was successful and the hall was opened by the Governor, Sir Winston Dugan, in 1942. It accommodated over 400 people. It was used for church services, recitals, concerts and films, and became a reception center when convoys of anything up to 350 servicemen arrived for admission to hospital such as returning ex-prisoners of war. As the hospital population swelled to over 3000 patients and staff, St John held a further public appeal supported by "The Argus" newspaper to raise money for enlarging the hall to seat 800 people. The extension was opened by Sir Winston Dugan in 1944.[12]

At about the same time the hospital graduated the first nurses from its newly-developed School of Nursing. The Hospital was visited by Countess Edwina Mountbatten, who was heavily involved not only with the military and VAD's but also with St John.

Dr Sherwin was discharged from service on 21st January 1944 at the age of 62 years[3] He returned to private practice. With the death of Major-General Rupert Downes in 1945, Sherwin became Commissioner until his retirement in 1951. He had been a member of St John for 25 years. He rose through the lesser grades of the Order of St John to become a Knight of Grace in 1944, the insignia of which was bestowed on him at Buckingham Palace by King George VI after his coronation.[1]

He was a member of the original examining board under the *Midwives Act* with Felix Meyer, George Horne and Miss Anderson, and was a member of the Medical Board of Victoria from 1933 to 1945.[1,4] In 1947, when the Commandery became the Priory of St John in Australia, Colonel Sherwin continued as a Victorian representative and member of Priory Chapter.

Early in 1951 Dr Sherwin proposed a reorganization of the Brigade in Victoria which involved closure of Divisions that were too small to be effective, a retirement age of 65 years, abolition of the post of Lady Superintendent and substitution of



Figure 33: St John Council for Victoria, 1950, with Dr Sherwin (centre).



Figure 34 Commissioner, Dr Arthur Sherwin

a position of Lady District Officer. The changes were approved by the Chief Commissioner, Sir Samuel Burston. Dr Sherwin informed the Lady Superintendent, Miss Edith Wells, that he proposed to retire at the end of his current term and that it would be appropriate for her to retire at the same time. She indicated that she had no intention of doing so, and Dr Sherwin told her that he did not propose to recommend her reappointment as she was beyond retiring age. Miss Wells wrote to the Chief Commissioner with her objections. In response Dr Sherwin wrote, *"There has been a deterioration in the strength and effectiveness of Nursing Divisions. She has failed to cooperate in our endeavour to restore the position and appeared content to allow the Organization to drift, and has apparently been unable to appreciate the fact that her advancing age has affected her efficiency. I do not propose to recommend extension of appointment"*.[13] He and Miss Wells both retired from the Brigade in June 1951, with the appointment of Brigadier Sir William Johnston as Commissioner, although Miss Wells continued as a member of St John Council for a further sixteen years.

Dr Sherwin died early on Monday 14th August 1961 after a long illness.[5]



Figure 35 Captain WWS Johnston, Australian Army Medical Corps, 1915.



Figure 36 Brigadier Samuel Burston and Colonel William Johnston in Palestine, 1940.

Chapter Four

Brigadier Sir William Wallace Stewart Johnston CBE DSO MC KStJ ED

Fourth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1951-1956

With Sherwin's retirement his Deputy, friend and colleague, Bill Johnston, became Commissioner. A pattern was clearly being established for high level St John posts to be occupied by doctors, especially those with military backgrounds.

William Wallace Stewart Johnston (1887-1962), was born on 21st December 1887 at South Yarra, Melbourne, second son of William Edward Johnston (1856-1918), a barrister who became a county court judge, and his Victorian-born wife Clara Jane, nee Wallace (1856-1902). His older brother, Donald Stewart Johnston, born in 1885, died in 1895 of appendicitis, aged ten years. His grandfather was James Stewart Johnston (born in Scotland in 1811, died in 1896), politician and *The Argus* newspaper manager.[1]

William was educated at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. His interest in military matters commenced at an early age when he was a member of the school Cadet Corps. During his medical course at the University of Melbourne he was resident at Trinity College. Whilst at the University of Melbourne he was an active and enthusiastic member of the University Rifles, attending the usual parades and camps. In this he attained the rank of sergeant. [2]

He graduated Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1914. He was a resident medical officer at the old Melbourne Hospital when World War 1 broke out. [1] On completion of his term as resident doctor he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1915 as a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps. From here he became attached to No.1 Army Hospital Ship, *Karoola,.* then to the 3rd Field Ambulance until his appointment as regimental medical officer to the 12th Battalion in 1916. [2]

In August, at Mouquet Farm, a farm on high ground a couple of miles north west of Pozieres, France, he braved an intense barrage to treat the wounded and was awarded the Military Cross. Les Carlyon's book, "The Great War" said of it, *"Pozieres, a dowdy farming village that didn't show on many pre-war maps, had brought sadness to thousands of Australian homes"*.[13] Twenty three thousand casualties occurred in less than seven weeks in an area of about a square mile. Promoted Major in August 1917, Johnston was mentioned in dispatches.[2]

At Hooge, east of Ypres, Belgium, he went out in the open in September to attend the wounded where they lay and continued working until he was severely injured by shell-fire. He was recommended for the Victoria Cross but received the Distinguished Service Order. After recovering in England, he rejoined the battalion in February 1918. [1] His work was outstanding and he was recognized in the Official History of the First World War as probably being the best regimental medical officer in the AIF. The men of his battalion held him in the highest regard.[2,3] He was outspoken in his opinion that a wounded prisoner was as deserving of the best medical care as any of our own men.[4]

Johnston returned to Australia in 1919. He completed the M.D. higher degree in medicine in 1921.

His military appointment terminated on 27 January 1920 [1], but as soon as the Citizen Military Forces came into being after the war, he joined up and in 1929 was appointed to command the 2nd Field Ambulance, 4th Division, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Despite the difficulties of peace-time training, he was able to instill enthusiasm into his unit, and it became the outstanding medical unit in Victoria. [2]

While practising as a consultant, he was one of the honorary medical staff at the old Melbourne hospital. He gained his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1938.

On 3rd December 1923 at Scots Church, Melbourne, he married with Presbyterian forms his cousin, Jessie Mary Clark, a niece of Alister Clark. [1] Alister Clark was President of the National Rose Society of Victoria, Chairman of Moonee Valley Racing Club,

and Master of the Oakland Hunt Club from 1901-1908 where Dr Arthur Sherwin used to ride. Clark is commemorated in a memorial rose garden in St Kilda.

Johnston was tall and distinguished in appearance, and bore a striking physical resemblance to his wife. They subsequently had two sons, Stewart born in 1925, who became a medical practitioner and St John Divisional Surgeon, and Donald born in 1928, who became an Anglican missionary at the Martyrs School in Papua-New Guinea [12]

The years immediately following the first World War saw the birth and early development of post-graduate medical education as we know it in Australia today. This development resulted in the formation by clinicians and university teachers of post-graduate bodies throughout the Commonwealth. The Melbourne Medical Post-Graduate Committee, originally named the Melbourne Permanent Post-Graduate Committee, came into being in 1920, and, though not one of its founders, Dr Johnston came to be associated with it in its early days.[5]

Dr Johnston began his service with St John Ambulance by teaching and examining First Aid classes and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association in 1929. He began with the Brigade in 1931, when he was appointed a Divisional Surgeon for the Metropolitan Gas Company Division. At that time a number of Divisions were linked to large industrial organizations such as the Railways, Tramways, and Electricity Commission, or had special roles such as the Motorcycle Division. This was when Rupert Downes was Commissioner, Arthur Sherwin was President of St John Council and Frederick Raven had just become Secretary. Dr Johnston was admitted as an Officer Brother of the Order of St John in 1940.

On completion of his term of command at 2nd Field Ambulance in 1934, he became Assistant Director of Medical Services for the 4th Division, and as a full Colonel in 1938 was called up for full-time duty on the staff of Major-General Rupert Downes, Director-General of Medical Services, as the Assistant Director-General at Army Headquarters. [1,2] During General Downes' absence abroad, he acted as Director General.

As soon as he was released from this position after the second World War broke out he was appointed Colonel, AIF, commanding the 2/2 Australian General Hospital, which he formed and took overseas, arriving in Palestine in March, 1940. [2] There he established his hospital at Gaza Ridge, and until the hospital began to function as such, he was able to see that his officers and nurses were attached for duty and training with the 2/1 Australian General Hospital and British military hospitals in Palestine. [2]

Dr Leonard Linden reported, *"When his general hospital was in camp near Gaza, drafts and reinforcements arrived at Gaza railway station at the unattractive hour of three o'clock in the morning, for him it was not enough to send a transport officer to meet the new arrivals; he invariably went himself as well and brought them back to camp. This may sound very trivial; but it is just an example of his observance of the little acts of courtesy and kindness for which he was so genuinely loved by his men."* [4]

After the arrival of Colonel Samuel Roy Burston in Palestine and the formation of the AIF headquarters overseas, Colonel Johnston took over Colonel Burston's position of Deputy Director of Medical Services, 1st Australian Corps, Colonel Burston being promoted to Brigadier and later Major-General as Director of Medical Services of the AIF.

During this period, Colonel Johnston was in charge of medical arrangements for AIF troops in Palestine, and when the 1st Australian Corps took over from the British Command in Libya towards the end of the first desert campaign, Colonel Johnston was responsible for all evacuations from that area covering over 200 miles. However, it was not long before the 1st Australian Corps was recalled to Egypt to prepare for the campaign in Greece, and in late March 1941, he proceeded to Greece, where he had the unenviable job of trying to coordinate the working of the 6th Australian Division Medical Services with those of the British and New Zealand forces in a campaign in which the situation was never stable for even a day, and units came under and went out of command with great rapidity.[2]

With the 1st Australian Corps Headquarters, he was evacuated to Cannea on Crete on April 26, and there his time was spent in trying to visit various medical units as they disembarked from Greece and to see that the nurses who had been evacuated from Greece were cared for. Very soon afterwards he was flown out with his headquarters to Egypt. During this period he was awarded the Efficiency Decoration.[2]

After the return of the Australian Corps from Greece and Crete, the campaign against the Vichy French in Syria was commenced, and the Australian Corps headquarters with Colonel Johnston as Deputy Director Medical Services took control of this. He was in charge of the medical arrangements for the campaign, working in conjunction with the British Medical Services.[2] His work brought him a further mention in dispatches and the award of the CBE.[1] [2]

The entry of Japan into the war necessitated the return of the Australian troops to Australia, and on the regrouping by Sir Thomas Blamey of the forces into First and Second Armies, Colonel Johnston was appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services, 1st Australian Corps, with the rank of brigadier. The corps very soon moved to New Guinea where it became known as the New Guinea Force. Much had to be created out of practically nothing, and the military position was far from being stable. The campaign at Milne Bay showed the necessity of very strict anti-malarial measures, and the advance of the 7th Australian Division across the Kokoda Trial presented almost insurmountable difficulties regarding supplying of medical stores and evacuation of sick and wounded. Brigadier Johnston worked night and day trying to help the forward troops, and



Figure 37 Commissioner Sir William Johnston

that the results were as successful as they were was very largely due to his efforts.[2]

Sir Clive Fitts wrote: ***"Quiet and unassuming, but full of purpose and determination, he was probably able to get much more done by such methods than by blustering tactics. Working with Allies is not always easy, however much good-will there may be, and this was so with the Americans, whose methods differed considerably from ours. The only time the writer ever saw him really angry was in such circumstances, where, however, by quiet perseverance his will prevailed.[2]***

To "Bill" Johnston the care of a private was equally important as that of a general - perhaps more so, since the latter could look after himself more easily than a private could. Conscientious to a degree, he never spared himself, and the night before he left New Guinea, he set off at 10 p.m. to see that two nurses who were reported sick at the 2/9 Australian General Hospital some seven miles away were all right; this, when he could hardly keep awake himself".[2]

His health during the whole of the campaign remained remarkably good, especially as he was never very physically robust; but it was considered wiser for him to have a spell from the tropics and to return to the mainland in December 1942. After leave he was appointed Deputy .Director .Medical Services, 2nd Australian Corps, where he remained until he retired from the Army. On 20th July 1943 he was placed on the reserve of officers.

Resuming both his practice and his honorary post at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Johnston served successively as Secretary and Director (1947-56) and from 1956 till the end of his life, Chairman (1956-62) of the Melbourne Medical Post-Graduate Committee.[1,5]

Many week-ends were spent in attending lectures and courses arranged in country districts in Victoria. Sir William's stature in the medical community was such that all centres felt honoured by his presence, and his unfeigned interest in all he met earned the admiration of doctors in all branches of the profession. He was

much sought after as chairman and speaker by the leaders of medicine's allied professions, nursing and physiotherapy. He drove himself hard with all these engagements.

He made a great contribution to post-graduate medicine in Australia and in particular to the development of the Australian Post-Graduate Federation in Medicine, of which he was one of the pioneers. The Federation, which at the time of his death was the national academic medical body in post-graduate medicine in Australia, owed much to his advice and wise counsels. On behalf of the Post-Graduate Committee in Victoria, of which he was Chairman, Dr Johnston took a leading part in the early negotiations which led to its formation. He became one of the first Presidents of the Federation, and throughout its history has remained one of its leaders and chief councilors. His association with the Federation has at all times inspired the confidence of others. In recognition of his unique contribution, the Federation at its meeting in Adelaide in May, 1962, appointed him an Honorary Life Governor of the Federation, the highest honour it can confer on those who have served it well.[6]

He was promoted to the grade of Commander in the Order of St John in 1944. In 1945 he was appointed District Surgeon of St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria, following Colonel Arthur Sherwin who became Commissioner on the death of Rupert Downes. He received his Long Service medal in 1942, with bars in 1947,1952 and 1957. In 1947 he was made a knight of the Order of St John. In 1951, upon Sherwin's retirement, he was appointed Commissioner for Victoria.

He was a member of the St John Ambulance Association Committee from 1950. In 1953, with the creation of the St John Council for Victoria, which included representation of the Brigade as well as the Association, Dr Johnston was elected unopposed as chairman in 1954, and had continued unopposed each year in that post for the next eight years to 1962.[7,11] He was also a Vice-President from 1955 to 1962.

In 1956 he was appointed Chief Commissioner to the Priory in Australia. Douglas Donald said, *"At every official occasion of the Order, Sir William was certain to be found. Not only did his*

presence add to the occasion, but he took a keen personal interest in everyone and everything, so by his own devotion making it of more personal importance to everyone." [7]

He was a member (1945-52) and medical director (1943-44) of the national council of the Australian Red Cross Society, and vice-president (1958-60) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He joined the University of Melbourne Graduate Union in 1950 and was President in 1958 following Sir John Latham, contributing much to its development. The Library at Graduate House was named after him and officially opened in 1971.[10]

In 1960 he was knighted. This event gave the most genuine and widespread satisfaction to the medical profession and to his other colleagues in the Services.[4] He was a council member of the University of Melbourne from 1961.

About this time Sir William began work on a historical paper which was to have been the subject of his address to the annual meeting of the Australian Medical Association. He died shortly before its completion and it was finalised and presented on his behalf by Associate Professor Bryan Gandevia, published in the Medical Journal of Australia.[8] It was on the subject of that remarkable man, Dr James Edward Neild, the founder of St John Ambulance Association in Australia in 1883. Physician, forensic pathologist, city coroner, leading office-bearer in the British Medical Association, Victorian Medical Society, Alfred Hospital, Austin Hospital, Children's Hospital, editor of the "Australian Medical Journal", journalist and famed writer, theatre critic, great patron of medicine, medical education and the arts, his name is commemorated in Darwinia neildiana, or Neild's scent Myrtle (as reported in John Pearn's book, "An Australian Cadaster"). He took part in starting Melbourne "Punch" magazine and publication of "My Notebook" which included works by Marcus Clarke and Adam Lindsay Gordon. He is also reputed to have 'discovered Dame Nellie Melba' at a concert in which she was a



Figure 38: Rex Bramleigh's portrait of Sir William Johnston at Melbourne University.

pianist, advising her to concentrate on voice rather than piano which she had considered her forte.

Sir Clive Fitts records, *"On Monday, August 13, 1962, at the centenary ceremony of the Medical School, the University of Melbourne conferred on Sir William Johnston the degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa. On that day degrees were conferred on others whose names are justly honoured throughout the scientific world; but the applause that greeted*

Sir William was a tribute of admiration and affection for one who without doubt the best-loved physician in Victoria, and probably in the whole of Australia. On the days that succeeded this ceremony, Sir William attended the scientific symposia and lectures. He was not well enough to attend the banquet in Wilson Hall on August 16." [9]

He died a week later, on 21st August 1962, of an acute bowel obstruction, in East Melbourne and was cremated.[12] Jessie and their two sons survived him. Lady Johnston was, for several years, a member of St John Council for Victoria.[11] Rex Bramleigh's portrait of Johnston is held by the Museum of Medical History, at the University of Melbourne.[1]



Figure 39 Portrait of Sir Frank Kingsley Norris



Figure 40 Alfred Hospital Children's Ward 1918

Chapter Five

Major-General Sir Frank Kingsley Norris CB KBE DSO KStJ ED QHP

Fifth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1956-1959

"Quite a good likeness of Dum", said my friend, Arthur Burton, referring to the portrait that hangs outside the Boardroom at Victorian St John Headquarters. "Dumb?", I thought, "What a disrespectful nickname for such a distinguished man." The explanation, however, given by Norris himself in his autobiography, *No Memory for Pain,* was of a peculiarly upper-class pun arising during his Latin class studies of the Gallic Wars. Dumnorix was the leader of the forces opposing Caesar's Romans, and from then onwards Norris was called "Dum" [1]

Frank Kingsley Norris was born at Lilydale on June 25, 1893.[2] He was the second son of William Perrin Norris, a doctor who was initially a rural GP but later specialised in Public Health and became Director of the Quarantine service of the Commonwealth Department of Health, and of Mary (nee Foulkes). He had an older brother, Jack Norris. As children they holidayed in the Portsea Quarantine Station which, strangely enough, became the final site of the Army School of Health that he was to create fifty years later.[1]

His early education was at Melbourne Grammar School, after which he enrolled as a medical student at Melbourne University in 1910.[1] He had completed four years of his medical course when the First World War broke out, whereupon he abandoned the course and enlisted as a trooper in the First Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance. He sailed in the first troop transport to leave Victoria, and was in the convoy from which the cruiser *Sydney* broke off to fight her historic battle with the *Emden*.

He served initially in Egypt and by 1916 he had risen to the rank of Lance Sergeant. He was then transported to London because of

an operation for acute appendicitis. During the recovery stage he was ordered back to Australia to finish his medical education.[2] He graduated MB BS from the University of Melbourne in 1917 but by the time he had completed his Residency year the war was over. He obtained his M.D higher degree in medicine in 1919.[3]

He was a Resident in 1918 at the old Melbourne Hospital and subsequently at the Children's Hospital in Carlton. He was then employed as Medical Superintendent of the Children's Hospital and began part-time private practice as an assistant to Dr Hobill Cole, reputedly the most senior paediatrician in Melbourne. While in this practice he treated the great operatic soprano, Florence Austral, for viral pneumonia.[1] He undertook Honorary Medical Officer sessions in the Children's Hospital Clinic run by Rupert Downes and was subsequently appointed Honorary Physician to the Childrens Department at Alfred Hospital. His private practice moved to Lister House in Collins Street which was owned by a partnership including Dr Hobill Cole and Dr George Horne.[1]

On 25th May 1920 he married Dorothy, daughter of HW Stevenson,[4] the accountant of the Dalgety pastoral company. Dorothy was a nursing sister at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. They subsequently had three daughters : Elizabeth Mary, born 1921 and died in 1927 at the age of six because of post-operative complications following surgery for bowel obstruction,[9] Dorothy Patricia, born 1923, who became Mrs Pat Jolley, and Margaret Kingsley, born 1929, who was unmarried and remained at home caring for her parents throughout their lifetimes.[5]

Between the two World Wars, he worked in Private Practice as a specialist paediatrician and as the Honorary Paediatrician to the Alfred Hospital. In this period he began an extensive collection of books, particularly of history and art. In addition, he continued his Army association with medical units of the Citizen Military Forces.[2] In 1923 he enlisted as a junior officer in the Cavalry Field Ambulance Unit and was in charge of medical services at the official opening of the Commonwealth Parliament in Canberra in 1927. In 1935 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel as Officer Commanding 2nd Field Ambulance following Colonel WWS Johnston.[1] In 1939 was transferred back to the

Cavalry Division as a Staff Officer and as war was imminent he was asked by the Director General of Medical Services, Major-General Rupert Downes, to chair a committee for control of medical equipment.[1]

On the outbreak of the Second World War he immediately offered himself for overseas service with the 2nd AIF, and was appointed Assistant Director of Medical Services of the Seventh Division, with the rank of Colonel, serving in North Africa, Palestine and Syria,[2] until in 1941 with the advance of the Japanese through the Pacific, the Division was recalled to Australia for redeployment to New Guinea.[1]

Brigadier William Johnston had been injured in an accident and Norris was temporarily appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services in his place. Johnston recovered and Norris returned to 7th Division in Port Moresby. Among the difficulties of the campaign were high rates of dysentery and malaria because stockpiled medical supplies were not forwarded from Brisbane due to low priority for transport.[1]

His colleague, Dr Arthur Burton recalled, *"Here, in his fiftieth year, he traversed every weary step of the Kokoda Trail, seeing for himself that every man and all necessary supplies from his limited medical resources were sent where they would do most good, and, by his personal example, lifting the morale of the men who endured these dreadful conditions. There followed the bitter Buna-Gona battles and the assaults on Lae and Finschafen, by which time he was Deputy Director of Medical Services of the First Australian Corps and had just about reached the end of his tether - although nothing on earth would have made him admit it.*

It was at about this stage I first really came to know him. He was tired, strained and very much underweight, despite which he remained uncomplaining, determinedly cheerful, always helpful and encouraging to his subordinates. The time inevitably came when he was sent, protesting, back to Australia, where he spent some nine months in hospital before being discharged from the Army, medically unfit." [2]

Near the end of the war Norris was recovering in hospital and was invited by General Vasey to travel with him to Weewak in New Guinea but DGMS General Samuel Burston flatly refused him permission to travel. This was the flight that crashed near Cairns killing all on board including General Vasey and General Downes. A few weeks later he was discharged from the Army as medically unfit.[1]

From 1943 to 1946 Norris was Deputy Director of Medical Services, 1st Australian Corps, with the rank of Brigadier. He was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order in 1941 and the Efficiency Decoration in 1943. [3]

Fit again at the war's end he was appointed Director of the Melbourne Permanent Postgraduate Medical Committee, and in this capacity traveled widely to investigate medical postgraduate facilities overseas as part of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme for returned servicemen and women.[2]

A couple of years later he was approached by Major-General Burston to take over from him as Director-General of Medical Services upon his retirement.[1] So, in 1948, he returned to the Army as DGMS with the rank of Major-General. He held this office until his retirement in 1955. He was responsible for all Australian Army medical units in Australia, Japan, and later, Korea.

Once more he was on the move, making sure at first hand that the best possible medical attention was provided for all our troops from forward areas to base hospitals.[3] The Government required him to undertake a world trip to study medical services in other countries. The Korean War broke out in June 1950, shortly before his return to Australia. His report made a number of recommendations, including the setting up of an Army School of Health. This was one of his most important achievements.

The school was set up in a former Guest House at Healesville, Victoria.[1] It was renamed "The Norris Barracks" in 1983, just a few weeks after his ninetieth birthday. On this occasion the

Army did him proud, transporting him to a most impressive ceremonial parade at the Barracks and a reunion with many of his old friends. It was a great day for him and gave him immense satisfaction.[2] A few years later the Army sold the Healesville site and relocated Norris Barracks to the Portsea Quarantine Station where Norris had holidayed as a child.

He became a member of the British Medical Association in 1917, and was a member of the Victorian Branch Council from 1932 to 1954, and President of the Branch in 1948.[3,10] He was a Director of the British Medical Agency from 1947, and Chairman of Directors, British Medical Insurance Company.[3] He was Medical Adviser to the Commonwealth Department of Civil Defence from 1955 to 1961.[4] He was a Member of the Medical Board of Victoria, President of the Medico-Legal Society of Victoria in 1938/39 and President of the Australian Post-Graduate Federation in Medicine in 1953.[4] In 1965 he was made a Fellow of the recently formed Australian Medical Association, in recognition of his outstanding services to medicine.[2]

He was Honorary Consulting Physician to the Children's Department, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, from 1948 to 1955. He was appointed Honorary Physician to his late Majesty King George VI in 1948, and from 1952 held the appointment of Honorary Physician to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He was an Honorary Fellow of the College of Nursing of Australia.[3]

In his time, he was President of the Royal Empire Society 1948-55;[2] President of the Good Neighbour Council of Victoria 1958-1963; Chairman of the College of Nursing of Australia 1948-1957; President of the Alcoholic Foundation of Victoria; Vice President of the Old People's Welfare Council[3] and was actively involved with the Victorian Society for Crippled Children and Adults.[2]

From 1948 he was an ex-officio member of the National Council of the Australian Red Cross Society because of his position as



Figure 41 Army School of Health



Figure 42 Christie House, 194 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

DGMS until 1954,[3,11] after which he was a co-opted member until 1969, thereby serving on its National Council for more than twenty years.[2,11] He served on the National Blood Transfusion Committee from 1950 to 1955 and on various Victorian Red Cross Appeals committees between 1951 and 1958. He received the Long Service medal in 1969 and in the same year was made an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Red Cross Society.

He gave exceptional service to the St John Ambulance Brigade, notably as Commissioner for Victoria Norris began his career in St John in 1952. He joined St John directly as a Grade 2 Officer on District Staff of Victoria District on 23 December 1952. A week later he was appointed Deputy Commissioner. That year he was admitted as an Officer of the Order of St John. When the Commissioner, Sir William Johnston, was promoted to National Headquarters Staff as Chief Surgeon, Sir Kingsley became Commissioner of Victoria District on 21 February 1956, and that year was promoted to Commander of the Order. He served as Commissioner for three years until he, too, was promoted to National Headquarters. [6]

As Sir Kingsley, himself, said, *"In the Brigade I followed Sir William Johnston as I had in various Army postings. One always followed Bill – no one could reach the qualities of one who was universally beloved by all who were privileged to know him".* [1]

In 1956 after many years of shared tenancy with Victorian Civil Ambulance Service notice was given that the building was to be put up for sale. The progeny had outgrown the parent and was moving to newer, larger premises. As the Government had increasingly taken responsibility for the professional ambulance service the links between the Board of VCAS and St John Council had been reduced to a token nominee on the Board, and even this was shortly to disappear. Certainly they saw little obligation to assist in St John's relocation. It was to be a stressful year for St John, for 1956 was also the year of the Melbourne Olympic Games, the largest public duty ever undertaken in Victoria.



Figure 43 Sir Dallas Brooks investing Sir Kingsley Norris as a Knight of St John

Urgent fundraising was undertaken to purchase a new Headquarters, including the launching of a public appeal. However, in contrast to the successful appeal a decade earlier to build the recreation hall at Heidelberg Hospital, as Millie Field dryly reports in her book, "Appeal No2 was not a success".[7] Nevertheless, an old warehouse at 194 Little Lonsdale Street was purchased and fitted out largely through the efforts of St John volunteers. The new HQ was officially opened in 1958, named 'Christie House' after the much respected District Superintendent, Colonel Alexander Christie.

Colonel Alexander Christie (1885-1971), a Queenslander by birth, spent most of his working life in the army, much of it in Melbourne. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1915 while serving in Egypt with the 26th Battalion of the AIF. After the war he continued in the army as an administrator in the Australian Army Medical Corps and was promoted to HQ staff under Major-General Rupert Downes shortly before the second world war. His final posting was as Assistant Director of Medical Services, with the rank of Lt-Colonel, until his retirement from the army in 1947. At that point he became District Superintendent of the Brigade in Victoria as well as Secretary to the St John Association Council. He had been an Association lecturer and Council member from the mid-1930's, no doubt recruited by General Downes, and had been admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order in 1939. After ten years as District Superintendent in Victoria he had another ten as Chief Staff Officer (Chief Superintendent at National Headquarters) 1958-1967. He was promoted to Knight of Grace in 1958. He died in 1971.[8]

Sir Kingsley was a member of St John Council for Victoria for 20 years from 1949 to 1968. He was Chairman in 1950,1951 and from 1963 to 1968. He was a Vice-President from 1959 to 1970. [6] He was made a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1959.[2] He was awarded the Long Service Medal on 31 December 1964, and the first Bar in 1969.[6]



Figure 44 Chief Commissioner, Sir Frank Kingsley Norris

On 1 July 1959 Sir Kingsley was promoted to the post of Chief Surgeon on the Australian Headquarters Staff. He held this

position until 24 December 1962 when he became Chief Commissioner on the death of Sir William Johnston. He served in this role until his retirement at the end of his second triennium on St John's Day, 23 June 1969.[6]

Many honours came his way : the Distinguished Service Order in 1941; Commander in the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire in 1943; the Efficiency Decoration 1943, Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1952; and, in 1957, he was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.[2]

Dorothy Norris died in 1975. Sir Kingsley Norris died on May 1, 1984 and was buried at Box Hill cemetery with full military honours on May 7, 1984.



Figure 45　Winter in the Florina Valley



Figure 46　Professor Graeme Ryan, Mrs Donald and Professor Leslie Ray

Chapter Six

Colonel Charles Douglas Donald CBE KStJ ED

Sixth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1959-1966

The appointment of Sir Kingsley Norris as Commissioner to succeed Sir William Johnston had followed the earlier pattern of high-ranking military medical leadership. Indeed, Norris had only begun his St John career the year earlier, doubtless recruited by his friend Johnston immediately into the role of Deputy Commissioner as an act of succession planning. It is unclear whether Johnston knew that he was to become Chief Commissioner in the following year but it is highly probable that he did. That was the way things were done in those days. If you wanted to be sure that the organization would be led by someone competent you would recruit one of your competent friends to succeed you. The rest of the organization had hardly any say in it. Occasionally, if you were lucky, there would be someone already in the organization who filled the bill. With the elevation of Sir Kingsley Norris to the post of Chief Commissioner upon the sudden death of Sir William Johnston, there was such a person. Douglas Donald had already been in St John for more than a decade and he was a distinguished military medical officer.

Charles Douglas Donald MBBS, LRCP, MRCS(Lond), FRCS(Eng), FRACS, CBE, KStJ, ED. was born on 5th March 1910 at Euroa, in country Victoria. He and his brother were the sons of a school teacher, John Robert Donald, and Clara Celia Donald (nee Powell).[1]

His primary school education was in the country towns where his father's Education Department teacher postings took him. Secondary schooling from 1924-27 was at Melbourne Boy's High School, which at that time was located on the site in the city now occupied by the College of Surgeons.[2] He was one of the last pupils at the old site when in 1927 the school was relocated, under Headmaster Claude Searby, to its present site in South Yarra. He entered the medical school of the University of Melbourne and

graduated Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1933. He spent several years as a medical officer at Prince Henry's Hospital before going to England for advanced training in surgery.

Dr Donald qualified as a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in what was called the "conjoint diploma", in 1936. He served as House Surgeon to Mr George Grey Turner in St Mary Abbott's Hospital in London from 1935-36, gaining his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1938.[3] He returned to Australia and shortly afterwards, at the outbreak of war, he joined the army. After the war he gained Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1945, nominated by Henry Searby (son of his old Headmaster, later to become Vice-President of the College), Sir Alan Newton (President of the College) and Mr W.A.Hailes (Censor-in-Chief of the College), a veritable 'Who's Who' of the College.[2]

In 1939 he joined the AIF and served with 2/1st Field Ambulance in Libya, Greece, Crete, Syria and Ceylon.[4,5] He was mentioned in dispatches 30th December 1941.[5]

The Official History of the War of 1939-1945 described German forces massing in Bulgaria early in 1941, launching attacks on Cyrenaica and invading Greece in two columns from Yugoslavia. Colonel WWS Johnston (Deputy Director Medical Services, First Australian Corps) and Colonel H.Disher (Assistant Director Medical Services, Sixth Division) were in charge of the medical services of the Allied Forces. Disher split the 2/1st Field Ambulance into two parts and sent "A" Company under the command of Major Douglas Donald to support the 19th Brigade in the Florina Valley in north-western Greece while the remainder supported forces defending Salonica.[5,14] As the Germans advanced and it became necessary to evacuate Greece for Crete, Donald's men were faced with an arduous and difficult terrain requiring stretchers carried by hand over steep and rocky ground in miserable weather. The last Australian medical unit to leave Greece was 2/1st Field Ambulance, on ANZAC day 1941.[5]

After his time in the Middle East and return to Ceylon, Major Donald was repatriated to Australia and discharged from the Army on 3rd December 1945.[6]

After the war Dr Donald joined the staff of University of Melbourne Department of Anatomy where he taught for 34 years. After his death, a memorial plaque was unveiled at the Anatomy school. He was a Senior Surgeon at Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne where he tutored medical students and postgraduate trainees for many years.[7] He married Nancy Fallon in 1951. They had no children although Nancy had a son, Michael Fallon, by a previous marriage.[1]

Prince Henry's Hospital, itself, had a most unusual history. It began in 1869 as the Melbourne Homoeopathic Dispensary, a charitable service to the poor who could not afford expensive medical fees. The first small hospital opened in a house in Spring Street in 1876, and after a successful fundraising campaign they opened their new hospital in St Kilda Road in 1885.[8]

Homoeopathy was a treatment by herbal medicines which, in concentrated form, would cause symptoms similar to the disease being treated, but given in such dilute potions that it would be harmless. The theory was that the medicine strengthened the patient's resistance to the symptoms and thereby overcame the disease. Typhoid fever was endemic in the densely populated and unsanitary South Melbourne area and the hospital had a steady stream of clients. Humane and comfortable nursing combined with copious fluid would have produced as good an outcome as any other hospital of the day.

The hospital was intensely controversial because of its treatment philosophy defying the rising star of scientific medicine. Nevertheless, it provided a valued service for many years until financial difficulties and a shortage of homoeopathic practitioners forced it to accept orthodox medical practitioners alongside the homoeopaths. The public increasingly lost faith in the homoeopathic theory and the financial crisis of the hospital deepened. On the verge of bankruptcy, the Board agreed in 1934 to abandon its restrictive philosophy, launch a public appeal for rebuilding, and to rename itself Prince Henry's Hospital.[8]

Henry, Duke of Gloucester, was the third son of King George the fifth. Whilst he was Prince of Wales, King George had been Grand Prior of the order, and when he ascended the throne to become Sovereign Head, his father's brother, the Duke of Connaught,



Figure 47 Homoeopathic Hospital circa 1920



Figure 48 Prince Henry’s Hospital circa 1960

became Grand Prior. On the death of the Duke of Connaught in 1942, Prince Henry became Grand Prior of the Order of St John.[9] Henry became Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia from 1945 to 1947.[10]

By the late 1950's the hospital had been completely rebuilt and modernized. Dr Donald became an Honorary Outpatient Surgeon and subsequently, in 1951, an Inpatient Surgeon and Head of a General Surgical Unit.[8,15] He served a term as Chairman of Staff. He continued as a teacher, also providing a voluntary series of Sunday morning surgical tutorials for many years, and was an examiner for the University and the College of Surgeons. He had an extensive private practice in general surgery and was also a surgeon at the Police Hospital. For 28 years he was Chief Medical Officer of the Gas and Fuel Corporation.[15]

He was Commanding Officer of the Citizen Military Forces 6th Field Ambulance and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1953. He became Assistant Director of Medical Services for 3rd Military District (Southern Command) at Victoria Barracks in 1956 and was promoted to the rank of Colonel.[11]

During his time as a senior surgeon at Prince Henry's, and in his army role, he was a strong advocate of rectal administration of fluids to treat dehydration and plasma electrolyte disturbances. He maintained that this was a safe and effective method which avoided many of the hazards and technical difficulties of intravenous administration. In countries with advanced medical care this advocacy was not widely accepted, probably mainly for aesthetic reasons, but its wisdom was clearly apparent with mass casualties in countries with limited medical services.

Dr Donald joined St John on 1st April 1946 as Divisional Surgeon of Railways Division which was then part of No2 (Central Metropolitan) Corps. He was admitted to the Order of St John as an Officer Brother in 1948.[12] He was actively involved in teaching first aid as an instructor and examiner, and as an adjudicator in competitions. He joined the Centre Committee of St John Ambulance Association from 1956 and served as Chair from 1957-59 and again in 1969.

He was a member of St John Council for Victoria from 1954, serving as Chairman from 1969-71 and from 1974-78. He was a



Figure 49 Official opening of Douglas Donald Camp



Figure 50 Colonel Douglas Donald

Vice-President from 1962 to 1978. He was promoted in the Order to the Grade of Commander in 1953.[12]

Dr Donald was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Victoria District on 2nd December 1958 and to the rank of Commissioner on 1st July 1959. succeeding Sir Kingsley Norris who had become Chief Commissioner. He was awarded the St John Service medal in 1957, with bars in 1962, 1967, 1972 and 1977. He was invested as a Knight of Grace in 1963.[12]

During his term as Commissioner the Search & Rescue squads were undergoing a considerable growth and were involved in frequent training exercises. Colonel Donald always took a keen interest in cadets, as did Governor Sir Dallas Brooks

A camp for cadets was first proposed by Brigadier Sir William Johnston in 1956 but it was not until 1964 when District Superintendent Norman Billing was able to arrange a long term lease of Crown land at Yarra Junction that the camp became a real possibility. Douglas Donald convened a committee to develop the site, with District Officer Ernest Madeley as Executive Officer. Initially the camping was under canvas but gradually the facilities and dormitories were built and upgraded. Officer training and a variety of recreational activities have been undertaken at the camp, including abseiling, caving, bushwalking, canoeing and various sports. The camp at Yarra Junction was named after him at its official opening on 4th March 1967, by the Commissioner-in-Chief of St John Ambulance Brigade, Rear-Admiral Sir Royer Dick. The open air chapel was dedicated by St John Chaplain, Archbishop Sir Frank Woods. The lectern included a stone from the 12th century church of the Order of St John at Clerkenwell, London.

Douglas Donald was promoted to Australian Headquarters as Chief Surgeon on 25th June 1966. He was succeeded as Commissioner in Victoria by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris.[13] Colonel Donald became Chief Commissioner on 24th June 1969. During his time as Chief he did a considerable amount of work to establish St John Ambulance in Papua New Guinea in 1970 and subsequently in other Pacific nations.[16] He remained Chief Commissioner until his death in 1979.[12]

Colonel Donald was also chairman of the Melbourne University Graduate Union from 1968-1970 and, briefly, a member of the

University Council.[7] He was a member of the Victoria Racing Club, Returned Servicemens' League and naval and military organisations.[4] He had been a Council member of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria since 1969 and President of the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association from 1967-1979.[4] He was a member of the Australian Medical Association Council, serving as President in 1966, and was made a Fellow of the AMA in 1970.[15] In 1970 he was made a Companion of the Order of the British Empire.

Colonel Donald died of a short episode of acute renal failure consequent to carcinoma of the stomach, at the age of 69 years on 4th August 1979.[1] He was an important benefactor of the Douglas Donald camp during his lifetime and made a major bequest in his Will that enabled the camp to reach national accreditation standards.[12] The camp is a lasting memorial to one of St John's most eminent members.

Chapter Seven

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris Kt KStJ ED

Seventh Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1966-1969

When Lady Munro-Ferguson, wife of the Governor-General, held a meeting at Government House in 1914 to establish an Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society which subsequently became the Australian Red Cross Society, Dr Arthur Sherwin was present to represent the St John Ambulance Association. This began a long series of overlapping involvements of senior office-bearers between Red Cross and St John that reached its peak with Sir John Newman-Morris and his son, Geoffrey.

Geoffrey's grandfather, William Alfred Morris, and Ellen Newman, both English migrants to the colony of Victoria, married in 1868. Geoffrey's father, John Newman Morris (1879-1957) married Eleanor Annie Jones (d.1949) in 1905. They had two children, twins Dorothy and Geoffrey, in 1909. Dorothy (1909-1974) married the 'Herald' journalist and theatre critic HA Standish. Geoffrey (1909–1981) married Sheila Brown, a nursing sister, in 1945.[1]

Sir John Newman Morris had been a student at the now defunct Hawthorn Grammar School, the same one where George Horne had attended a few years earlier. He went on to Queen's College in the University of Melbourne, graduating Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1904. He worked initially as a country General Practitioner in Violet Town, northern Victoria, from 1905 to1910, then moving to Hawthorn. He was an Honorary Inpatient Surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital. He was on the Australian Red Cross Executive from 1937, was Victorian Division Chair in 1938, and National Chair in 1944. He was leader of the Australian delegation to the meetings of the world's Red Cross Societies in Oxford in 1946 and again in Stockholm in 1948. He was active in the development of the



Figure 51 Sir John and Lady Eleanor Newman-Morris



Figure 52 Police Surgeon, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris

blood transfusion service, with Australia as the first country to deliver such a service nationwide.[1] He also played an important role in development of Royal Flying Doctor Service and there is a memorial to him in the John Flynn church alongside that of Flynn himself.[2] He was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael & St George in 1938.[1]

Sir John was on St John Council for Victoria from 1930, including periods as President from 1935-36 and 1946-47.[3,8] He was invested as a Knight of St John in 1945, and. became Priory Receiver-General in 1954. He was Deputy Chancellor of Melbourne University from 1951-53. He was knighted in 1948 and changed the family name by Deed Poll adding the hyphen to avoid confusion with another contemporary Sir John Morris.[1]

Geoffrey was born on 14th May 1909 in Violet Town, moving to Hawthorn when he was only one year old. He went initially to Camberwell Grammar, then to Grimwade House and Melbourne Grammar senior school. He left home at 17 to become a resident at Trinity College from 1927. He graduated Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1932. Geoffrey spent six years in the University Rifles, followed by six years in 2nd Cavalry Field Ambulance where he rose to the rank of temporary Major.[1] This is the unit where Colonel WWS (later Brigadier Sir William) Johnston was Commanding Officer.

Before the War he spent altogether nine years at the old Melbourne Hospital, several of them as a medical student then as Resident Medical Officer and surgical trainee. He obtained his Master of Surgery degree in 1936.[4] He spent two years (1937-38) in England obtaining his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons before returning to Australia where he gained his FRACS also in 1938 [1]

After war broke out he enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps, VX38892, and was garrisoned at point Nepean in 1940 before sailing on the RMS Aquitania to Bombay and back. He was then transferred to 2/7th Army General Hospital at Puckapunyal under the command of Colonel Walter Summons.[1]

In 1941 he again sailed on the Aquitania, this time to Rehovoth, near Jaffa in the eastern Mediterranean where he was transferred to 2/11th AGH in Alexandria under the command of Sir George Stening (later Chancellor of St John).[1] In January 1942 he sailed from Suez to Colombo and back to Australia for a short period of leave before posting to Inglewood in Queensland in preparation for the New Guinea campaign. In July 1943 he served in the Buna campaign in PNG, leading a surgical team until January 1944 when he was brought back to Melbourne on leave, promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and sent to the 2/7th AGH in Lae, having been mentioned in despatches.[4]

He returned to Melbourne again in 1945, and during a brief period of leave he married Sheila Brown, a nursing sister he had met while on service on the Aquitania, again in Palestine and in New Guinea. They subsequently had three children, Andrew (b.1946), Eleanor (b.1949) who married Peter Stawell (a grandson of Sir Richard Stawell who had been a founding member of the Australasian Association of Physicians, fore-runner of the Royal College), and John (b.1951).

Geoffrey spent the last few months of his army career as Commanding Officer of the Surgical Unit at 106 AGH at Bonegilla. He was awarded the Efficiency Decoration and was discharged from the army in 1946.[1]

He was an Honorary Surgeon at Prince Henry's Hospital, both Outpatient from 1946-50 and Inpatient from 1950 until his retirement in 1966.[1,6] He became Chairman of the Honorary Medical Staff and an Honorary Life Governor of the Hospital.[4] He was involved with Professor Hugh Dudley in the future planning of surgical services in the merger with Queen Victoria Medical Centre to form the new hospital called Monash Medical Centre at Clayton. This included a visit overseas to study contemporary best practice facilities.[5]

From 1956 Geoffrey was Medical Officer to Victoria Police, and influential in the development of the Police Hospital in St Kilda Road, for which he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Police Association. He was succeeded in this role in 1979 by Dr Allan Beech, another Prince Henry's surgeon with longstanding St John involvement.[1,10]

He was a member of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Victorian State Committee from 1959 to 1967,[1] lectured and examined at both Melbourne and Monash University Medical Schools, and was Chairman of the Board of Examiners of the Nursing Board of Victoria.[4] He was also a member of the Council of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing.[1]

He was elected to the Council of the Victorian Branch in 1953, filled the offices of Branch Honorary Secretary (1955-57), Vice President (1959-60), President (1961) which was the final year in which it was a Branch of the British Medical Association, thereafter being a Branch of the Australian Medical Association, and Chairman of the Council (1965-73).[4] He attended World Medical Association Congress as an Australian delegate in 1973.[1] In 1974, as President of the 5th Australian Medical Congress he was awarded the highest honour of the Australian Medical Association, its Gold Medal, after services which had included the chairmanship of the AMA Federal Assembly (1967-72). In 1975 he was President of the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania. He had also been President of the Medico-Legal Society of Victoria in 1968.[1]

Geoffrey had been a St John Ambulance Association lecturer from 1933 at a time when it was mandatory for all the first aid theory lectures to be given by a medical practitioner.[1] He was a member of St John Council from 1950 to 1963 and a Vice-President from 1964 to 1976.[11] However, he did not join the Brigade until 1st January 1953 as Divisional Surgeon of Railways Division following Douglas Donald, when Sir William Johnston was Commissioner. He transferred to City of Melbourne Division on 1st January 1957. He was promoted to District Staff Officer Grade 3 on Victoria District Staff in 1960, District Surgeon in 1962 and Deputy Commissioner in 1962 when Douglas Donald was Commissioner. He became Commissioner of Victoria District on 24 June 1966.[8]

The Long Service Medal of the Order was awarded in 1964 and the first Bar in 1969.[8] He was admitted to the Order of St John as an Officer Brother in 1948. He was promoted to Commander in1954 and invested as a Knight of St John in 1964. Geoffrey



Figure 53 Jean Henri Dunant, Founder of Red Cross

was promoted to Australian Headquarters Staff as Chief Surgeon on 24th June 1969.[8] In his autobiography he refers to his tasks as Chief Surgeon and his decision in 1972 not to seek reappointment because of his heavy Red Cross commitments.[1]

In 1951 he was invited to become a member of the Australian Red Cross Welfare Committee. In 1952 he was invited to join the Council of the Victorian Division, and in the following year he was appointed to the Executive.[1] He was Chair of Australian Red Cross Society National Council for 20 years from 1958 to 1978, then Honorary Vice-President. (The President is the wife of the Governor-General).

Sir Geoffrey also served the International Red Cross community. In 1965 he attended the International Conference of Red Cross in Vienna and was elected a member of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. In 1973 he became its Chairman, a role he held until 1978. He attended many international conferences, as a member of Australian delegations and in his capacity as a representative of the International Red Cross. He was Vice-Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies; and Chair of the Finance Committee from 1969 to 1978.[1]

In 1979, the International Red Cross, as tribute to his service, awarded him its highest and seldom given honour, the Henry Dunant Medal.[9] Henry Dunant was the founder of Red Cross. He was a Swiss businessman from Geneva who fortuitously witnessed the Battle of Solferino in 1859. In a single day about 40,000 soldiers of both sides died or were left wounded on the field with virtually no help. He wrote a book entitled *A Memory of Solferino.* In 1863 he founded the "Committee of Five" which conducted the first Geneva Convention and which subsequently became the International Committee of the Red Cross.[12]

In 1969 Dr Newman-Morris was created a Knight Bachelor in the New Year's Honours List. In 1976 he received the Gold Medal of the Swedish Red Cross Society.[1] His impressive array of decorations includes the Henry Dunant medal, Knight Bachelor's Badge, Order of St John, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 (+ Dispatches), Australian Service Medal 1939-45, Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal, Efficiency Decoration, Service Medal of the Order of St John with clasp, Red Cross Service medal, Gold medal of Swedish Red Cross Society, Singapore Red Cross gold medal.



Figure 54 Commissioner, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris

Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris died, aged 72, in Melbourne on 20th October 1981, admired and praised not only as a distinguished surgeon but in the many other fields where he reached international eminence. In the Foreword to Geoffrey's autobiography, Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies says, *"He held International Red Cross'*

most prestigious post, Chairman of its Standing Commission. He helped to lay the foundations of modern international Red Cross work, both on the policy side and (as a very successful chairman of the League Finance Commission) on the practical side".[1]

He was described at the memorial service held in St John's Church, Toorak, of which he had been a church warden for many years as *"a great man - truly a world citizen"*.[4]



Figure 55 Commissioner, Dr Arthur Burton

Chapter Eight

Doctor Arthur William Burton KStJ

Eighth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1969-1972

The previously-mentioned pattern of high-ranking military medical officers leading the Brigade had been maintained when Douglas Donald succeeded Kingsley Norris as Commissioner and Geoffrey Newman-Morris succeeded Donald. Newman-Morris had, as his Deputy, Dr Arthur Burton who had been a St John officer for more than twenty years. He, too, had been a military medical officer although not as high-ranking as several of his predecessors, but he was a close friend of them all, which continued the tradition of Commissioner appointments.

At National Headquarters level the same kind of succession was occurring. When Sir Kingsley Norris was promoted to Chief Commissioner he appointed Douglas Donald as his Chief Surgeon. When Norris retired, Donald became Chief Commissioner and he appointed Newman-Morris as his Chief Surgeon. Newman-Morris, however, found that his St John tasks were too great to cope with in addition to the Red Cross commitments. He retired after three years, paving the way for Arthur Burton to be appointed Chief Surgeon.

Arthur William Burton, KStJ, MB BS, LL.B, FRACMA; known to his friends as "Buddy", was born on 16th September 1916.[1] His father, William Thomas Burton (1891-1917), a Sergeant in the 4th Field Artillery, died of injuries in the Great War on 6th September 1917 and is buried at Reninghelst Military Cemetery in Belgium.[2,15] His mother, Ella Alma (nee Brady, 1891-1982) later married and had two children by her new husband, Arthur's half-siblings, Lorna and Norman Weidemann, but he was raised by his maternal grandmother, Malvana Brady.[2,16]

Buddy's early schooling was at Auburn Central School and later on scholarships to Wesley College. [2] He went on to Melbourne University where he was resident at Queens College. [1] At Queens he was a rower, and was Secretary of the Sports and Social Club as well as being a top level student. [3] He graduated MB BS in 1940 and was a Resident Medical Officer at Alfred Hospital in 1941. [4]

Upon graduation he married Elizabeth Adamson, daughter of Dr John Adamson, at St Andrews Church, Gardiner.[2] They were to remain together for more than fifty years until her death in 1993. They had no children. Betty went on to become National President of Young Women's Christian Association and an active supporter of St John through the Auxiliary.

Arthur joined the AIF in 1941, as a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps attached to 2/AGH. He served from 1941-46, mainly in New Guinea with 18th Field Ambulance.[1,5] There, in the misery of the Kokoda Trail he came became friends with Colonel (later Major-General) Kingsley Norris, which he movingly described in an obituary he wrote for Norris in the Medical Journal of Australia.[14]

After the War from 1946 to 1947, as part of the Post-War resettlement program, he was again a resident at the Alfred. [4] Buddy took over the General Practice in Glen Iris when his father-in-law, Dr Adamson, died in 1948.[2] He remained there for 12 years.

Buddy joined the Australian Medical Association in 1946, became a member of the Branch Council in 1956 and took on the job of Honorary Secretary. This work so appealed to him that in 1960 he gave up General Practice to become full-time Deputy Medical Secretary of AMA. In 1966, on the retirement of Dr Cyril Dickson, he became Medical Secretary, a position he held for nine years until his retirement in 1975. He gained Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators in 1967, and completed a law degree, graduating LLB (Hons) from the University of Melbourne in 1969. [1,5]

He was author of a textbook, “Medical Ethics and the Law”, published in 1971 by Melbourne University Press, which was the material covered in his lectures to Melbourne University medical students between 1966 and 1981. [1,6]

He was elected a Fellow of the AMA in 1974. From 1966 to 1988 he was on the Board of Directors of Victorian Medical Insurance Agency, and Chairman from 1984. He was a member of the committee of Victorian Civil Ambulance Service from 1954 to 1970, and was made a Life Governor in 1970. He was President of the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association, after the death of Douglas Donald, from 1979 to 1981.[1,4,5]

From the time of his commencement in General Practice Buddy was a lecturer and examiner for St John public first aid classes. He later served three years (1962-64) as Chairman of the Association Centre Committee and was made an Honorary Life Member. In 1948 he joined St John Ambulance Brigade as Malvern Divisional Surgeon, where the Divisional Superintendent was Norman Billing (later to become Chief Superintendent) and the Cadet Superintendent was Ern Madeley (later to become District Officer – Cadets). He was active also as an adjudicator in competitions. [7]

He was promoted to Corps Surgeon of No.5 Corps, then to District Surgeon in 1963. When he was District Surgeon and Harry Jackson was Corps Surgeon they appointed a new graduate, Dr Allan Mawdsley, as Malvern Divisional Surgeon. Buddy was admitted to the Order as Serving Brother in 1957, promoted to Officer in 1962 and Commander in 1967. [7]

Buddy was appointed Deputy Commissioner in 1966, and Commissioner in 1969 when Geoffrey Newman-Morris was made Chief Surgeon. [7] In 1968 a visit by the Commissioner-in-Chief of the Brigade Overseas, Rear Admiral Sir Royer Dick,

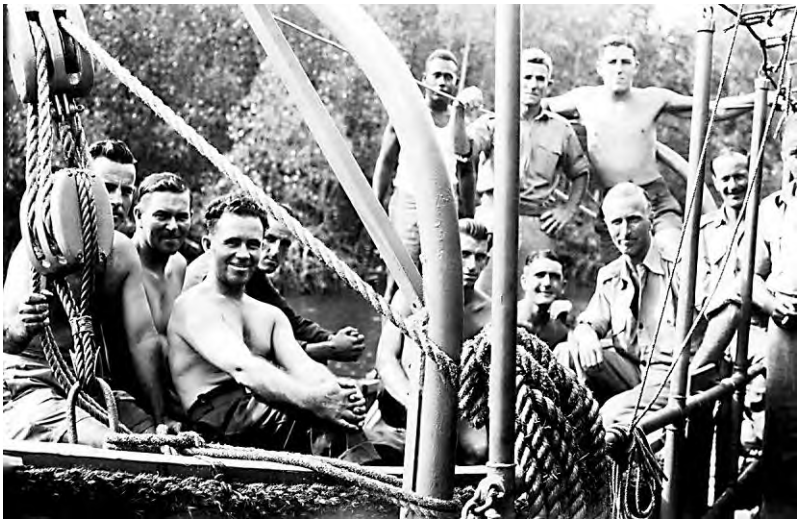


Figure 56 Dr Arthur Burton in New Guinea



Figure 57 Westgate Bridge collapse

was the occasion for the official opening of the Douglas Donald Camp. Deputy Commissioner Dr Arthur Burton is

shown in the photograph with Victorian Commissioner Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chief Commissioner Sir Kingsley Norris, Sir Royer Dick, Archbishop Sir Frank Woods, Chief Surgeon Douglas Donald and Chief Superintendent Norman Billing.

On 15th October 1970 several sections of the partly constructed Westgate Bridge collapsed into the swampy ground at the Yarra's edge, killing more than thirty people and injuring many others, mainly workmen on the span and the ground below. A total of 85 St John First Aiders turned out within the space of a couple of hours, including 14 officers and 71 other ranks from 17 different units. It was a striking example of the capacity of the St John network to respond. [8]

1972 was the year of the Jubilee Cadet Camp. That year Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris resigned as Chief Surgeon and Burton was appointed to succeed him. Just after his appointment, he was promoted in the Order to the grade of Knight of Grace.

Douglas Donald was Chief Commissioner (1969-1979), Norman Billing was Chief Superintendent (1968-1980), and Arthur Burton was Chief Surgeon (1972-1979). He held this role for seven years until the sudden death of Douglas Donald.[9] This very influential trio not only occupied the senior positions at National Headquarters but also remained dominant in St John in Victoria by holding three of the five positions in St John Holdings, the legally incorporated holding company of St John in Victoria, while no longer actually being on the Council itself.[10] This relationship embroiled him in one of the most contentious events in Australian St John history, the charitable taxation deductions scheme.

Norman Billing was the Victorian Parliamentary member for Springvale. For some years he had been Secretary of St John Ambulance Association, Company Secretary of St John Holdings, and District Superintendent of St John Ambulance Brigade. He had twenty years of dedicated service to St John before becoming Chief Superintendent at National

Headquarters in 1968, and a further nine years before the scam that caused it all to unravel.

Early in 1977 a businessman approached him with a proposal to arrange donations of very large sums of money in return for a procurement fee of 98.8% The residual 1.2% would be a guaranteed substantial amount for which St John Holdings would be required to do nothing other than issue a receipt for the gross amount donated and would be indemnified against legal and other costs. Mr Billing sought high level legal advice which indicated that St John would not breach any law by accepting the offer.[11]

As he was keen to raise money for the planned new Victorian Headquarters building and the public appeal for funds was not going well, he recommended this scheme to his fellow Directors of St John Holdings. The proposal was accepted in June 1977, the scheme was enacted in the last few days of the financial year and was terminated in July. [11,12] On 8th August 1977 there was a critical article in the *National Times* in Canberra followed by a devastating response within and outside St John.[13]

The scheme involved numerous investors each contributing $15,000 of their own money plus $85,000 bank loan at 14%, donating $100,000 to St John from which St John paid $98,800 procurement fee to the agent and kept $1,200. The agent paid out the bank loan of $85,000 plus about $1,000 interest and an unspecified amount to the investor who also reaped a $100,000 charitable donation tax refund worth approximately $45,000 to someone in the highest tax bracket. Triple your money back within a couple of months seemed too good to be true, and so it was! Sums in the order of $14 million were mentioned in later correspondence. [11]

Needless to say, the Tax Office took a dim view of the scheme and disallowed the deductions. It also considered abolishing St John charitable status but was dissuaded from this by immediate urgent representations from Priory Officers

dissociating the organization from the actions of some rogue Victorian members.

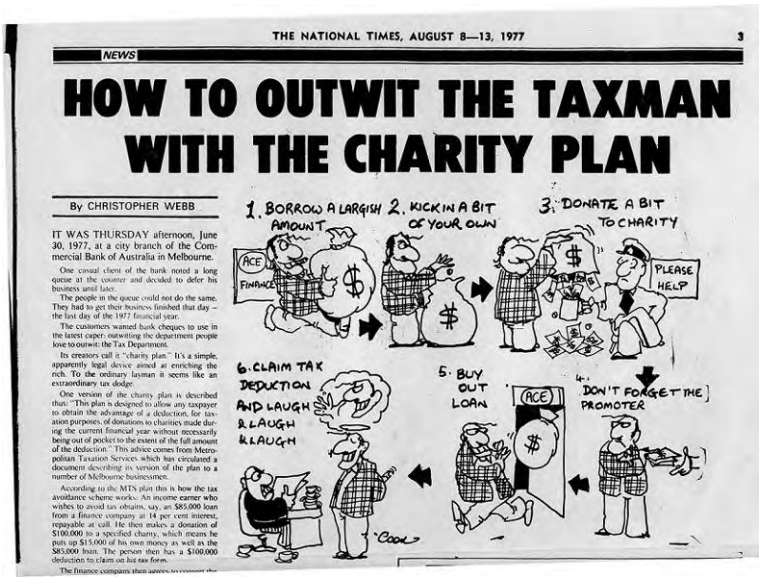
When St John Council for Victoria was informed next month for the first time of details of the scheme it requested termination of the contract and return of all monies to donors.[12] This, of course, was not possible because the $14m had long since disappeared and because the return of any money would lay the organization open to legal action for breach of contract. Appeals by investors against the Taxation Department's disallowance of their deductions went on for the next two years until they were all finally dismissed and Priory was able to hold an Extraordinary Chapter meeting in Canberra on 6th December 1980. [11]

The Chancellor, Sir George Stening, made a long statement in which he said, "Our honour has been damaged and steps are necessary to restore our standing and image within the community…. (but) it must clearly be understood that there is to be no demand for retribution from any person or persons".

The facts of the scheme were presented and discussed, and the following three-part resolution was adopted.[11]

1. The Chapter speaks for the Order as a whole when it says that St John would not and should not stoop to use its position as a public benefactor to enable people to evade their taxation commitments, and Chapter directs the Executive to take such action to ensure that this situation does not arise again.

2. Due to questions arising as to the sequence of events which led to the situation arising where neither St John Council for Victoria nor the Priory was previously informed of the action to be taken, Chapter directs the St John Council for Victoria to investigate that situation, and



THE NATIONAL TIMES, AUGUST 8—13, 1977 3

NEWS

HOW TO OUTWIT THE TAXMAN WITH THE CHARITY PLAN

By CHRISTOPHER WEBB

IT WAS THURSDAY afternoon, June 30, 1977, at a city branch of the Commercial Bank of Australia in Melbourne.

One casual client of the bank noted a long queue at the counter and decided to defer his business until later.

The people in the queue could not do the same. They had to get their business finished that day – the last day of the 1977 financial year.

The customers wanted bank cheques to use in the latest caper: outwitting the department people love to outwit: the Tax Department.

Its creators call it "charity plan." It's a simple, apparently legal device aimed at enriching the rich. To the ordinary layman it seems like an extraordinary tax dodge.

One version of the charity plan is described thus: "This plan is designed to allow any taxpayer to obtain the advantage of a deduction, for taxation purposes, of donations to charities made during the current financial year without necessarily being out of pocket to the extent of the full amount of the deduction." This advice comes from Metropolitan Taxation Services which has circulated a document describing its version of the plan to a number of Melbourne businessmen.

According to the MTS plan this is how the tax avoidance scheme works. An income earner who wishes to avoid tax obtains, say, an $85,000 loan from a finance company at 14 per cent interest, repayable at call. He then makes a donation of $100,000 to a specified charity, which means he puts up $15,000 of his own money as well as the $85,000 loan. The person then has a $100,000 deduction to claim on his tax form.

The finance company then agrees to convert the

Figure 58 Article in *National Times* 8th August 1977



Figure 59 Chancellor, Sir George Stening

arising from that, whether any action is warranted. Chapter directs the Council to report to the next meeting of Chapter.

3. Chapter requests the Priory Executive to review the consultative process which should operate between the Priory and State Councils and the Foundations and to consider whether those processes should be strengthened by replacing those unwritten conventions, that have been broken in this case, with some expressly written rules. Chapter requests that a report be presented to the next Chapter meeting. The motion was **Carried.**

As a consequence of this review, the Articles of Association of St John Holdings were changed so that the members of St John Holdings would always be comprised of the members of St John Council for the time being, and the Directors would be the principal office-bearers of Council. The composition of St John Council was also changed to include members from appropriate legal, accounting, marketing and business backgrounds outside St John.

When Chief Commissioner Douglas Donald died in 1979 (before the Extraordinary Chapter meeting) Chancellor Stening invited Dr Gordon Young to be the next Chief Commissioner. He had been a former Commissioner of New South Wales District, Chairman of NSW St John Council, and Director of Ceremonies of Priory Chapter at the time of Donald's death.[9]

In his contribution to *The Zambuks* he described the themes of his conversations with Stening. *"He thought the organization "needed shaking up."...."too much dead wood was cluttering the Brigade – members…opposed to change, didn't want new challenges, were preoccupied with the status conferred by their rank…"* [9]

None of these seemed to fit Douglas Donald and I am unconvinced they applied to Norm Billing. They certainly did not apply to Arthur Burton. He was a team player and was deeply offended that after all his years of commitment to St John he was not even consulted about changes that might be

needed in Senior ranks. He resigned his position as Chief Surgeon and had little to do with the organization from then on.

I suspect that Arthur thought he was being scapegoated for the taxation scam. He never discussed it with me again but always remained interested and supportive of my continuing role in St John. I always found him to be an intelligent, thoughtful, conscientious and absolutely reliable person. It is ironic that someone so steeped in legal and ethical practice should have been derailed by an ethical issue. In hindsight the taxation scheme was an ethical mistake and many who were not there thought that it should have been foreseen, but it was not. Nevertheless, a lifetime of service to others shows Arthur to have been a highly principled person and I am honoured to have been his friend.

Buddy died on 27th July 1996 at the age of 79 years, in Peter James Centre of a rapidly progressing dementia. For some years until six months before he died he had been my regular bridge partner, ending the partnership when he realized before it was apparent to anyone else that he was losing the capacity to handle the complexities of the game. He had always had a prodigious memory and even in his late 70's was able to recite Latin text that he had learned at school sixty years earlier. At his funeral in 1996 at the same church where he was married 55 years earlier, he was fondly remembered by many St John friends.

Chapter Nine

Dr Henry Hollister Jackson CStJ

Ninth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1972-1974

Arthur Burton had, as his Deputy Commissioner, Dr Harry Jackson. Jackson, like Burton before him, had been a St John member for more than twenty years before arriving at this promotion. The District Surgeon was Dr Peter Bush. With Burton's sudden promotion to Chief Surgeon at National Headquarters when Newman-Morris resigned, Jackson replaced Burton as Commissioner in Victoria.

Henry Hollister Jackson, known to everyone as "Harry", was born in Melbourne on the 19th October 1912. He was the only son of Henry Hollister and Ethel Jackson and the older brother of his sister Ethel (born 1918). His father came from Tarrawingee in Northern Victoria and his mother from Staffordshire in England.[1]

While still young his family moved to Tasmania where he spent his early years in the small country towns of Smithton and Sheffield, where his father worked as a General Practitioner.[1]

When he was 13 his parents decided he needed "some refinement and a proper education" and he was sent to Caulfield Grammar boarding school in Melbourne. Later, when his parents also returned to live in Melbourne, he moved to Wesley. At school he was active in most sports but was particularly good at football and athletics where he won the shot put event in the Australian Public Schools competition.[1]

From school he went on to study medicine at Melbourne University. During his time there he became involved in a range of activities. Initially he joined the Melbourne University Rifles but, wanting to do pilot training, had joined No.1 Squadron in 1934.[2]



Figure 60 Flying Officer HH Jackson in Demon A1 Trainer, 1937



Figure 61 Boston Bombers of 22 Squadron in New Guinea

Citizen Air Force units were proposed after WW I, the plan being for a small number of full-time professional squadrons and a rather larger number of citizen units staffed by a core of professional airmen and predominantly volunteers. These were

approved shortly before WW II with the "2" numbers denoting this. No 21 Squadron was formed at Laverton on 20 April 1936.[2] Harry subsequently transferred from No.1 to No 21 City of Melbourne Squadron when it was formed.

In those days flying was still in its early years with open cockpit bi-planes. The picture shows Harry flying Demon A1-15 in a training exercise for a fly past to celebrate a Royal Visit in 1937.[2]

On 3rd September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany and Australia followed. 21 Squadron was sent to Samboanga Base in Singapore on 26 August 1940.[2] Harry enlisted, hoping to be a pilot, but was sent back to complete his medical course. He graduated MB BS from Melbourne University and spent one year as a Junior Resident Medical Officer at Launceston General Hospital in 1941.[1]

After completion of the course he was sent not to his old Squadron but to 22 Squadron at Port Moresby in New Guinea simultaneously with Group Captain Keith Hampshire, the new Commanding Officer. This was in response to turmoil within the Squadron because of aircraft losses due to faulty equipment design. The Squadron's Boston bombers were parachuting fragmentation bombs into the jungle but the slipstream occasionally caused parachutes to catch on the aircraft tail resulting in serious explosion damage. The design fault was fixed and Harry spent the next year and a half in New Guinea looking after the pilots but frustrated that he was not allowed to fly.[3] It was pointed out that a pilot takes six months to train whereas a doctor takes six years to train and is more valuable to the RAAF as a doctor than as a pilot.

22 Squadron had been originally raised in New South Wales at Richmond Air Base, although by the time Harry arrived in New Guinea it was composed of airmen from all States. The work of the Squadron was bombing and strafing Japanese army positions in the Buna and Gona jungle campaigns, and occasional bombing of Japanese bases at Lae and Salamo. In May 1943, after the Battle of the Bismark Sea, the Squadron relocated to Goodenough Island for a few weeks then to



Figure 62 Bairnsdale Navigation School, RAAF



Figure 63 Richmond Division 1954

Kirewina where there was a huge American Base. From then on the RAAF had a relatively minor role as the American Forces were overwhelmingly larger.[3]

In 1944 Harry was sent back to Heidelberg Military Hospital for a short refresher course and transferred to 20 Squadron at Gove in the Gulf of Carpentaria.[3] 20 Squadron flew Catalina flying boats which were slow but had a very long range which enabled them to fly bombing missions as far afield as the Phillipines. Here, on rare occasions he was able to bend the rules and accompany such missions, which made him much happier although his lifelong friendships remained with 22 Squadron.[1] The Squadron CO, Athol Wearne, said of him, *"Harry was the ultimate squadron doctor; he kept my boys healthy and happy and he was greatly admired by all, especially as he also had wings"*.[4]

At the end of the war in 1945 Harry was sent to the RAAF Base at Bairnsdale where there was a Navigation Training School and a large RAAF hospital for the repatriation of airmen. It was here that he met his future wife. Jean Bottoms was a Radio Telephony Operator in the control tower. After a courtship of several years they were married in December 1949.[1]

After the War he maintained regular contact with the 22 Squadron and was Squadron Association President for several years

As part of his repatriation to civilian life Harry worked for one year as a Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in 1946, following which he served as an Honorary Clinical Assistant in the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic from 1949 to 1951.[5]

After his marriage they first went to live in Richmond where he was in General Practice very near where his father also had a practice. They had three sons – Robert (1951), Ian (1952), Stuart (1958).[1]

Harry joined St John Ambulance Brigade as Divisional Surgeon in 1952. About that time he joined a partnership at the Kew Medical Group, where he worked for over 20 years. He also

worked as an Honorary Clinical Assistant in the Dermatology Clinic of Prince Henry's Hospital Melbourne from 1955-60.[5]



Figure 64 Southern Aurora derailment, Violet Town, 1967



Figure 65 Mobile Nursing Squad of Mrs Massey Davenport

Within St John, Harry gradually climbed the promotional ladder. He was appointed Corps Surgeon to No4 Corps in 1963. About this time he was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John, and shortly afterwards gained his Long Service medal. He was an active teacher in the St John Ambulance Association and became Chairman of the Centre Committee. He was appointed a District Staff Officer in 1967.[6]

As part of his contribution towards improved training he was actively involved in production of sets of 35mm colour transparencies illustrating a wide variety of first aid conditions. He successfully approached several pharmaceutical companies to sponsor the production of sets of slides on various topics. These were widely distributed to Divisional Surgeons to encourage them to use these visual aids in Divisional training.

In order to maximise their value as teaching aids he paired the clinical photograph with additional information such as an x-ray. For example, a fairly common fracture of the arm above the wrist, known as a Colles fracture, is something that members may or may not have seen in real life, but when a photograph of it is shown together with an x-ray it generates a stronger learning experience. Similarly, one showing bruising at the hip, shortening of the limb and an abnormal degree of outward rotation of the limb, characteristic of a fractured neck of the femur, when paired with the X-Ray, taught much more about the condition than words alone. Some slides were particularly dramatic, which is of great help in preparing members for some of the unfortunate injuries they may encounter. Some slides made it much easier to discuss topics that were not easy to demonstrate, such as an example of a metal fragment stuck inside the upper eyelid.

One of the major post-war developments was the formation in 1962 of the first St John Rescue Squad at Glen Waverley. The idea came from District Officer Max Phelan during the bushfires of 1962 when he noticed that the ambulance men were not adequately equipped or trained for the task. As an ex-member of the Police Search & Rescue Squad he established and organized

the St John service. Admission to Rescue squads was selective and required twelve months of rigorous training.[7] Members of

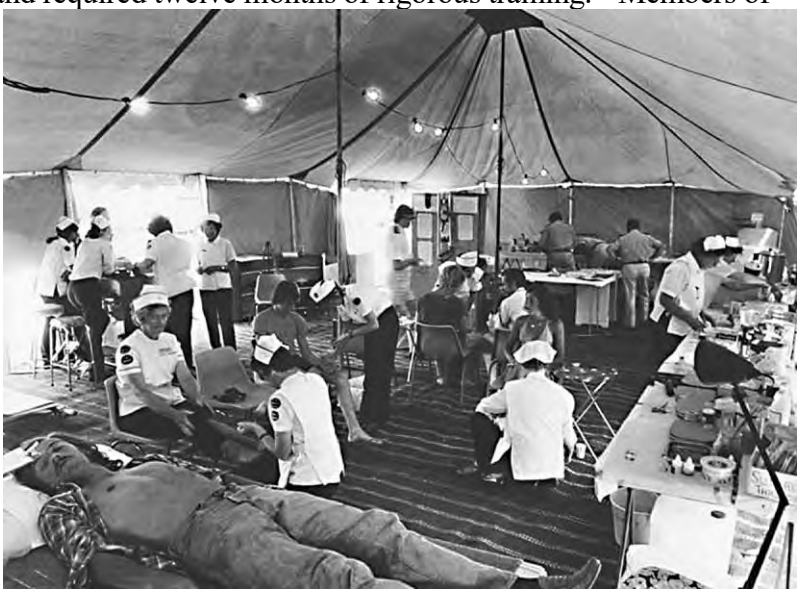


Figure 66 Sunbury Pop Festival Field Hospital, 1974



Figure 67 A contingent of Search & Rescue members on parade before a training exercise.

Rescue Squads remained members of their original Divisions and were expected to participate in regular Divisional activities. However, membership became very popular and the extensive training activities often took precedence over the routine duties of

Divisions to the extent that there were significant tensions between those who were participants and those who were not. The service was also very expensive, notwithstanding that significant capital equipment expenditure was funded through Civil Defence.

In 1969 Harry was invested as a Commander of the Order. This was the same year that he was appointed Deputy Commissioner.[6] That year, also, was a time when the St John Search and Rescue Squads were very much in the ascendant and were involved in many incidents including the search for Harold Holt, the Violet Town rail disaster, and the search for a crashed aeroplane. For a short time while Dr Burton was overseas, Harry was Acting Commissioner, which he later said was helpful preparation for his subsequent promotion.

In 1972, when Arthur Burton was promoted to Chief Surgeon on National Headquarters Staff, Harry became Commissioner.

By 1972, the Search and Rescue section had over 60 fully equipped rescue vehicles and 50 Squads were operating, comprising 600 men. At that time, as a result of help from the Civil Defence Authority, the Rescue Section had more trained men and equipment than any other similar body in Australia, either professional or voluntary.[7]

Nursing members of the Brigade followed the example of the men by forming 'Mobile Nursing'. District Surgeon Dr J.Peter Bush and Mrs Massie Davenport, Officer-in-Charge of Mobile Nursing, produced a textbook in 1969 entitled "Rescue Nursing". In 1972, under the leadership of Mrs Davenport, Mobile Nursing had over 100 nursing members, including a number of State Registered Nurses, organized into teams with mobile nursing vans.[7] On a few occasions they were able to bring their skills to bear in a planned major exercise such as the Sunbury Pop Festivals that were an annual event for three summers from 1972.

Notwithstanding the additional Civil Defence funding, the financial drain on St John resources was considerable. Max Phelan, now District Superintendent, required Divisions to lodge their investment savings in a Headquarters fund from which the Rescue section was resourced. Divisions were paid interest on

their deposits and assured of their money being returned, which it was, but not always when they asked for it. Cash flow problems



Figure 68 Commissioner, Dr Harry Jackson

resulted in funds being locked in for an appreciable time. This led to a longstanding antagonism and suspicion with Divisions suspecting that Headquarters was trying to take their hard-earned money away from them. At the same time, however, they loved their Search & Rescue Squads and did not want Headquarters to curtail them.

Something had to give way because there was simply not enough money to go round. Dr Jackson believed that the best solution would be to reform the Rescue Squads from within, and that the person best equipped to do this was his Deputy, Dr Peter Bush.[8] Peter had long-term experience as a Police Surgeon as well as being actively involved in the Rescue Squads, his interest in this field leading to his appointment as Director of the Emergency Department at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

When Peter agreed to the proposal, Dr Jackson resigned as Commissioner before completing his triennium.[8] This enabled Dr Bush to be appointed as Commissioner and to start the reform from a position of authority. Max Phelan resigned shortly afterwards rather than seeing his beloved service diminished. In the event, the Rescue Squads were integrated into the Divisions from whence they came, and the service faded away as many of its functions were taken over by the new State Emergency Service from 1975, ending a notable decade in our history.

In 1973 Harry retired from the Kew Medical Group and joined School Medical Service, where he was involved in the health care of primary school children. He greatly enjoyed this involvement with young people and reluctantly left when he was well over the mandatory retirement age. Not wanting to stop work, from there he continued working in various part time positions including in the state prison system, until his final retirement well into his 70s.[1]

In his obituary it was said that Harry had a long and healthy retirement. He was a person with an enormously strong work ethic, a high sense of duty, strong compassion, and a great love of his family for whom nothing was too much to ask. He had boundless energy - to be idle was unthinkable. Having grown up during the Depression he had a dislike of waste and conspicuous

consumption and in many ways he was an environmentalist well before his time. He lived an interesting, eventful and unselfish life. He died in 2002.[1]

Chapter Ten

Dr John Peter Bush KStJ

Tenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1974-1980

Harry Jackson's premature departure brought Dr Peter Bush to the role of Commissioner. Peter was a medical practitioner although not with a military background.

John Peter Bush was born at Blackheath, London, on 12th February 1923, older son of Frederick Thwaites Bush (1887-1985) and Dorothy (nee Pocock) (1894-1965).[1] His younger brother, David, was born in 1925.

Peter was educated at Dulwich College and St Thomas' Hospital, London, where he graduated LRCP,MRCS in 1945. He was a Resident Medical Officer at St Thomas' in the closing stages of the War, gaining experience in Casualty Department response to war wounded, for which he was awarded a war service medal. He continued his medical education, gaining a Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists in 1947 and MB,BS(Lond) in 1948.[1,2] He also gained a Diploma of Medical Jurisprudence in 1964 which foreshadowed a long-term interest in forensic medicine.

After the war he went into General Practice at Barnstaple in North Devon, where he remained for 18 years, during which he was a part-time Police Surgeon. He joined St John in 1949 as a Divisional Surgeon in North Devon Division after recruitment as a lecturer for First Aid courses. He was admitted to the Order as a Serving Brother in 1959.[1]

In 1947 he married Mary (nee Farnsworth) and they subsequently had three children, Jane Helen (Mrs Sweatman) b.1949, Susan Mary (Mrs Kennon) b.1950, and Charles Martin Peter Bush b.1952

In 1965 the family migrated to Australia primarily for improved prospects for the children but also reflecting a degree

of dissatisfaction with deterioration in the British National Health Scheme. Peter entered a suburban General Practice partnership at Blackburn, Victoria. That year he was promoted as an Officer of the Order of St John in recognition of his service in the UK.[1]

From 1965 to 1967 the major Public Hospitals were engaged in a process of preparation for internal major incidents identified through a colour coding alert system. They were also beginning to plan responses for major external incidents. Peter joined the Australian Medical Association and took an active role in these preparations.[4] He resumed his role of teaching and examining First Aid classes and joined St John as a Divisional Surgeon at Box Hill Division in 1966 [3]

He became a part-time Police Surgeon in 1967 and was actively involved in the training and work of the Search & Rescue squads. Because of this he was promoted to District HQ Staff in 1968. As Chairman of the St John Ambulance Association Centre Committee he became a member of St John Council for Victoria and remained one for the next twelve years.[3] During this time he also served as a Representative Member for Victoria at Priory Chapter meetings. In 1969 he was promoted to the grade of Commander in the Order of St John. That year he co-authored the book, "Rescue Nursing" with Mrs (Bobbie) Massey Davenport.[5]

In his role as Police Surgeon he contributed to the planning of hospital Medical Disaster Teams, the appointment of Area Medical coordinators in 1969 and the simulated disaster exercises in 1970 leading towards the State Disaster Plan, DISPLAN.[4,10]

In 1970 he became District Surgeon when Harry Jackson became Deputy Commissioner to Arthur Burton. As District Surgeon he was actively involved in the training of members, including the annual Commissioner's Conference at Monash University. As District Surgeon, and heavily involved with the Search & Rescue service, he was one of the 85 officers and members who turned out to the Westgate Bridge disaster in October 1970. The years of planning and training were put to the test that day and amply demonstrated their value.[6]

In 1971 Peter gained his Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners but his interests lay more and more in Emergency Medicine. In 1973 he gave up General Practice and became the full-time Director of the Royal Melbourne Hospital Emergency Department.[3] He used this opportunity to emphasise the importance of first aid in accident cases by arranging visits of cadets to the Emergency Department. He held this position for the next four years until, in 1977, he became a full-time Police Surgeon.[2]

In 1972, with Arthur Burton's appointment as Chief Surgeon at National Headquarters and Harry Jackson's appointment as Commissioner, Peter was appointed Deputy Commissioner. In this role he had major responsibility in many major events, including the Sunbury Pop Festivals from 1972 to 1974.These huge pop music festivals ran continuously for three days and nights annually for the three years, attracting huge crowds of young people camping on farmland on the northwestern outskirts of Melbourne. Large numbers of minor injuries and illnesses were treated. There were a few major incidents such as childbirth and a death by drowning.

In 1974, with the resignation of Dr Harry Jackson, Peter was appointed Commissioner of Victoria District. One of his first tasks was to reorganize the Search & Rescue squads which had grown beyond the financial capacity of the organization to sustain them. As noted in Millie Field's book, by 1972 the Search & Rescue section had over 60 fully-equipped rescue vehicles and 50 squads were operating, comprising 600 men. At that time, as a result of help from the Civil Defence Authority, the Rescue section had more trained men and equipment than any similar body in Australia, either professional or voluntary.[7]

It had taken ten years for the service to develop to this point since it was founded by former Police Rescue Officer, Max Phelan, in 1962. It was very popular with its members because



Figure 69 Dr Peter Bush, Director of Royal Melbourne Hospital Emergency Department, demonstrating equipment to St John cadets



Figure 70 Dr Bush with Princess Margaret at Government House

of the excitement of the challenging tasks they were trained to undertake. However, there were serious financial difficulties

facing the service and Peter's appointment as Commissioner was directly aimed at achieving a financially sustainable balance between the scope of the service and its cost. Max Phelan foresaw the end of his dream and resigned as District Superintendent.

Peter integrated the specialist squads into the regular Divisions that hosted them, and the separate identity dissolved as many of the specialist functions were taken over by the newly-formed State Emergency Service. The focus shifted towards the primary role of first aid support for the public and for other emergency service workers in the field.

By 1974 there were regular inter-hospital meetings for disaster planning. Peter was described as "the architect for development of a coordinated hospital response." This included concepts such as one hospital being designated the major receiving hospital, keeping its staff on-site, whilst other hospitals sent their teams out to the disaster area. There were also contingency plans for the call-up of additional staff to augment the regular staff. These meetings moved towards the definitive Medical DISPLAN.[4,10]

In 1975 the Royal visit by Princess Margaret coincided with the Annual Inspection of the Brigade at Government House. As Her Royal Highness was about to inspect the parade there was a heavy downpour which caused the parade to be relocated indoors. The photo shows Peter requesting her to inspect the parade inside the Ballroom. He was to meet her again two years later when he was one of the Australian representatives at the 1977 Jubilee celebrations of the cadet movement held at Hyde Park, London.

In 1976 Peter was promoted to Knight of Grace. In 1977 he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee medal and also in 1977 he achieved his ambition of becoming full-time Police Surgeon in charge of the service.[2]



Figure 71 Dr Peter Bush, Chief Surgeon

He wrote his book, "Rape in Australia" [8] and was elected President 1979-81 of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Forensic Society. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Forensic Science Society in 1982, President of the Medico-Legal Society 1983-84, and President of the Association of Australasian & Pacific Area Police Medical Officers from 1984. He was also on the Board of Management of Victorian Civil Ambulance Service.[1,2,3]

For most of his period as Commissioner, Peter had Dr Allan Beech as his Deputy and Dr Edward Brentnall as his District Surgeon. Allan Beech was a general surgeon at Prince Henry's Hospital and with the Victoria Police. He had previously been District Surgeon of St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria and Chairman of the Victorian Centre Committee of St John Ambulance Association. He might well have been in line to become Commissioner but was nearing retirement age and was persuaded to be an assistant of the newly appointed National Director of Training, Dr Howard Toyne, who was charged with the responsibility of producing an Australian Edition of the St John First Aid textbook. Allan's departure in 1979 left open the position of Deputy Commissioner. A high-ranking military officer, Major-General Francis Eric Poke, was recruited directly into that position.

In 1980, with the resignation of Arthur Burton as Chief Surgeon, Peter was appointed Chief Surgeon at National Headquarters, a position he held for the next four years. Frank Poke became Commissioner of Victoria District and Edward Brentnall became his Deputy.

With the celebrations in 1983 for the Centenary of St John Ambulance teaching of First Aid in Australia (1883-1983), Peter hosted the keynote speaker, Mr Peter London, at the Priory Conference on the topic of the history of first aid.[9] He was also very influential in encouraging Millie Field to write her book on the history of the Order of St John in Victoria.

In 1983 he became a Fellow of the Australian College of Emergency Medicine and in 1984 he was made a Fellow of the Australian Medical Association. In 1986 he received the Medal of the Order of Australia.[1] Peter retired in 1988 and

returned to England where he died on 30th November 1993, aged 70 years.[1]

Chapter Eleven

Major-General Francis Eric Poke AO KStJ RFD ED

Eleventh Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1980-1984

Frank Poke was the first Commissioner not to have been a medical practitioner, although he was a military man. He had been recruited as Deputy Commissioner to Peter Bush, because of his military leadership experience, just a short time before Peter was promoted to National Headquarters as Chief Surgeon.

Francis Eric Poke was born on 26th June 1923 at Wynyard in Tasmania, youngest of eight children of Alfred John Poke, a pastoral bloodstock specialist, and Georgina Poke (nee Burgess). His primary schooling was at Burnie, with secondary schooling at Burnie and, after the War under the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme, at Hobart Technical College.[1] His training was in general commercial studies. While at school he was keenly involved in a range of sports, particularly cricket and running, where he was Public Schools District Junior Champion for three consecutive years 1934-36.[2]

As a Boy Scout during his school years Frank was proficient at morse code. At the age of 18 years he joined an Australian Army Signals unit at Hobart Covering Force, including Coastal Artillery, which sent him to a signals technical conversion course to prepare him for military work. In 1942, at the age of 19 years, Frank enlisted in the AIF, where he initially went to the Signals Training Unit at Bonegilla before later serving in Darwin 1943-44 and the Dutch East Indies 1944-46.[2] Having attained the NCO rank of Corporal, he had been assessed by an Officer Selection Panel and scheduled for attendance at Officer Training School but the war ended before this eventuated. He was demobilized from the Army on 4th July 1946.[3]

Returning home to Wynyard he married Dorothy (nee Leatherbarrow) in 1947 and they subsequently had three children – Susanne Dorothy (Mrs Power) b.1953, John Francis b.1957, and Grant Clifford b.1962. He started work as a Departmental Supervisor in a retail Department Store where, after a short time, he realized that this had limited career opportunities and he successfully applied for a position with Commonwealth Oil Refineries Limited.[1]

He resumed his sporting activities and played District Cricket in Tasmania from 1946 to 1956, and played for Clarence Cricket Club from 1956 to 1959. He was Secretary of Wynyard Cricket Club for six years and President for two. He played "B" Grade tennis and "A" Grade squash and was an "A" Grade Australian Rules Football umpire for the Tasmanian North-Western Football Union 1947-1955. He was also a keen golfer, winning the Kingston Heath Golf Club AIF Trophy three times. In sprinting, he won many events including the 1947 Tasmanian Gift, and was backmarker in the 1951 Stawell Easter Gift finals when placed fourth.[4]

In addition to his family and sporting activities, there were four other major strands in his life at this early stage – his commercial career, the scouting movement, the Army, and Freemasonry. Involvement in St John was to become an additional strand nearing his retirement, accompanied by an increasing involvement in charitable work.

In 1955 he joined Commonwealth Oil Refineries and continued in a range of marketing positions in the petroleum industry until his retirement in 1982.

In 1947 he re-joined as a Scoutmaster in the 1st Wynyard Scout Troop subsequently serving as a Group Scoutmaster and continuing in the scouting movement for over 20 years.[1]

In 1952 he returned to the Army by enlisting in the Citizen Military Forces, continuing for the next 28 years, rising through the ranks to become a Major-General, a particularly rare achievement in the peacetime Army.[2]

In 1953 he joined Freemasonry, progressing through many positions to eventually become Grand Master of the United

Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons in Victoria in 1991.

Each of these strands represents remarkable achievement needing further description before detailing the St John career.

Frank's initial position with Commonwealth Oil Refineries was as Marketing Representative in the northern region of Tasmania. He was subsequently brought to the Tasmanian Branch Head Office in Hobart to be responsible for the metropolitan region and to join the management stream.[2] With the 1953 turmoil between Prime Minister Mossadegh and the Shah of Iran threatening the future of Iranian oil supplies,[5] the Australian Government sold its 51% interest in Commonwealth Oil Refineries to the British Petroleum Company.[6] Frank became Marketing Manager for BP Australia in Tasmania in 1956. The family moved to Melbourne in 1967 with his promotion to National Merchandising Manager for BP Australia.[1]

This position brought him into contact with many influential people in the business world and produced a considerable synergy between his various fields of interest. His business management skills, for example, contributed greatly to his military role which, in turn, impacted greatly on his business connections. He became National Product Development Manager for BP in 1975 and held this position until his retirement in 1982.[2]

Having been a scout during his schoolboy years, it was not surprising that after the war he was induced to undertake a Scout Leader's course and return to his old troop, 1st Wynyard, as a Scout Leader in 1946. His wife, Dorothy, then a registered nurse, was also Leader of a Cub pack. He became a Group Scoutmaster from 1950 until the family moved to Hobart in 1956. He transferred to 1st Lindisfarne Troop until 1960 when work commitments prevented him from continuing although he remained out of uniform on the Group Committee until the family moved to Melbourne in 1967.[1]



Figure 72 Frank Poke (left) training for Stawell Gift



Figure 73 Major FE Poke, exchange officer to US Army 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, 1960.

Frank's wartime experience in the Army opened up a new world. When National Service and Citizen Military Forces were recommenced in the early 1950's he was challenged by the question, "Are not the new recruits entitled to support from experienced people just as you were when you joined?" Believing that he had something useful to offer, he enlisted as a Private in the 12th Infantry Battalion CMF in 1952. Within a year he had been promoted NCO, attended Officer Training and was promoted Lieutenant.[1]

In 1954 he commanded the 12th Infantry Battalion Colour Party at the Queen's opening of Federal Parliament. By 1960 he had been promoted to Major and was given the opportunity to be attached as an exchange officer to USA 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. This period of six weeks of battle group training exercises was part of an ongoing collaboration that underpins the South East Asia Treaty Organization and similar defence agreements. Officers who have this experience clearly have an enhanced value to the Army. He received his Efficiency Decoration in 1964 and the first clasp in 1970, at which time he was promoted to Colonel. In 1971 he was Commander of the 1st Support Group. This had responsibility for all Army Reserve logistics, including transport, ordinance, mechanical and electrical engineers in Victoria.[2]

In 1973 he was promoted to Brigadier, Commander of Southern Command Training Group. This included all Officer Training and command of the University Regiments from which specialist recruitment is of such major importance. In 1977 he was promoted to Major-General, Assistant Commander, Logistic Command, responsible for all Army Reserve matters.[2] In 1979 he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (Military Division) for his outstanding contribution to the peacetime Army.[7]

Two years later, following his retirement from the active list he became Honorary Colonel of Monash University Regiment. This is a ceremonial and mentorship role without command responsibility, bestowed at the Regiment's discretion on an eminent person who will give distinction to the Unit.



Figure 74 Wor Bro FE Poke, Grand Master, United Grand Lodge, AF&A Masons of Victoria.

The following year, 1982, he became Chairman of Trustees of the Officer's Mess at Victoria Barracks and the next year he received the Reserve Forces Decoration.[2]

Frank joined Freemasonry in 1953 in Poulett Lodge at Wynyard and has remained a member ever since. He passed

through the usual introductory degrees to become a Master Mason in 1954, following which he enthusiastically participated in ceremonial tasks towards becoming an office-bearer in the Lodge. This continued when the family moved to Melbourne in 1967 and he transferred to United Service Lodge at Melbourne Masonic Centre in Albert Street, East Melbourne, which includes the Dallas Brooks Hall.[1]

Although feared by some people as a "Secret Society" because of the privacy of its ceremonies and the closeness of its friendship network, Freemasonry is substantially transparent in its work. It has a wide membership base committed to ethical behaviour and charitable community work including hospitals, old people's Homes and benevolent support of people in need. Wikipedia says that Freemasonry is not a religion but membership requires a belief in God and adherence to an honourable code of conduct taught through the metaphor of stonemason's tools in a background allegory of the building of King Solomon's Temple.[8] The ceremonial and fellowship aspects give a richness to what would otherwise be rather routine charitable work. The majority of Lodges, "Craft" Lodges, are open to membership by people of a range of different religions. In addition, there are some specialist Lodges referred to as "Higher Degrees". Some of these have ceremonial appropriate only to Christians because the life of Christ is central to the metaphorical teaching.[1]

Frank actively worked his way through various roles culminating in election as Master of the Lodge in 1981. This inevitably involved him in a number of the charitable activities of Freemasonry. In 1983 he was appointed to the Board of General Purposes, which is the governing board of the organization, responsible for its assets and finances. After two years as a member he was appointed President of the Board in 1985. He was also appointed to a committee preparing for the celebration of the centenary of Freemasonry in Victoria in 1989.[2]



Figure 75 Major-General FE Poke, Assistant Commander, Australian Army Logistic Command.

In 1986 he traveled overseas with the Grand Master who was representative of Victoria for the 250th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. This gave a valuable opportunity to see the different patterns of charitable work done by British Freemasonry. The following year he was installed as Senior

Grand Warden. At the centenary celebration in 1989, the ceremony of installation of the Grand Master was held at the building now called Rod Laver Arena and was open to the public for the first time.[1] Frank was installed as Deputy Grand Master. In 1991 he became Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria for a period of two years.[2]

During his term as Grand Master he represented Victoria at the 275th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England. The photo shows him leaving the floor after having met the Duke of Kent, the Grand Master, at the anniversary ceremony.

In 1991 he also became President of the Freemason's Hospital and the Royal Freemason's Homes for two years[2] and he became Chairman of Trustees of the Freemason's Public Charitable Foundation, a position he held until 2007. Many St John members have been Freemasons over the years, because the ethical principles and ethos of service to others is very similar.

Nearing the compulsory retirement age in his Army career, in 1979 Frank was invited to join St John Victoria District staff as Deputy Commissioner to Dr Peter Bush. A year later, with Peter's appointment as Chief Surgeon at National Headquarters, Frank became Commissioner. He became an ex-officio member of St John Council and a year later was admitted as an Officer Brother of the Order of St John.[9]

The key events during Frank's period as Commissioner were the Ash Wednesday bushfires and the centenary of St John in Australia.[9] The Ash Wednesday fires on 16th February 1983 were the worst bushfire disaster in Australian history, claiming 75 lives and more than 2000 homes.[10] Large numbers of St John volunteers were actively involved in providing first aid to firefighters and civilians, and many were officially recognized by Commissioner's Commendations.



Figure 76 Major-General Poke being invested as a Knight of St John by the Grand Prior, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

The Centenary of St John was acknowledged by the holding of the annual Priory Conference in Melbourne where, a hundred years earlier, a public meeting called by Dr James Edward Neild had resulted in formation of the first Branch of St John Ambulance Association in Australia in 1883.[9]

A year later, in June 1984, Frank was appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner to General Peter Falkland, the Chief Commissioner at Priory Headquarters. From November that year he was Acting Chief Commissioner for several months whilst General Falkland was overseas, during which time Major-General Poke represented Australian St John at the Singapore Golden Jubilee celebrations. In 1986 he was promoted to Commander in the Order of St John.[9]

In 1990, at the end of his second triennium as Deputy Chief Commissioner, Frank was appointed Director of Ceremonies at Priory Headquarters and became a member of the National Board, continuing until age retirement in 1996. He was again Acting Chief Commissioner from February to June in 1990 because of the illness and death of General Falkland. In that year he received his St John Long Service medal. In 1992 he was promoted to Knight of Grace in the Order of St John, with his investiture conducted by the Grand Prior, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.[9,11]

He received the first bar to his St John Service medal in 1997.[9] Although now retired from active duty he remains keenly interested in St John affairs, including participation in events such as the annual Investiture at Government House.



Figure 77 National Safety Council of Australia fleet



Figure 78 John Friedrich, CEO of National Safety Council

Chapter Twelve

Dr Edward William Brentnall MBE CStJ

Twelfth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1984-1987

Dr Edward Brentnall was District Surgeon to Commissioner Peter Bush. When Deputy Commissioner Major-General Frank Poke became Commissioner, Edward became his Deputy. When Frank Poke was promoted to National Headquarters staff, Edward became Commissioner of Victoria District.

Edward William Brentnall was born on.5th August 1929 at Poulton, Lancashire,[1] second son of Dr Charles Gordon Brentnall MC (1886-1972), and Janet Helen (nee Shanks) (1901-1986). He had an older brother, Philip John Brentnall (b.1925) and a younger brother, Andrew David Brentnall (b.1932).[2]

His secondary education was at Highgate School in North London, from where he went to University College and University College Hospital in London to study medicine.[3] UCL had been founded in 1826 as a secular alternative to Kings College, the Anglican college of the University of London, and the religious universities of Oxford and Cambridge.[3] Philosopher, Jeremy Bentham is considered the spiritual father of UCL because of his advocacy for its development. He was the most influential of the Eighteenth Century utilitarians who were the forerunners of British liberalism.[4] The crest of UCH with its motto, "Let reason be our guide", reflects the scientific philosophy underpinning today's preoccupation with "evidence-based medicine".

Dr Brentnall graduated MB,BS in 1952 and was a Resident Medical Officer at University College Hospital from 1952 to 1954.[1]

University College Hospital was rebuilt between 1897 and 1906, designed by Alfred Waterhouse as a five story building in the shape of a St Andrew's Cross, built of deep red bricks and pink terracotta dressings supplied by Doulton. It is in Gower Street,

not far from Euston Station. Recently the hospital has been re-housed in a new building, with the old heritage building converted to a research institute.[5] Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905) was one of the most famous English architects particularly associated with the Victorian Gothic Revival. His most famous building is the Natural History Museum in London.[6]

Called up for National Service in 1954, Dr Brentnall joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to Singapore. He then took a short service Commission and served for three and a half years during the Malayan insurgency. He was awarded the General Service medal (Malaya) in 1954 and the MBE (Military Division) in 1956.[1]

The Federation of Malaya had been formed in 1948, which restored the autonomy of the rulers of the Malay States under British protection. Rebels under the leadership of the Communist Party of Malaya launched guerilla operations designed to force the British out of Malaya. Most of the rebels were ethnic Chinese who had been denied the right to vote at elections, had no land rights to speak of, and were generally very poor.[7] The conflict involved some 40,000 British and Allied troops, with heavy reliance on local soldiers. Most of Dr Brentnall's work was with the families of the Malay soldiers rather than the military personnel themselves.[2] The British aligned themselves with local Malays and eventually defeated the insurgency through strict controls of food supplies, armaments, communications and movements of the rebels, and taking away the rationale for the movement by granting independence to Malaysia in 1957. The insurgency was not finally over until 1960 although in the meantime had been largely overshadowed by the Korean War which started in 1950.[7] Ethnic tensions continued in the Malayan Federation although improved significantly after the expulsion of Singapore from the Federation and its achievement of a separate independence.

In 1955 in Singapore he married Hazel Margaret (nee Otridge) and they subsequently had three daughters : Jane Margaret b.1957, Anna (Mrs Snell) b.1960, Sara (Mrs Wardlaw) b.1962 [2]

In 1957 they returned to Britain where Dr Brentnall was a Medical Officer at the Royal Artillery Depot at Woolwich until

the end of his short service Commission, after which he undertook a Diploma of Obstetrics at Whittington Hospital and entered General Practice in Kent, where he stayed for the next eight years. Many of the older houses had been built in the time of Elizabeth 1. [2] In 1965 the family migrated to Australia where Dr Brentnall entered General Practice in Box Hill, with a particular interest in obstetrics. He remained there for the next nine years. He was also an Honorary Clinical Assistant in obstetrics at Box Hill Hospital.[1] He joined St John in 1967 as a Divisional Surgeon at the instigation of Dr Peter Bush and Dr Alan Davis, then Medical Superintendent at Box Hill Hospital. He was appointed to Waverley Cadet Division, where the Superintendent was Hugh Smith.

As Waverley was the unit where Max Phelan started the Search & Rescue units it was only natural that Max would phone Edward to accompany him to Violet Town when the Southern Aurora train was derailed at high speed causing many casualties.[2,16] As a newcomer to Melbourne, Edward thought that Violet Town was a suburb of Melbourne and was somewhat surprised to find himself on a high speed car trip of several hours duration. Nevertheless, as Max was an ex-Policeman pursuit driver, they arrived considerably earlier than most other rescue services.[2,16] This was a dramatic illustration of the value of the St John Rescue Service, and from that time Dr Brentnall was actively involved with the service.

He attended numerous training exercises with Search & Rescue, was actively involved in teaching and examining in First Aid, for which he was awarded a Priory Vote of Thanks, and was promoted to Corps Surgeon in 1971.[8]

It was in the Search & Rescue role that he was called out to search for teacher, Mary Gibbs, and her six girl students of Faraday Primary School, on 6th October 1972 when they were kidnapped by career criminals Eastwood and Boland.[9] The area was riddled with old gold-mining shafts and regarded as very dangerous. However, Miss Gibbs escaped, the children were rescued and the kidnappers apprehended.[9]

In 1972 he gained his Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners,[1] and two years after that, in

1974, was appointed District Surgeon when Dr Peter Bush became Commissioner.[8] He became a member of the Melbourne Airport Emergency Planning Committee Medical Subcommittee from 1974, and Chairman 1976-81 [1] In 1975 he was made a Serving Brother of the Order of St John.[8]

In 1975, in a major career shift, Dr Brentnall gave up General Practice to become the full-time salaried Director of Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department.[1] This appointment was one of a number of similar appointments that were occurring in major metropolitan hospitals at that time. These acknowledged that the past system of junior staff intermittently monitored by ad hoc attendances of a range of senior staff was not good practice. Improving the quality of emergency care, both within and outside the hospital, became his primary goal for the rest of his career. He would not have made this shift if it had not been for the experience of working with St John and being aware of the precedent of Dr Peter Bush.

Within the hospital he was actively involved in teaching and supervising junior staff. He attended several courses at the Mt. Macedon Counter Disaster College to better prepare for the hospital's role in major events. He was actively involved in regular meetings of the Directors of Hospital Emergency Departments[13] which later became the Victorian Emergency Department Association. In 1979 he became a member of Casualty Services Consultative Council for the Health Commission of Victoria 1979-83 and member of the Counter Disaster Planning Committee.[1]

With the demise of St John Search & Rescue, the gap had been filled by State Emergency Service, Victoria Police and Civil Defence but in 1980 the National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA) was established at the West Sale aerodrome. Because of his expertise in Emergency Medicine, Dr Brentnall was the representative of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on the NSCA, and was invited to join the Board.[2]

By 1989 NSCA had a staff of 430. The inventory of the NSCA included a fleet of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, a flag ship, mini-submarine, training yacht, diving tender and all kinds of rescue boats, cars, trucks and all-terrain vehicles. The

NSCA became a world-class search and rescue organisation, setting the world standard for pararescue and set the world benchmark for hyperbaric services involving the use of portable decompression chambers for patients such as divers suffering from the bends.[10]

The rapid growth and expertise of the NSCA did not save it from its collapse in 1989. Somehow, Chief Executive John Friedrich (later identified as John Friedrich Hohenberger) had founded the whole of the NSCA on a deception. Money lenders, including the State Bank of Victoria, were happy to finance his dream to the tune of some $300 million, believing that the organization was guaranteed by the State Government and that large steel containers at the base were filled with rescue equipment, whereas they were empty. Friedrich disappeared when the fraud was revealed and a manhunt ensued which finally brought him to Court. In 1991 shortly before he was about to plead guilty in the Supreme Court to obtaining property by deception, Freidrich was found dead on his Seaton property with a revolver by his side.[11]

Members of the NSCA Board, including Dr Brentnall, were subjected to legal action by the State Bank of Victoria and then the liquidator to recover $276 million, but it was eventually recognized that the Board were just as much victims of the fraud as had been the Banks, and the matter was settled out of Court by the accountants.[2] This legal action is held up as an example of the liability of Company Directors of not-for-profit organizations, notwithstanding that they may have been appointed for reasons of expertise in functional areas of the organization rather than in corporate management. In Dr Brentnall's case it was his expertise in casualty management.



Figure 79 Dr Brentnall treating a patient in the Emergency Department



Figure 80 Dr Edward Brentnall

The NSCA legal precedent obliging Board members to acquire expertise in corporate management and financial scrutiny has important parallels for St John Council, whose members are also largely chosen for their experience in various functions of the organization.

Dr Brentnall was a member of St John Council for eleven years from 1976 to 1987. He received his Long Service medal in 1978. In 1980 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner when Peter Bush was promoted to National Headquarters staff and Major-General Frank Poke became Commissioner.[8] In 1981 he was sent to Jakarta, Indonesia, as a government representative for the Australian Development Assistance Bureau to advise the main teaching hospital in Jakarta on Emergency Medicine and Disaster Planning.[1] That year he was promoted to the grade of Officer in the Order of St John. He is shown in this photo as one of a large number of members who promoted the development of a transitional phase between cadets and adult membership, known as Interlink.

His role at Box Hill showed the need for consensus on many management issues so he promoted the formation of the Victorian Emergency Departments Association. Box Hill was the first hospital to implement a civilian triage system for patients at the Emergency Department although this concept had been used in military hospitals from the previous century. Other civilian hospitals soon followed suit, and published their conclusions, resulting in this being now the routine procedure.

In 1981 Dr Brentnall was a prime mover in starting the Australian Society of Emergency Medicine by asking other State Associations to collaborate with the Victorian Emergency Departments Association. The greatly increased responsibility of nursing and clerical staff in the triage system was not acceptable in some States so, as a fallback position, he proposed the setting up of the Australian College for Emergency Medicine. This did receive support from all the States and negotiations began. There was a strong push for the College to be a Faculty of the College of Surgeons with its own training and examinations system for membership, but the work clearly included considerable amounts of general medicine, psychiatry, paediatrics and other specialties that did not fit comfortably within the College of Surgeons. The

decision was made for the creation of a separate College, which became a reality in 1984.[12] Dr Brentnall was one of the 73 Founding Fellows.[1,13]

That year he was also heavily involved in Howard Toyne's publication of the first Australian edition of "First Aid" for St John Ambulance Association.[14] He had been asked at a late stage to comment on a draft that included a number of items that were no longer standard practice. His response led to an invitation to join the editorial team. He and District Ambulance Officer Peter McMurtrie made major contributions in a very short time, enabling the production schedule to be met but with a book that was markedly different to the English versions that preceded it.[2]

In 1984 he was appointed Commissioner of Victoria District. The following year he was promoted to the Grade of Commander Brother, which the citation says was "in recognition of his distinguished work and valuable service to the Order of St John and in particular his outstanding contribution to the publication of the First Aid Manual".[15]

After one triennium Dr Brentnall went onto the Retired List in 1987 because of the demands of his role within the College for Emergency Medicine. However, he remained on the St John National Curriculum Committee for a further six years and returned to St John Council for 1996-97 as member responsible for Order Affairs.[8]

Dr Brentnall retired from his post at Box Hill Hospital in 1994. Since then he has served as Locum Director of Emergency Medicine at various hospitals over the next several years including Auckland, Cairns, Perth, Adelaide and suburban Melbourne, and as a consultant advising on developments in Emergency Departments. He still contributes to St John by membership of the Ophthalmic Hospital Committee, attendance at Priory Chapter meetings, and membership of the Advanced Casualty Management Team.

Chapter Thirteen

Colonel Lawrence James Newell CStJ QPM ED

Thirteenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1987-1990

Lawrie Newell had been recruited as a senior officer on District Staff by Frank Poke. When Frank was promoted to National Headquarters and Edward Brentnall became Commissioner, Lawrie was made Deputy Commissioner. He became Commissioner on Edward's retirement.

Lawrence James Newell was born on 12th February 1920 in Reading, Berkshire, England, oldest son of Frank James Newell, a soldier who migrated from England to Australia in 1923 and became a policeman following the disastrous Police strike. Frank Newell had married Ada Miriam Street, and Lawrence was their first child. They had three further sons, Kenneth Cecil b.1926, Phillip Keith b.1930 who became a Bishop of the Anglican church, and Geoffrey Ernest b.1931, d.2005.[1]

Lawrence was educated at Warracknabeal and Carnegie Primary Schools and Tooronga Road Central and Melbourne High School at secondary level.

He joined the militia in 1937 as a gunner in the 3rd Division Artillery and rose to the rank of Sergeant by the start of World War II. However, he had become a trainee in the Victoria Police and was posted as a Constable to Brighton Police Station in 1940. His request for leave of absence to enlist in the armed forces was refused and he was obliged to resign from the militia. He rejoined the 10th Field Regiment of the Royal Australian Artillery Citizen Military Forces in 1948.[1]

Lawrence married Ellen Jean Farrell in 1942. They had three children – Lindy b.1943, Barclay Lawrence b.1944 and Pamela Jean b.1950.

Lawrence remained at Brighton Police Station for five years during which time he was promoted to First Constable in 1946

and became an Assistant Law Instructor at the Police Academy which was then at St Kilda Road. He was posted to Glenhuntly Police Station for a further year before promotion to Sergeant at Russell Street Police Headquarters in 1950 and then back to Brighton for a further three years. From 1953 to 1958 he was in charge of Fawkner Police Station.

In the meantime he had rejoined the Army Reserve and was promoted Lieutenant in 1951, Captain in 1954 and Major in 1957.[1]

At this point, in the Police Force in 1958, he was promoted to Senior Sergeant at the Traffic Branch, then located in the motor garages next to the Old Melbourne Gaol in Russell Street. They were later relocated to Dawson Street, Brunswick, where Lawrie continued in the Traffic Branch for six years until in 1964 he was sent to the Airlie Police Officer College and was promoted to the rank of Inspector. He remained at Airlie for five years as an instructor in Police Operations whilst also being on a rotating roster as Duty Officer at Police Headquarters. As a consequence of this role he was sent as the Police Commander at Portsea when Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared in the ocean in 1967. As Commander, under Displan protocol, he was in charge of the Army and Navy Units deployed to the area, as well as the Police and voluntary units such as the St John Search & Rescue Units.[2]

In the Army Reserve in 1963 Lawrie became Commanding Officer of 2nd Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He continued in this role for four years until appointment to Headquarters Staff where he remained for a further five years before retirement as Colonel in 1972. This period included two months on duty in Vietnam.[1]

In 1969 he was awarded a Fellowship to attend a six month course at the University of New South Wales in management and control of traffic operations. In 1970 he was appointed Director of Studies at the Police College and in the following year he spent three months in the United Kingdom on a Police recruiting campaign before being appointed as Assistant Commissioner (Personnel & Training). In this role he encouraged the expansion of First Aid training throughout the Force and also maintained the

very important liaison between the Police Force and the Brigade in their associated duties. He held this post for three years.[1]

In 1973 he was awarded the Queen's Police medal, presented by Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe in a ceremony at Government House. Next year he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner (Traffic) which he held for a further three years before becoming Deputy Commissioner of Victoria Police in 1977.[1] The Police Commissioner at that time was Sinclair Imrie Miller (known as "Mick"), who was a member of St John Council for Victoria and had been heavily involved with St John Search & Rescue teams for a number of years. Lawrie, too, had had a great deal of contact with the Search & Rescue teams and was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John in 1974.[3]

Lawrie remained as Deputy Commissioner of Police for only a year before retiring from the Force to become Chairman of the Board of the Country Fire Authority. This role involved considerable liaison with municipal councils about their counter-disaster planning, which also involved St John staff. He remained in this role for five years before retirement in 1983. In 1980, while in that role, he was promoted to the grade of Officer in the Order of St John. His citation referred to his "support of Brigade involvement in the State's Disaster Plan activities".[3]

In 1981, while still Chair of the CFA Board, Lawrie was recruited to the Brigade by the Commissioner, Major-General Frank Poke, directly to District Staff as a Grade Two Staff Officer. He remained in that role until June 1984 when he became Deputy Commissioner to Dr Edward Brentnall upon Major-General Poke's promotion to National Headquarters Staff. In 1985 he was made a Commander of the Order of St John. In 1987, on Dr Brentnall's retirement, Lawrie became Commissioner of Victoria District.[3]

In 1987 there was a restructure of St John Corps boundaries to bring them into alignment with the State Disaster Plan regions.



Figure 81 Major Lawrie Newell with members of 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.



Figure 82 Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Lawrie Newell.

This greatly simplified the collaboration between Police, Fire Services, Ambulance Services and communication with local government and State Government authorities involved in DISPLAN. It also greatly reduced the number of liaison meetings required of St John volunteers.[2]

In 1988 the Skills Maintenance Program system developed by the Victorian Training Committee was adopted by National Headquarters as the preferred method of training Brigade members throughout Australia, replacing a Divisional annual re-examination which was known to be educationally ineffective.[4]

Lawrie's tenure came at a relatively stable time in Victoria Centre history compared to the financial 'black holes' of five or six years later. Sir Benjamin Rank had become President and Mr Free Strickland had succeeded him as Chair of St John Council. Mr Peter Wharton was Treasurer of Council and Mr Ken Swanson was Chief Executive officer. Ken was actively advocating a triennial cycle of Strategic Plans underpinned by an annual business plan that directly contributed the components of the subsequent Strategic Plan. All the Branch Heads were actively involved in formulating the Strategic Plan in keeping with the principal objectives of their Branch. Lawrie's highest priorities were for development of an officer Training Program and for planned assistance for Divisional accommodation, equipment and vehicles. The emphasis on Officer Training stemmed from his strongly held belief that future success depended upon leadership above all else.[5]

The Strategic Plan developed by Ken Swanson's consultative method did, indeed, incorporate the goals desired by the Commissioner but subsequent events derailed it. The annual budget had heavy financial commitments and an ambitious plan for generating the necessary income to meet the commitments. When the next Chairman of St John Council, Sir Peter Derham, asked Ken whether he intended to remain as CEO for the long term, Ken promptly found another job. Without an appropriate CEO for about six months at this critical time, the ambitious income targets could not be met.



Figure 83 Lawrie Newell receiving Queen's Police medal from Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe

Costs could not be contained, especially the costs associated with a huge but ineffective fund-raising campaign, and the Centre suffered a million dollar deficit. The previous Strategic Plan was abandoned and it took about five years to reverse the deficit.[6]

None of this was anything to do with Lawrie, but it did substantially prevent his vision being realized, and obscured the

achievements of his time in office. The other event that affected perception was controversy over the award of the National Medal to some Victorian members on the eve of his retirement.

Lawrie had been aware for years that members in South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory had been awarded National Medals concurrently with the award of their St John Service medals and felt that it was an inequity for members in other States not to receive the medals. He studied the Regulations pertaining to the award and concluded that there was no impediment to both awards being made to members. He contacted a friend in the awards secretariat in Canberra to ask if they would regard nominations for the National Medal as inappropriate if St John Service Medals were also being awarded. He was reassured that the Canberra office would not be concerned at such nominations and that as "the Chief Officer" of the organization (the Brigade) in Victoria he would be eligible to sign nominations. Accordingly, he submitted recommendations for the award of the National Medal and bars to about 25 senior members of the Brigade in Victoria, and the awards were duly received.[1]

The Priory Secretary, Charles Campbell, was extremely upset. He felt that the awards were 'double dipping' in that they were for the same service that was recognized by the St John Service medal. He felt that if the Commonwealth Government also took this view it could quite possibly lead to the de-Gazetting of the St John medal as a recognized award. This would mean that the St John medal could only be worn on the right breast instead of the left breast. He was of the opinion that the South Australian situation was different because the members were receiving the National Medal for work undertaken on the professional ambulance service and the St John Medal was for volunteer work in the Brigade, notwithstanding that the two types of work were concurrent. He would not entertain any discussion of the possibility of Victorian St John members having done concurrent work in other Branches.[7]

The Chancellor, Sir Guy Green, issued an edict that the awarded National Medals should be retained, as it would be disrespectful to return them, but that St John Service bars were to be returned in numbers equivalent to the service period for which the

National Medal was awarded. In this way the St John and National Medals would be seen to be for different years of service not concurrent. No further nominations were to be submitted except through Priory Headquarters.[7]

Although a number of the members concerned did comply with the Chancellor's edict there were some members who did not comply because they believed the awards had been legitimately made by the Government for their long years of service and that the edict had no legal basis. Most of those members appear to have received no further recognition from St John. However, a number of members who did return their bars have had them restored by administrative arrangements commencing in 2007, almost 20 years after the event, in an apparent attempt to achieve equality of service recognition across the membership.

Lawrie retired from the Brigade in 1989. In the midst of the controversy surrounding the award of the National Medal he made one further controversial decision relating to his successor. Instead of the expected promotion of his Deputy Commissioner, Dr Alan Davis, Lawrie recommended that his District Surgeon, Dr Allan Mawdsley, become the new Commissioner. Dr Davis had a long history of active involvement with St John at various levels from local Divisional Surgeon through to District Officer, including a period as Chairman of St John Ambulance Association Centre Committee. In the preceding year he had undertaken courses of chemotherapy for a lymphoma. Although obviously unwell during the active treatment phase, Alan had substantially recovered and expected to have an excellent prognosis. Lawrie took the view, however, that Alan's potential was not what he thought would be in the organization's best interests and he decided to make the alternative appointment. Lawrie remained on St John Council for a further year, including a period as Acting Chairman before his final retirement. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1990.[3]

Chapter Fourteen

Dr James Allan Mawdsley KStJ

Fourteenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1990-1993

This chapter is about my period as Commissioner. The biographical papers underpinning this book have all been written from the point of view of a third person observer but it seems pretentious to talk about yourself that way. Therefore, I'll write this chapter in the first person mode, hoping that readers do not find this change too disconcerting.

I was born on 24th January 1938, son of James Mawdsley (1912-1994) and Thelma Matilda (nee Floyd) (1914-2003). My younger sister, Sandra, was born in 1942. My primary school education was at Hughesdale State School, which had been in open paddocks during my pre-school years but was experiencing the post-War Housing Commission influx by the time I was half way through. My secondary education was at Melbourne Grammar because my father, a foreman in a truck-building factory at the time of my enrolment, felt strongly that the financial sacrifice was essential to give me the best possible educational opportunity.[1]

From a very early age I was determined to become a doctor. Apart from obsessively reading the huge medical almanac that graced my Godmother's bookshelf, there seemed to be no way of speeding up the process of becoming a doctor except, perhaps, the gaining of some First Aid experience by joining St John Ambulance Cadets. I was able to do this in 1949, on the meeting night immediately after my eleventh birthday, the earliest date allowed.[2] This was at Malvern Division, a one penny tram ride from my grandparent's house where I boarded for the duration of my secondary schooling. By this time my parents ran a General Store in the Kinglake area of Central Victoria.

Being in Cadets offered a wonderful opportunity to learn about medical things and to attend a great many St John duties, including the memorable Grand Prix won by Stirling Moss. This continued with transition to the Adult Division in time to attend the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. The Cadet Superintendent at Malvern was Ern Madeley, who became District Officer in charge of Cadets. The Adult Divisional Superintendent was Norman Billing, who became District Superintendent then Chief Superintendent at Priory Headquarters. The Divisional Surgeon was Dr Arthur Burton, who became Commissioner in Victoria and later, Chief Surgeon. None of these future promotions to high office meant anything to cadets of the day, whose horizon was strictly limited to the members of the local Division.[2]

In time, success at Year Twelve led to enrolment at Melbourne University Medical School and, after the pre-clinical years, appointment as the first St John Probationary Surgeon in Victoria. This was with Malvern Cadets, and was a fruitful experience of teaching young people that was a fore-runner of later professional tasks. University long vacation employment was with Victorian Civil Ambulance Service which was still at the old Lonsdale Street Headquarters previously shared with St John Ambulance, where it had been since the photo taken in 1916. This work, together with an induction into 15th National Service Battalion and subsequent Citizen Military Forces membership of No.3 Psychology Unit, somewhat limited the St John activities for several years.[1] Nevertheless, I received a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1962 and the St John Long Service medal in 1964.[2] I graduated MB BS in 1963. This led to appointment as Divisional Surgeon at Malvern Division.

I was an intern at Alfred Hospital in 1964. In 1965 there were short periods at Royal Womens and Royal Childrens Hospitals and a brief period in general practice before starting postgraduate specialist training in psychiatry.[1] In 1967 I was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John.[2]

In late 1968, shortly before going overseas, I married Noelle Anne Medlyn b.1940 and we subsequently had two children – David John b.1970 and Caroline Louise b.1973.[1] After I had completed a Diploma of Psychological Medicine at University

of Melbourne and an Arts Degree majoring in psychology, my wife and I migrated to Canada in 1969 so that I could undertake postgraduate training in child psychiatry at the University of Toronto's Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. At that time there was no training program in child psychiatry in Melbourne.

Returning to Melbourne in 1971 I was made a member, and later a Fellow, of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. I joined the Mental Health Department as a Consultant Child Psychiatrist at Dandenong Psychiatric Centre for five years until appointment as Psychiatrist Superintendent at Observatory Clinic, located next door to Government House. In 1972 I was appointed by the Electoral College of the Hospital as the first Visiting Specialist Child Psychiatrist to the Alfred Hospital.[3] That year I was promoted to the Grade of Officer in the Order of St John.[2] The Observatory Clinic role also incorporated the position of Coordinator of Child Psychiatric Services, principal advisor to the Government on child and adolescent mental health matters. I held this position for the next nineteen years until, with the Kennett Government's mainstreaming of psychiatric services to public hospital management in 1995, I became Director of the Alfred Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. I remained there until my retirement in 2002.[3]

At the clinic I ran a specialist program for Learning Disabilities for more than twenty years and was heavily involved in services for children with autism. I was made an Honorary Life Member of Autism Victoria in 2005 for services to the network. In 1998 the Alfred Child Psychiatry Service gained the Gold Award of the Mental Health Services Conference of Australia, presented by Sir Ronald Wilson. For more than three years our Service had been able to provide immediate intake without a waiting list whereas most services had a waiting time in excess of three months. This was done by a careful allocation of casework time for new cases balancing the time needed for ongoing cases.



Figure 84 Cadet Mawdsley in grey flannel Lancer-fronted uniform of the day.



Figure 85 St John and Victorian Civil Ambulance Headquarters in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, shared for almost forty years.

Shortly before my retirement I was awarded two Alfred Hospital Certificates of Achievement for "Advancing the Practice and Science of Health Care" and "Furthering the Tradition of Public Service".[4] This was a particularly gratifying award as it was achieved over the nominations of other prestigious Alfred Hospital services such as the Cardiac Surgery Unit.

For the whole of my professional career, in addition to administering the clinical service I was heavily involved in psychiatric training, particularly for postgraduates. I was appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry at Melbourne University, and as a Lecturer then Senior Lecturer and subsequently an Associate of the Department of Psychological Medicine at Monash University. I was a member for six and Chair for two years of the Committee for Advanced Training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. In earlier years I had also been a Committee member of the Victorian Branch of the College's Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for many years, including several years as Chairman.[1]

After our return from Canada in 1971 I resumed my position as Divisional Surgeon at Malvern. I became actively involved in lectures and examinations of St John Ambulance Association and joined the Centre Committee in 1973.[5] I was also invited to join St John Council for Victoria. In 1975 I became Corps Surgeon for No5 Corps, involving Divisional Inspections and Annual Re-examinations of members. This led to some experiments with large group examinations of practical first aid skills using objective marking sheets over a range of specified tasks, demonstrating greatly improved reliability and validity over the former system of random task assignment without standardized marking sheets.[6] The new approach, somewhat akin to Competition marking, was written up in "White Cross", the St John Journal, in 1977 and subsequently implemented in other Corps for comparison. After discussion with colleagues in the Training Committee, it became a platform for the Brigade Annual Re-examination in Victoria. It was then further elaborated by the Victorian Training Committee to be a training

program spread over the year with progressive assessment of topics covered, rather than a single examination event. It proved to be so successful in this format that from 1987 it was adopted by National Headquarters as the Skills Maintenance Program for use throughout Australia.

In 1977 I was invested as a Commander in the Order of St John.[2] In the following year I became Chair of the Victorian Centre Committee of the Association, holding the post for five years until 1982. This was in the fairly early days of computerization of business practice, and I was actively involved in the planning and implementation of the first computerized class booking system. I was also a strong advocate for extension of computerization to many other areas of St John work.[7,15] I chaired a Working Party which submitted a comprehensive specification of data collection, processing and reporting needs for the whole organization which is only now being achieved 25 years later.[7] The plan was partially implemented for class bookings and financial management but data-processing for volunteer work was deferred, only to be later managed through a separate system not integrated with the main system. The work on computerization was mentioned in the citation for promotion in the Order.[7]

However, probably the most important achievement was a careful financial analysis of the costs of running public first aid classes, leading to a doubling of class fees from $20 to $40 in order to employ paid instructors at Council of Adult Education rates.[16] This was accompanied by an accreditation process for instructors. We employed Dr Robyn Anker to develop an educationally sound instructional program and Instructor Accreditation program for public first aid classes.[8] Public acceptance of the improved standards was excellent, with significant increases in class throughput, but there was bitter opposition from rank and file St John members against the fee increases, through fear of competition by Red Cross continuing to use the old voluntary lecturer system. The fears were unfounded because Red Cross Society raised its fees to parity with St John. However there was a bitter exchange of correspondence when I declined to support Red Cross claims of equivalence of standards when we were following a rigorous

and costly process of instructor accreditation and they were not.[12]

Leslie Thorogood, a long-time St John member, then Chief Executive Officer of Red Cross in Victoria, invited me to a meeting at which he explained that it was in the Red Cross Charter that they were required to teach First Aid. His quest for agreement about certificate equivalence would make it simpler for the members of the public who had to show they were qualified. Unfortunately, it also put St John at a serious cost disadvantage in the process of raising instructional standards. This was the only significant source of income for St John whereas Red Cross also had sources of income related to their Blood Bank activities and their huge annual public charitable appeal. I indicated that I would support a statement of equivalence if Red Cross also committed itself to similar accreditation standards. Although Les was not able to give that undertaking on the day, Red Cross instructional standards did subsequently follow a similar progression. However, I was never asked again about equivalence because correspondence to long-time Red Cross supporters such as Sir Kingsley Norris at National St John Headquarters was able to achieve the statement of equivalence at a national level without having to consider the implications of this at the State level.

When Dr Brentnall's Working Party assisted Dr Howard Toyne to publish the first Australian edition of the St John First Aid textbook, I was asked to contribute Chapters 21 and 22 on mental and emotional disturbances and substance abuse.[9]

In 1983, at the end of my period as Chairman of St John Ambulance Association Centre Committee, now called Training Branch, I was appointed as a District Staff Officer in the Brigade. I remained on the Association Centre Committee as Deputy Chair for five years until after my appointment as District Surgeon of the Brigade in 1986.[2]



Figure 86 Commissioner, Dr Allan Mawdsley

In 1986 I wrote a paper for St John Council entitled, “Financial goals towards the Year 2000”, in which I advocated a strategic plan based upon specified training targets to be implemented over the subsequent decade. The proposal was seen as too ambitious for implementation but it was agreed that a corporate plan was necessary and Council did develop its first Strategic Plan shortly afterwards.[10] Notwithstanding the scepticism, the income and expenditure forecasts had substantially been

achieved by 2005. The asset acquisition forecasts suffered badly because of the million dollar fund-raising "black hole" of the mid-1990s. In 1988 I was invested as a Knight of Grace in the Order of St John.[2]

The role of Secretary of St John Ambulance Association (Victoria Centre) had evolved into CEO of a modest business corporation and the role of St John Council had evolved into the Board of Management of that corporation. Initially the Secretary post had been entirely honorary but after WW II a significant honorarium was paid until the 1970s when the post became that of salaried General Manager. The year 1989 was a watershed year in the history of St John in Victoria. Ken Swanson became the first specifically designated Chief Executive Officer, assisted by subordinate managers for Training and for Volunteer Services. This marked a conscious shift to corporation mode.

The Board, too, had evolved. In early decades the Chairman was a distinguished member of the St John Ambulance Association Committee running a modest voluntary organization. Now the Chairman of the Board is responsible for a multi-million dollar corporate enterprise that has a great many salaried and volunteer contributors. The Chairman, particularly, and the Board generally, requires a very different business management expertise to that of the early decades. This was recognized in the 1980s revision of the SJAA (Vic) constitution requiring appointment of suitably qualified Chairmen recruited from outside the organization, assisted by a Deputy who is an experienced senior member of the St John community to contribute a St John perspective. Appointed members with legal, marketing and business experience are aided by Branch Heads, Order Affairs representative and elected members to provide both specialist and St John experience.

Ken Swanson put in place the first Strategic Plan with a triennial renewal cycle supported by three intermediate annual Operating Plans.[18] The Board was heavily involved in the formulation of the Plan in a weekend retreat at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens. The monthly reporting at Board meetings was geared to the goals of the Plan. Key features included ambitious targets for increased training revenue, volunteer

recruitment and professional fundraising activities, and a strong emphasis on regionalisation. The regional centers were to have accommodation not only for volunteer first aiders but also training facilities aimed at financial self-sufficiency.

In 1990 on the retirement of Lawrie Newell, I was appointed Commissioner. With Norman Jackson as Deputy, Kaye Woods as District Superintendent, and Dr Jeffrey Wassertheil as District Surgeon, every one of the Senior Officer Group had begun as cadets and given more than twenty years of service.[2] There was, however, an immediate controversy to resolve. The former Commissioner had nominated 27 Victorian members for award of the National medal, including me. The Priory Executive deemed that the award was for service already recognized by the St John Service medal and requested the return of bars equivalent to the period covered by the National Medal award.[11] I had received the Long Service Medal in 1964 with Bars in 1969, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991. The third, fourth and fifth Bars were returned to Priory Headquarters upon award of the National Medal because, although disagreeing with the reasoning of the Priory Executive, I saw it as unconscionable for a Commissioner to disobey a Priory instruction.

It was a particularly busy triennium. Public duties were at a very high level. Enthusiasm for training was strong and Victoria swept the pool at the Darwin Priory Competitions. A number of major administrative changes were initiated. Regional boundaries were re-aligned in keeping with a review of State Disaster Plan regions to simplify the agency coordination tasks. Processes were commenced to consolidate the Divisional bank accounts into a common system to facilitate auditing and financial accountability and improve investment of savings. The system of annual inspections was changed to a management-by-objectives self-monitoring system called “Standards of Excellence”.[13] This was primarily the brainchild of Deputy Commissioner Norman Jackson, who also introduced hand-held electronic data-recorders to simplify and standardize the Divisional inspection system in keeping with the Standards.

A vehicle policy was established, as was a communications network and equipment policy. All of these changes were difficult to implement because of general resistance to change, and some were not finally achieved until into the next triennium.

One of the great weaknesses of volunteer contribution is the irregularity of availability for routine daily tasks. The appointment of salaried employees to support volunteers through processing of administrative tasks, attendance at liaison meetings and the implementation of decisions made at various committee meetings, hugely improves the effectiveness of volunteer contributions. This form of support is ideally suited to volunteer organizations as it allows experienced volunteers to assume leadership roles with part-time availability.

The appointment of Malcolm Carson as the first full-time salaried Volunteer Services Manager in 1990 was a landmark in the development of the First Aid Services Branch. Malcolm became available to St John because of the compulsory retirement provisions of the Australian Army where he had been a Major in the supply department. His abilities and experience were ideal for the position.

One controversial policy related to the cost of providing services. The basic policy was that St John Services were provided free of charge but that money would be donated to cover costs. Some event organizers seemed to be of the opinion that minimal donations were called for because the volunteers were unpaid. Some of the local units were belligerent about the size of donations expected because they had been exploited by event organizers. I undertook a survey of the costs of equipping and running a representative sample of the local units, the training of members and costs of running vehicles, divided by the hours of service provided, in order to calculate the average cost per hour of service. The conclusion was that unless event organizers gave donations of more than $5.90 per person per hour and $8 per vehicle per hour (1990 prices), the donation would not be covering the costs of attendance. Members were informed that it was legitimate to use this information in discussions with event organizers.[17]

Soon after the conclusions were promulgated, the Priory Secretary contacted the CEO to say that it was against St John principles to charge for first aid services at events and that specification of the expected donation could be seen as a commercial charge for services. This could lead to legal problems around breaches of implied contracts for service. Our response was that our services are supplied free of charge but that event organizers need to know what it is costing us for their donations to be realistic. This practice has subsequently become routine, and donations are generally more realistic today.

The topic that generated the most anxiety was a triennial appointments policy whereby positions would be held for only three years.[14] The position would then be advertised for expressions of interest. Office-holders could re-apply for their positions every three years but would be limited to a maximum of two re-appointments (nine years total) in any one position. This was aimed at encouraging succession-planning, mobility of appointments, career pathway development and a conscious effort to meet the requirements of Duty Statements. In reality, promotional movement is common and it is quite uncommon for anyone to stay in any leadership position for more than nine years. However, the concept of a "sunset clause" produced considerable panic. There were fears that people would be pushed out of positions that could not then be satisfactorily filled, thereby causing the organization to collapse. No examples could be found where this actually produced any problems but the fear was considerable.

In January 1993 when recommendations for Senior Position triennial appointments were being considered, the Chief Commissioner indicated that concerns had been expressed at the leadership in Victoria District. Although discussion did not identify any unresolved issues, the Chief Commissioner nevertheless decided to appoint a new Commissioner for the coming triennium. This was somewhat of a disappointment to the incumbent team as there was important unfinished business. The Chief Commissioner asked for a recommendation for the new appointment. After a short process of canvassing expressions of interest, a recommendation was made which was

accepted and implemented. The Chief Commissioner, however, deemed the process of "expressions of interest" for Commissioner to be inappropriate as these appointments were traditionally made by senior officers without consultation. Interestingly enough, a decade later this very process was implemented for several Priory vacancies, including the position of Chancellor, which was then occupied by that same former Chief Commissioner.

In 1993 I was made an Honorary Life Member of Training Branch for past services.[2] Following the end of my period as Commissioner in 1993 I was appointed Victorian Chair of the Ophthalmic Hospital Branch. In addition to the usual fund-raising for the Hospital, Victoria sent a newly-graduated ophthalmic surgeon (Dr John O'Shea) and the first optometrist (Neil Shuey) for twelve months each, and two optometry trainees (Rebecca Jamieson and Nicole de la Perelle) for a few weeks to the Hospital. These were the last Australian volunteers for many years because the intifada began the next year and it became too dangerous to send people. The photo shows Dr O'Shea, the trainees and the Priory Hospitaller, Professor Gerard Crock. I continued as Chairman of the Hospital Committee, and on St John Council, for six years until 1999.



Figure 87 St John Council 2006

(L-R) Scott McMurtrie, Rod Collins, Dorothy Bache, Stephen Horton, Robin Syme, Iain Nicolson, Peter Cudlipp, Bob Miller, Margaret Kentler, Allan Mawdsley, Neil Dine.



Figure 88 Lecturer at University of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In 1999 I was appointed Deputy Chair of St John Council for the triennium and later re-appointed for a further triennium. In 2005 I was appointed Victorian Director of Ceremonies for the triennium.[2] At this point, having commenced in 1973, I had been a member of St John Council for more than thirty years, a most unusual occurrence given the triennial appointments system and the reduction in number of Council members. I had also been Head of three of the four Branches at one time or another.

After my retirement from employment in 2002 I became a member of the St John Historical Society and Honorary Secretary of the Victorian St John Library/Museum Committee. This volunteer work has occupied a major part of my available time. The vacant St John hall formerly occupied by Williamstown Division was established as the Museum and officially opened by the Premier in 2004. The Museum is the

Archive of St John Victorian records, and considerable work has been devoted to obtaining comprehensive collections of past Minutes and publications as well as photographs and other memorabilia. The exhibits are designed to be interesting and informative, regardless of any previous knowledge of St John organization. Pamela Willis, the Curator of St John's Gate Museum in London, visited our Museum during her travel to Australia in 2006. However, most visitors are not of the St John community.

In my non-St John time, I also continue an interest in my former profession of child psychiatry. In 2003 I was invited to present a week long series of seminars and workshops on autism and learning disabilities at the University Hospital of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. My voluntary work in the child mental health field is mainly by Presidency of the community-based lobby group, Mental Health for the Young and their Families (Victorian Group). Through this I became a member of the Organizing Committee in Melbourne 2006 of the 17th Congress of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions, the biggest and most important child psychiatry conference in the world. I have also been a trustee for more than twenty years of the Creswick Foundation, a charitable trust supporting projects in the field of child development and mental health. Through these activities I am able to continue contributing to the two major interests of my lifetime, child mental health and St John.

Chapter Fifteen

Donald Leslie Fraser KStJ

Fifteenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1993-1999

At the time of his appointment as Commissioner, Don Fraser was just completing his seventh year as Chairman of the Centre Committee of St John Ambulance Association (which had been renamed "Training Branch"). He was a long-time member of St John Ambulance Brigade (which had been renamed "Operations Branch), having come up through the ranks since joining as a cadet. He had always been interested in organizational management and his primary allegiance had been to the volunteer first-aiders but he had spent the previous decade in the administration of training. His appointment as Commissioner was the first occasion when the appointee was neither a doctor nor a military officer. His expertise was in administration and financial management.

Donald Leslie Fraser was born on 18th January 1945, the only child of William Donald Fraser (1909-1989) and Sophia Josephine Blanche (nee Blizzard) (1907-1988). His early years were at Fairfield, Victoria, with primary schooling at Fairfield State School and secondary schooling at Collingwood Technical College for four years and Box Hill High School for the final three years.[1]

Don joined Camberwell Division St John cadets on 22nd June 1959,[2] quickly passing his examinations and in 1961 becoming the first person in Australia to be appointed as a Cadet Leader.[1,4] He passed his adult first aid certificate early in the following year and later that year was appointed Cadet Divisional Officer.[2]

In 1964 he began as a clerical officer in the Glen Waverley Branch of the National Australia Bank, starting a career pathway in the Bank which was to last almost forty years until his retirement in 2002. His early promotional path led in

various locations from clerical officer to ledger examiner, teller, Manager's assistant, accountant and, in 1988, to his first appointment as Branch Manager at the Middle Camberwell Branch. After a period of long service leave in 1989 he spent several years as a Relieving Manager and on assignments as a Manager or Accountant to resolve crisis situations arising in some Branches. For the final eight years of his career he was involved in specialist risk management appraisals for the Bank. The restructuring of the Bank in 2002 gave an advantageous opportunity for early retirement. His experience with business financial management was of considerable importance to his St John career.[1]

After four years as Divisional Officer, Don was appointed Cadet Divisional Superintendent of Camberwell Ambulance Cadet Division in October 1966.[2] By this time he was heavily involved with cadet camps and activities. Together with fellow cadet officers David Myers and D.A ("Daffy") Fraser, Don was instrumental in forming the "Road Runners", a small mobile group of cadet staff who took responsibility for practical management of cadet events. They arranged such things as food and accommodation, camp set-up, tent erection, parking and vehicle and site security. They were also involved in the activities program and helped to break down the autocratic adult versus young people attitude that was common to many youth organizations of that time.[1]

The Road Runners were so effective over a period of several years that Max Phelan, then District Officer in charge of the Search & Rescue squads, persuaded them to extend their roles and group membership to form the "Security Patrol" of the Search & Rescue service. They performed similar tasks but with a greater emphasis on vehicles. The vehicle safety issues led to development of the St John Driving Certificate course.

In 1972 Don married Jan Quigley, a fellow St John member who was Divisional Superintendent of Camberwell Nursing Cadet Division. The Nursing Cadets and Ambulance Cadets met in different rooms in the same venue at the same time. Don and Jan introduced combined training and social activities for the two groups in an era when total segregation of male and

female members was expected. It was more than a decade later before combining the memberships became fashionable.

Don and Jan subsequently had two children : Sharon Maree Fraser b.1977 and Brian Donald Fraser b.1979.[1]

Don received his St John Long Service medal in 1972. Shortly afterwards, on 30th January 1973, he was appointed Corps Officer (Cadets) for number Six Corps. However, this appointment only lasted a little over a year before he was promoted to District Officer Grade 3 as one of the cadet leadership group on Headquarters Staff with Richard Bluck and Herb Atkinson.[2] An early task was the revision of curricula and standards for Proficiency Badges towards the Grand Prior's Badge. In 1976 he was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John.[3]

It was about this time that he and Jan obtained their first four-wheel drive vehicle and went on extended off-road journeys through Central Australia. A particular interest has been in following the desert pathways of early Australian explorers, which has included retracing the northern loop of the Madigan Line and reaching the geographic center of the Simpson Desert. The Madigan Line was the route taken by Dr C.T.Madigan crossing the Simpson desert on foot from near Alice Springs to Birdsville. Madigan named the desert after his sponsor, A.A.Simpson, a leading South Australian industrialist and President of the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia. It is regarded as the most difficult desert crossing in Australia with around 400km of off-road travel and in excess of 800 sand dunes to cross.[5]

In 1977 Don received the first bar to his Long Service medal. That year he was promoted to District Officer Grade 2, as District Officer (Ambulance Cadets) and was actively involved in Cadet Divisional inspections.[2] A major task was the development of Cadet NCO training courses.[6] He also worked with Richard Bluck and Norman Jackson on a set of papers looking at the roles and functions within the cadet movement and making recommendations about a restructuring the headquarters administration. The papers were presented to the Commissioner, Dr Peter Bush, and implemented in 1979.[7]

A central part of this process was the discontinuation of separate nursing cadet and ambulance cadet administration. The separation had effectively meant that girls had been excluded from adventure activities, camps and NCO courses that ambulance cadets had enjoyed. Integration was an important step towards equality for girls. This also indicated a change of focus towards St John hosting an integrated youth movement rather than cadets merely being young recruits of adult Divisions.

In 1981 he joined St John Ambulance Association Centre Committee as the Honorary Treasurer when Dr Alan Davis became Chairman. While in this role he was asked by the Chair of St John Council, Freeman Strickland, to suggest a new model for the co-ordination of the major Branches by paid professional staff. For a period of six months he became Volunteer General Manager to implement the changes, culminating in the appointment of Ken Swanson as the first salaried Chief Executive with subordinate managers for volunteer administration and commercial first aid training.[8]

Don continued as Treasurer of Centre Committee for five years until being appointed Chairman in 1986. He remained as Chairman of Training Branch, as it was then renamed, for the next seven years. He received the second bar to his Long Service medal in 1982 and became a member of St John Council from 1983.[2]

During his tenure of Training Branch there were several main concerns besides the ever-present challenge of maximizing the number of certificates issued. First was the residual difficulty in ensuring that all instructors were properly trained and accredited. This process had been gradually evolving since Dr Mawdsley's term as Chairman when he employed Dr Robyn Anker to develop Instructional manuals and a training and accreditation program.[9] Implementation of the program on an ongoing and universal basis had yet to be achieved.[10,11] The other main issue was collaboration with Operations Branch in provision of member training in a variety of specialist programs hitherto provided internally by volunteer first-aiders of the Branch. Don was particularly conscious of the importance of breaking down the barriers between the Branches. His theme

was that training is best delivered by properly equipped trainers rather than by diverting members from their normal duties.[12] This issue was taken up more strongly more than a decade later by the Chancellor under the theme of "One St John", but there was considerable resistance to a "professional" approach, particularly from another Branch. Part of the resistance arose from historic competitiveness between the Branches.

St John had begun teaching in Victoria from 1883 as an overseas Centre of St John Ambulance Association. The Association Committee was the St John Council. The Brigade began as an incidental project of the Association in Victoria in 1910 alongside the Association's other projects, such as running the Ambulance Service. Apart from the announcement of its commencement there was virtually no mention of the Brigade in St John Annual Reports for the next forty years, despite the fact that it had grown in size and importance to outshine the Association in the public image.[13] The Priory in Australia recommended that all States restructure their Councils to correct this anomaly.[14,15] After the 1953 revision of the Victorian St John Constitution giving Council membership representation and equivalent prominence to both Branches, there was considerable separation between the two Branches, although never the open warfare that was seen in some other States. The Brigade became the dominant influence and had come to show an exaggerated degree of independence which Don felt should be balanced by an emphasis on the importance of other Branches.

One small example of this was wearing of civilian clothes when representing St John Training Branch at functions where many others wore uniforms. In 1985, whilst serving on Training Branch Centre Committee, he was promoted to Officer Brother in the Order of St John.



Figure 89 Cadet Officers Jan and Donald Fraser



Figure 90 Don Fraser (Chair of Training), Free Strickland (President), and Ken Swanson (CEO).

In 1987 he received the third bar to his Long Service medal. This was the year that St John Ambulance Association became

Training Branch and St John Ambulance Brigade became Operations Branch as the functioning of the Priory of St John in Australia was reviewed and proposals made for the organization as a whole to change to a federal corporate structure. Don received his fourth bar in 1992. That year, having been a Training Branch representative on St John Council for nine years, he was appointed Deputy Chair of Council when Sir Peter Derham was Chair. He held this role for four years until the end of his first triennium as Commissioner. In 1991 he was promoted to the Grade of Commander in the Order of St John.[2]

In 1993 Don was appointed Commissioner of Victoria District.[2] At this point he had been a member of St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria) for 34 years. Although he had spent the previous 12 years primarily in Training Branch, he commented that he had always seen his future as a uniformed member.[1] His District Superintendent was Joan Patterson who had just completed her second triennium at National Headquarters as Chief Officer (Cadets). His District Surgeon was Dr Rodney Fawcett.

An early task was development of a manual of Standard Operating Procedures as a basis for his emphasis on Operations Branch Senior Officers being managers of the lower-ranking officers who were to ensure that the duties were carried out in a consistent way.[16] Linked with this was an expanded role for members in more advanced treatments, such as Asthma management protocols using Ventolin and advanced life support treatments, which were previously outside the scope of St John training and insurance.

Limitations on the number of hours of work that could be performed by members precipitated some shortages of available staff for some duties, which was counteracted by enabling some accredited training staff to participate in public duties alongside uniformed members.

Promotion of the cadet movement as a fully fledged youth organization was promoted through the involvement of the youth section in activities outside the St John structure. In particular, the cadet section became involved in the “Young Achievers” scheme and St John had considerable success with several young

members being placed in the finals. The implementation of the Peter Falkland 'Cadet of the Year' awardee being appointed as the Aide to the Commissioner was another highlight for the youth movement. The Duke of Edinburgh Award was another external youth activity. The cadet section participated in the Kennett Government's Victorian Youth Development Program and was successful in obtaining several new schools Divisions.

In 1994 a financial crisis occurred.[18] The Chairman of St John Council, Sir Peter Derham, asked Ken Swanson whether he intended to continue as CEO for the long haul now that he had completed his Master of Business Administration course. Ken promptly found another job and left. This was in the middle of an ambitious and challenging strategic plan. The acting CEO was unable to achieve the income targets and unable to control the costs, particularly of the freelance fundraiser who spent two million dollars to raise one million. As a result, the organization had a one and a half million dollar shortfall that took years to recover. The next CEO, Ian McPherson, did a fine job of restoring financial stability but the impact on the Operations Branch was severe. Ian Mc Pherson left for health reasons near the end of Don's first triennium and was replaced by Sue Renkin.[2]

The chart of years 1995-2006 shows several important points about St John finances.[18] The columns above and below the centre line represent income and expenditure whilst the black line represents the nett surplus.

- The first point is that there is a large and growing income over the years, from $7.8m in 1996 to $14.3m in 2006, an increase of 83%. This was closely matched by a large and growing expenditure (mainly due to increasing staff costs) from $8.3m in 1996 to $14.3m in 2006, an increase of 73%. This leaves a relatively small annual surplus which can very easily become a significant financial loss if not carefully governed. In 1994, the first year on the chart, this loss was one and a half million dollars. Over the decade there was a total surplus of only $0.9m , or seven tenths of one percent of the turnover. This is not good business management.

- The second point is that Divisional income and expenditure (shown in the small red columns) is fairly stable, with very small surpluses that are mostly channeled into assets. Divisions aim to do this.
- The third point is that Operations Branch Headquarters expenditure is customarily greater than its income (shown in the pale columns) but is quite modest in relation to the overall income and shows some potential for self-sufficiency if it were not for new capital expenditure.

Notwithstanding the marginal profitability of activities over the decade the value of assets reported in annual reports rose from $4.3m in 1995 to $10.5m in 2006, an increase of 140%. Two thirds of these assets are held by local suburban units.[2]

Don's first triennium began at a time of significant financial stringency. Efforts were made to formulate an appropriate budgetary strategy. A somewhat controversial change was the introduction of Capitation Fees. Don felt that members and their Divisional Officers were not sufficiently aware of the considerable work and money contributed to Operations Branch by Headquarters, amounting to some three quarters of a million dollars per annum, and that they would be more conscious of it if they were required to pay an annual fee towards the services they received. It was hoped this would reduce the "handout" mentality and encourage more involvement in defining the services that were necessary. Money received would be included in the Operations Branch budget and used for further service delivery.

The policy did have a considerable impact. Divisions immediately ceased padding out their enrolment numbers with inactive members and the number of recorded members fell by 25%. The revenue from fees did not meet budget targets and there was robust debate with Russell Sincock, the Chair of the Finance Committee about how to resolve the financial difficulty.[17] Among Divisions there was also some resentment at having to pay fees for what was previously provided without charge.



Figure 91 Commissioner Donald Fraser

However, the problems gradually resolved and the interaction between Divisions and Headquarters was significantly more active. Despite the financial squeeze there were two further changes of major significance.

Arthur Uren was appointed in September 1995 as a salaried District Duty Officer to co-ordinate duties on a statewide basis, to represent the organization at various planning meetings and to

give a one-person contact where necessary for liaison with major duty clients and the various emergency organizations. This was the second full-time staff member for support of volunteers and represented a continuation of the trend for a professional core within the volunteer organization.

Another watershed event in Operations Branch history was the appointment of Alan Fry as the first full-time salaried District Superintendent. For Don's second triennium Joan Patterson became Deputy Commissioner and Alan was appointed Superintendent, having previously been Corps Superintendent of Northern Metropolitan Region. The appointment was as a volunteer on a part-time basis but at the end of the triennium his appointment on a full-time salaried basis was arranged by Sue Renkin as it enabled the CEO to have much more direct influence over the activities of the Branch. In contrast to the earlier appointments of salaried staff to support the volunteers, this appointment changed the relationship to one of control over the volunteers.

During Don's tenure there was a significantly increased role in raising the public relations profile of St John by participating in various first aid-related functions, such as the launch of "Kidsafe". "Kidsafe" was modeled after the "Play-It-Safe" program trialled by St John for the general community twenty years earlier. In addition to raising awareness of accident prevention and safety it also raised the profile of St John as a first aid training provider.

The concept originated from St John, which was the lead agency. Other organizations involved included Royal Life Saving Society, Surf Life Saving Society, The Sun newspaper, Channel Seven, and the Child Accident Prevention Foundation (later known as 'Kidsafe'). Funded by St John and the State Government, launched in 1978, it ran for several years until the funding ran out.[19] Richard Bluck and Norman Jackson were heavily involved from the outset and Don Fraser was a subsequent convert. He said, *"It showed me how easy it was to increase public awareness of St John by having the senior press on side. (It) was instrumental in guiding my future activities…to have St John better recognized by the press and the public"*.[1]

As part of this philosophy he encouraged regular media briefings about the role of St John in events and incidents.

In 1999 he was invested as a Knight of Grace in the Order of St John.[2] The final year of his triennium included a vigorous campaign for Emergency Vehicle status for St John vehicles to enable them to travel in convoy when necessary with Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service vehicles. Without that status the St John vehicles are required to travel under regular civilian restrictions separately from other Emergency vehicles, which significantly delays their incorporation into the integrated Command Centre complex at a disaster site. The Chief Commissioner of Police, Neil Comrie, had cleared the way for St John to be gazetted subject to some modernization of the fleet but this had not been achieved by the end of Don's term and the initiative appears to have been lost during transition to the next Commissioner.

At the end of his second triennium in 2000, when he was succeeded as Commissioner by Robert Boucher, Don went on the Retired List, aiming to pursue his long-time interest in off-road four-wheel drive navigation using GPS satellite navigation systems. This interest has been already followed for more than thirty years. Connected with this interest has been an interest in independent power supply systems using solar panels, batteries and inverters, which he first trialed in 1989. Don and Jan are also keen caravaners and spend considerable time exploring Australia's waterways in their powerboat. His expertise remains open to St John on request.[1]

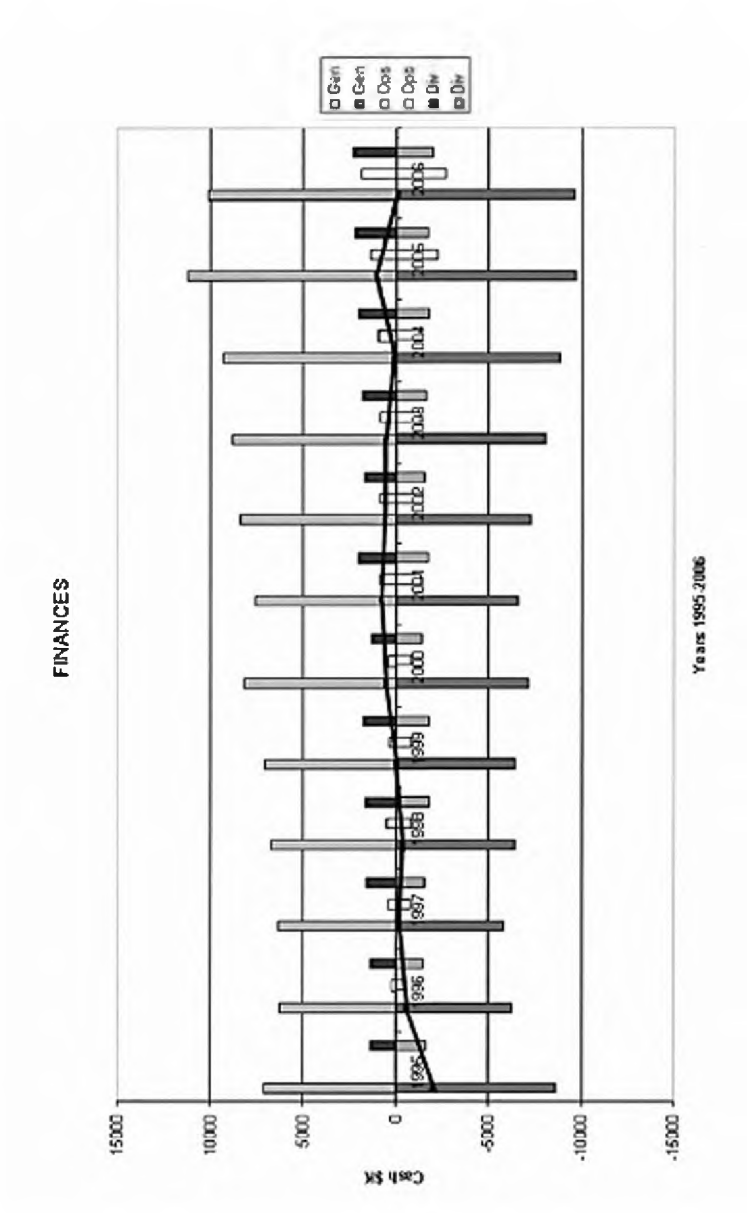


Figure 92 Finances 1995-2006



Figure 93 Commissioner Robert Boucher



Figure 94 Government House parade with Sir James Gobbo

Chapter Sixteen

Robert Keith Boucher APM

Sixteenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 1999-2001

At the end of Don Fraser's second triennium there was a problem of succession. His Deputy Commissioner, Joan Patterson, was near retirement age and had had significant illness. He had had two different District Medical Officers, neither of whom had been long-term members nor appeared ready for the Commissioner's role. The St John CEO, Sue Renkin, conferred with the Chief Commissioner of Police, Neil Comrie, who was a member of St John Council, about potential candidates. Neil recommended consideration of Bob Boucher, the recently retired Assistant Commissioner of Police. The Appointments Committee approved the recommendation and the President authorized Neil to approach Bob to recruit him to the position. He was to become the second person appointed Commissioner who had not been of military or medical background.

Robert Boucher was born 16th October 1942 at St Georges Hospital in Kew, Victoria.[1] His early years were in Canterbury and he attended Auburn Central School until Grade Four when the family moved to Ashburton and he attended the Ashburton State School. The family consisted of father (Francis Burge Boucher, 1916-1981), mother (Dorothy Joyce, nee Kerr, 1917+), Robert b.1942, Margaret b.1944 and Beverley b.1948. His was a Christian family and his grandfather who had a formative influence in his early years was an Elder of the Presbyterian Church.[2]

Secondary schooling began at Box Hill High School but part way through the 1956 school year he moved to Seymour High School in central Victoria. In an effort to establish his place in the new school he threw himself into sporting activities and became a House Captain, somewhat to the detriment of

academic achievements. He really didn't know what he wanted to do for a career and was not much interested in schooling so he was quite agreeable at the end of 1959 to his father's negotiation for his recruitment to the Box Hill Branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. However, his career as a trainee Banker only lasted a couple of years before he discovered what he really wanted to do, which was to join Victoria Police.[1]

Bob joined the Victoria Police in 1962,[1] spent four months at the Police Training Depot, which was then in St Kilda Road, and the remainder of the year at Russell Street Police Headquarters. Next year he applied for, and was posted to Fitzroy, where he resided in barracks above the Station. He remained there for two years before transferring to Camberwell.

In 1965, while working at Camberwell, he married Barbara Ann Clare and they went to live at Boronia. They joined the local Church of Christ congregation, where he later became a Sunday School Superintendent and a member of the Officer's Board of the Church. Two of his three children were born while they lived at Boronia – Bronwyn b.1968 and Fiona b.1970, and Colleen was born in 1974, by which time they had moved to Box Hill.[2]

After three years at Camberwell Police Station he worked briefly at Oakleigh and a further three years at Ferntree Gully before achieving an ambition to work in the Criminal Investigation Bureau. In 1972 he was a CIB detective at Russell Street and Hawthorn, followed by three years as a Detective in the Fraud Squad. While in this post he undertook a Law Instructor's Course at the Police Academy.[1] Although preferring detective work he nevertheless sought promotion through successfully applying for a position as Sergeant at Russell Street responsible for looking after the new recruits.

In 1975 he spent a year as a Law Instructor at the Police Academy and then returned to the CIB Fraud Squad as a Detective Sergeant in Mid 1976. In mid 1978 he was promoted to a position of Senior Sergeant in charge of the residential Barracks at Russell Street for the next eight months before

being seconded to a Task Force assisting the Royal Commission into Housing Commission Land Transactions and Other Matters, as a Detective Senior Sergeant.[2]

In 1975, reflecting some unhappiness with their progress at the Boronia church, the family changed their membership to the Blackburn Baptist Church. With daughters at Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School, Bob became a representative on the Parents' Association for five years from 1976 to 1980 then a member of the School Council from 1980 to 1982.

Bob's work in the Task Force assisting the Royal Commission into Housing Commission Land Transactions led to some further investigation of bribery allegations and fraudulent private land transactions and thence to participation in a major court hearing into Land Fraud at Mount Ridley, where it was revealed that a $1.4m secret commission (bribe) was paid in respect of the sale of 6770 acres of land after negative changes to re-zoning and development opportunities affecting possible profits which had been expected by some property speculators.[3] During this enquiry, in 1980 he was promoted to the rank of Inspector. Later he was awarded the Australian Police Medal. He was also awarded a Highly Commended Certificate by the Chief Commissioner of Police, Mick Miller, who incidentally was a member of St John Council.

From 1982 he spent two years as Staff Officer to the Deputy Commissioner (Administration), and was responsible for overseeing final reports into investigations against Police. This gave valuable experience in senior levels of Police administration and was followed by a rapid promotional rise. A year as Inspector at Nunawading was followed by two years as Chief Inspector (Research and Development) and two years as Superintendent in charge of the Management Services Bureau. Then, in 1989, he was appointed Superintendent, second in charge of Melbourne District Headquarters at Russell Street.[1]

In 1991 he was appointed Chief Superintendent, Melbourne District, and in 1994 Commander, for the Eastern half of the State – Operations Department. In 1995 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner (Information Technology), a position he held until retirement on 4th July 1997.[1]

After retirement from the Police Force he spent several periods of time in Fiji successfully helping to sort out problems occurring in his son-in-law's manufacturing business before undertaking several major voluntary commitments.[2] In 1998 he was appointed Vice-President of the Baptist Union of Victoria and then from October 1999 a further year as President of that body. Additional responsibilities connected with those positions were membership of the Advisory Board of the Baptist Union, a position which continued for more than eight years until October 2007. He was also appointed to the Baptist Community Care Board from 1999 for two years; and the Board of Carey Baptist Grammar from 1999 for three years.[1]

In 2000, during his term as President of the Baptist Union of Victoria, the Union was host to the Baptist World Congress held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. Bob and Barbara had the task of arranging home stay accommodation for 900 delegates to the Congress from all over the world.[2] It was an immense and exhausting task, and a tribute to his organizational abilities that he was able to do it so successfully.

In 1999 Bob was approached by Neil Comrie to become Commissioner of St John Victoria District. He accepted the invitation, believing that it was predominantly a ceremonial position that did not require much hands-on time.[2] His appointment began on St John's day, 24th June 1999, with the retirement of Don Fraser.[4] Bob's introduction to St John work, however, soon revealed that being Commissioner was considerably more than a ceremonial post.

Neil Comrie's approach was primarily at the behest of the CEO, Sue Renkin, who was now two years into her tenure and much clearer about what she wanted of Operations Branch. She had backed the appointment of Alan Fry as salaried District Superintendent answerable directly to her because it was in keeping with her vision of the CEO being in charge. It was also in keeping with the vision of the Chancellor at the National Board developing the "One St John" philosophy. Both she and Alan were very happy to regard the role of Commissioner as a largely ceremonial post rather than an active leadership role but there were two significant difficulties. Firstly, the volunteers of Operations Branch remained loyal to their traditional chain of

command and continued to look to the Commissioner and senior officers for leadership. Secondly, Alan Fry was not as compliant as Sue would have liked.[5]

Alan Fry has had a long involvement with St John. In the 1970s he was Superintendent of Malvern Cadet Division, then Corps Cadet Officer before retiring from this position to move to the country, whereupon he became caretaker/ manager of the Douglas Donald Camp at Yarra Junction. On returning to the city he was appointed Corps Superintendent of Northern Corps, from which he was appointed District Superintendent at the end of 1998.

During his tenure as District Superintendent, however, there was significant controversy. He had firm views about a flatter hierarchy of officer positions and required a number of longstanding officers to accept rank demotion in order to have only a small number at senior levels specifically linked to administrative roles.[6] He also originated a District Order requiring retired officers to demote to a lower level.[7]

He instigated administrative changes very frequently, which posed considerable difficulties for the volunteer hierarchy. He abolished the previous system of Divisional Inspections and removed the requirement for staff in administrative positions to do the Skills Maintenance Program.

Although very outspoken in requiring others to follow his directions he had less enthusiasm for carrying out instructions given to him. The recommendations of several Boards of Enquiry, for example, were not implemented as directed by the Commissioner.[5]

At first, as the person who could make things happen in the Operations Branch, Alan was given privileged treatment by the CEO. Later, as his advocacy for Operations Branch expenditure did not accord with the priorities of the CEO his standing was diminished and he was relegated to a small shared office at the back of the York Street building.[5] Eventually his contract was changed to involve part-time project work and part-time administrative work in Operations Branch, opening the way for advertising for a new District Superintendent.



Figure 95 Alan Fry



Figure 96 John Marshall



Figure 97 Malcolm Carson



Figure 98 Peter Burke

Notwithstanding Bob's heavy commitments with the Baptist World Congress, he nevertheless gave enthusiastic and energetic contributions to St John activities whenever he could. He is shown in the photograph at the annual inspection at Government House with the Governor, Sir James Gobbo, who is not only a Knight of St John but also of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and an authority on St John history.

By the year 2000 sufficient progress had been made in reviving the financial stability of St John in Victoria for approval to be given for development of the Western Metropolitan Training Centre.[8] This centre was the pilot model of what was to be a series of self-contained multi-purpose St John centres in all regions of the State. The office and warehouse complex in a new industrial estate on the Western Highway at Altona included properly-equipped training rooms for public first aid courses, accommodation for local Divisions and staff to assist all Branches of St John. The idea was that it would be a resource for all St John functions in the area allowing decentralised administration and local support for local Divisions of the region, including those which did not meet there. This particular centre also housed the St John warehouse from which supplies were distributed to training courses all around the State, which was foreseen as a mechanism to ensure that this centre would be economically viable. It was opened with great fanfare by the Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks.

From the outset, however, the Western centre struggled to pay its way. The location was poorly served by public transport, particularly in the evening, and it was difficult to achieve viable class sizes. The centre was also unattractive to volunteers compared to alternative locations in suburban shopping areas, and the cost of warehouse operations was no better than at more convenient locations. It was eventually abandoned as an unsuccessful experiment and sold. The experience has discouraged further attempts at development of regional centres.

Bob continued as Commissioner until December 2001 when the overwhelming pressure of his commitments to the Baptist Union of Victoria led him to conclude that he was not able to give the time necessary for his St John tasks.[2] He submitted his resignation as Commissioner, before the end of the triennium, leading to the appointment of his District Medical Officer, Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld, as his successor.[4] With the passage of time and reduction in pressures, Bob looks back on his time in St John with mixed feelings. He regrets not having been able to do more but is pleased to have been able to do what he did and knowing that his contribution is fondly remembered.[2]



Figure 99 Cadet Rosenfeld receives award from D/O (C) Ashley Mason



Figure 100 Colonel Rosenfeld in Iraq

Chapter Seventeen

Major-General Jeffrey Victor Rosenfeld CStJ

Seventeenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 2001-2005

The appointment of Jeffrey Rosenfeld resumed the earlier pattern of military medical men as Commissioner. He was also a long-serving St John member who had risen through the ranks. When I met Professor Rosenfeld in 2007 to discuss this paper he was arranging his attendance at an extended family gathering. His family is part of the Blashki clan which included one of Australia's greatest war-time leaders, General Sir John Monash. Jeffrey's great grandfather was a first cousin of Monash. Some parts of the family have been Australian for many generations while others came as Jewish refugees from Poland during the rise of nazism shortly before WW II.

Jeffrey's father, Joseph Rosenfeld, was one of these. He was an electrical and mechanical engineer, and a keen footballer, who later ran a jewellery business. He married Lorraine Behrend, a commercial artist, daughter of Oscar Behrend, who was a dentist during WW I. [1] Joseph and Lorraine had three children – Jeffrey b.1952, Linda (Mrs Velik) b.1955), and Ian b.1957.

Jeffrey Victor Rosenfeld CStJ, MBBS, MD(Monash), MS(Melb), FRACS, FRCS(Ed), FACS, FACTM, MRACMA, RAAMC was born on 19th November 1952. He attended Toorak Primary School to Grade six, then Gardiner Central School for Years 7 and 8 before entering Melbourne High School for Years 9 to 12. He was a talented student and gained the Music Prize in Year 12. Jeffrey went on to Melbourne University where he graduated MB BS in 1976.[2]

While at Gardiner he joined Malvern Division as a St John Cadet. He wanted to become a doctor and his interest in helping sick and injured people was stimulated by his early St John experience. He felt that St John had given him an important early start and he wanted to contribute something

back. When undertaking his medical internship in 1977 and 1978 at Royal Melbourne Hospital he joined Northcote Division as Divisional Surgeon.[3]

From 1979 he undertook advanced training in surgery. Although he would have liked to specialise in neurosurgery at that time it was not possible because of restricted availability of accredited training posts and he reluctantly qualified first in general surgery before later specialising in neurosurgery. In hindsight, this extra qualification in general surgery has had a profound influence on his whole professional career, notwithstanding that it took him several more years training time.

In 1983, while working in a surgical post at Ballarat he transferred from Northcote to become Divisional Surgeon at Ballarat St John Division.[3] Later in 1983 his interest in developing world medicine started when he did a six-month rotation in Papua New Guinea as a surgical registrar from Royal Melbourne Hospital. He later became involved with the AusAid-funded Pacific Islands Project. This is managed by the College of Surgeons and sponsors small groups of specialists to work in underprivileged Pacific islands such as Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, East Timor and Solomon Islands.[4] He described it as *"a fantastic project because it delivers specialist health services these countries don't have and helps train the local doctors and nurses in the delivery of more advanced health care"*. He still goes to PNG through this program.[1] Equally important, however, is the concept of helping others. *"The main reason I chose medicine was to help other people and involvement in international health in the developing world was a great way of doing it. You see some horrific things in the developing world, some very sad things, and it really emphasises how lucky we are in Australia. It's why I encourage doctors and nurses to go out into the developing world... to give up some of their time, to contribute to voluntary organisations or charities at a local, national or international level, such as the Pacific Islands Project."*[5]

In 1984 he joined the Australian Defence Forces as a Captain in the 6th Field Ambulance Army Reserve, then located at

Brighton.[2] This is the unit where Colonel Douglas Donald had been Commanding Officer thirty years earlier.[6]

In 1986 Dr Rosenfeld went to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, United Kingdom, as Registrar in Neurosurgery.[2] The former Head of Neurosurgery had been Sir Hugh Cairns who had been a trainee of the great American neurosurgeon, Harvey Cushing,[7] the man who had undertaken many historic investigations of human brain functions through electrical stimulation of the brain in conscious patients. The Radcliffe, itself, was a historic hospital, among its milestones being the first use of penicillin on patients. It was founded in 1770.[8]

In 1987 Dr Rosenfeld moved to Cleveland Clinic in Ohio[9] as the Chief Resident in Neurological Surgery.[10] This famous hospital has traditional links with Royal Melbourne Hospital from the time of American occupancy during WW II. Since then there has been a regular interchange of specialty trainees. The experience at Cleveland cemented Jeffrey's place as a top-ranking specialist neurosurgeon.

On his return to Melbourne in 1988 Dr Rosenfeld married Dr Deborah Kipen, a specialist paediatrician. They subsequently had three children – Hannah b.1991, Alexander b.1993, Gabriella b.1994.

Dr Rosenfeld immediately gained sessional appointments as a neurosurgeon at Royal Melbourne and Royal Children's Hospitals and concurrently undertook a two year laboratory research fellowship at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, investigating neural transplantation in mice. He was appointed Head of Neurosurgery at Monash Medical Centre in 1990. While there he was awarded a Master of Surgery higher degree from Melbourne University in 1992, with his thesis on neural transplantation. As a result of his research he was awarded the Syme medal and Syme Professorship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.[2] Until this time it had been thought that neural cells did not regenerate after injury but the research showed that they could, illustrated by brain tissue under the microscope.



Figure 101 Monash University Professor of Surgery, Jeffrey Rosenfeld

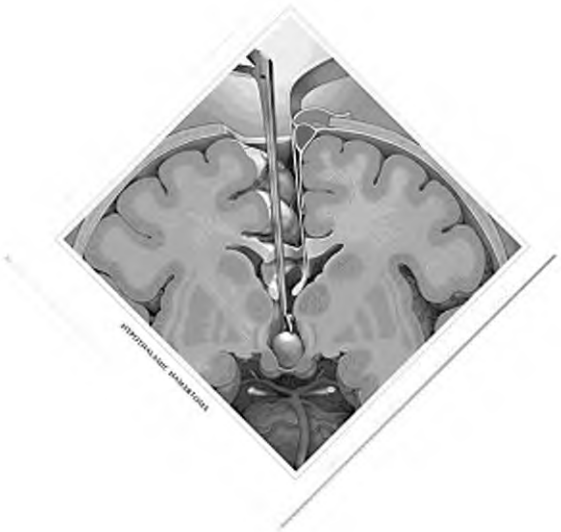


Figure 102 Operation for hypothalamic hamartoma

While at Monash, Dr Rosenfeld continued his involvement in St John as Divisional Surgeon and as an adjudicator in competitions. In 1991 he was appointed Corps Surgeon to Southern Metropolitan Corps.[3] He also continued his involvement in the Army Reserve, being appointed Medical Officer of the 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse (Armoured) Regiment.[2]

In 1993 Dr Rosenfeld was appointed Deputy Head of Neurosurgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital, a post he held for four years until his appointment as Head of Neurosurgery at Royal Children's Hospital in 1996. While at Royal Melbourne in 1995 he served a term as an Australian Defence Force surgeon of the second rotation to Rwanda under Commanding Officer Colonel Peter Warfe who was later to become Director of St John Training Branch. Although a year after the first wave of genocidal massacres,[11] it was still a very tense and traumatic situation as militias were continually shooting people while the United Nations contingent tried to restore order in the country. Notionally there to support the United Nations contingent, in fact only a small percentage of the medical work was with UN staff, the vast bulk of time being spent on humanitarian work with the civilian population. This experience sensitised Jeffrey to the importance of the United Nations in combating the gross inhumanity of many places in the world. That year he was promoted to Major, Officer Commanding 6th Mobile Field Surgical Troop detached from 3 Forward General Hospital.[2]

His position as Head of Neurosurgery at Royal Children's Hospital also included appointment as an Associate Professor of Surgery and Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. Cases of epilepsy due to hypothalamic hamartoma led to him devising a new operation. The hypothalamus at the base of the brain near the top of the spinal cord can sometimes develop a small tumour of characteristic non-malignant tissue which causes epilepsy. The deep-seated disruptive disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain impairs mental activity without necessarily causing convulsions. The only effective treatment is surgical removal of the tumour.



Figure 103 Commissioner Jeffrey Rosenfeld



Figure 104 Investiture as Commander in Order of St John

Traditional operations approached the base of the brain from beneath the temporal lobe at the side, which is difficult and dangerous because of bleeding from numerous little blood vessels in the area. Professor Rosenfeld's operation approached from above the forehead slightly to one side of the midline. This access between the two halves of the brain passes through the front of the corpus callosum (the bridge linking the two halves) and only needs to pass through a small amount of brain tissue to arrive at the tumour. This proved much safer and more effective.[12]

Dramatic clinical improvements in several children immediately identified Professor Rosenfeld as a world authority on treatment of this disorder. Several children were brought from the USA to be operated on by him and the favourable results were widely reported in the lay Press [13-15] as well as in the scientific literature. Eventually this research formed the basis of his thesis for the Doctor of Medicine higher degree which he was awarded at Monash University in 2005.[2]

In 1997, also, he received the St John Service medal and was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John.[3]

In 1998 Professor Rosenfeld went on a three week mission with the Australian Defence Forces to Bougainville when Francis Ona was leading a secessionist rebellion.[16] He went again a year later for a further three to four weeks. On both occasions there was more work with the local civilian population than with military personnel. After the first mission he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Staff Officer Grade 1, Health Administration in Regional Support Agency – Victoria. This is the new terminology for what was once called Assistant Director of Medical Services, Victoria.[2]

In 1999 with the appointment of Robert Boucher as Commissioner, Professor Rosenfeld became District Surgeon. He continued to assist whenever possible in competition adjudication and administrative functions in the Senior Officer Group.[3]

Professor Rosenfeld has a particular interest in head injuries and is a member of the Trauma Committee, the Victorian Trauma Committee and the Victorian Road Trauma Committee

of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS).[2] He was also a member of the Ministerial Working Party and Task Force on Emergency Services and Trauma, Victoria, serves on the Consultative Committee on Road Traffic Fatalities,[2] and Chair of the Trauma Committee of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia (NSA). He has also been appointed to the executive of the Neurosurgical Society, and the Board of Neurosurgery of the College of Surgeons.[2]

He was elected to the State Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1998, is on the management committee of the Pacific Islands Project (RACS) and was appointed to the International Committee of the RACS in 1999.

In 2000 Professor Rosenfeld was appointed Head of Neurosurgery at the Alfred Hospital and in 2006 Professor of Surgery at Monash University Medical School located at the Alfred.[2] He was appointed to the State Trauma Committee for a three-year term. One of the important research studies he is undertaking in his Department is of the effectiveness of cerebral decompression for brain swelling after head injury. This involves cutting free a large plate of skull bone until the swelling of the brain has subsided.

That year, also, he published a book, "Neurosurgery in the Tropics" with co-author Professor D.A.Watters. The purpose of this book was to emphasise the main treatable disorders that surgeons in the under-developed countries of the Pacific could deal with. This formed a useful adjunct to the teaching he continues to contribute through the University of PNG. In recognition of his important role in surgical teaching he was appointed Honorary Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of PNG.[2]

Later in 2000 he went as an Australian military surgeon to East Timor with General Peter Cosgrove's InterFET UN Assistance mission. On his return he was appointed National Vice-President of the United Nations Association of Australia and State President in Victoria. He is an active member of Australian Campaign to Ban Landmines.[2] As a consequence of his work with the UN he met the Dalai Lama.

In 2001 he became Senior Medical Officer of 4th Brigade and was promoted to Colonel.[2] In December, with the resignation of Robert Boucher, Professor Rosenfeld became the 17th St John Ambulance Victorian Commissioner.[3] He was also named as the Herald-Sun Victorian of the Year[17] and was awarded the Geoffrey Harkness medal for outstanding contribution to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.[2]

Professor Rosenfeld has written or contributed to more than twenty books, published more than 150 papers in scientific journals, and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience. In 2002 he became a member of the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators to better equip him for the tasks involved in managing hospital and University Departments.[2]

That year, also, he went as an Australian Defence Forces surgeon to East Timor with UNTAET, the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor. Two years later he went with an ADF detachment to Balad in Iraq. In 2005 he was appointed Honorary Professor in clinical neurosurgery at the Capital University of Medical Sciences at Beijing, China, in furtherance of his ambition to forge stronger links between China and Australia. In 2006 he was appointed adjunct Professor to the Centre for Military and Veterans Health at the University of Queensland.

His military responsibilities have continued to grow in the intervening years and in 2007 he was promoted Brigadier, Director General Health Reserves – Army and Assistant Surgeon General – Army, Australian Defence Forces.

In 2002 he received the first bar to his St John Service medal. This is one of an impressive cluster that includes the Australian Service Medal (ASM) with Timor and Solomons clasps, the Active Australian Service Medal (AASM) with Rwanda, Timor and Iraq clasps, the Iraq Campaign medal, the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) and the Defence Long Service medal (DLSM). He also has the Centenary medal of the Commonwealth of Australia.[2]

Jeffrey's appointment as Commissioner came just as the tension between the CEO, Sue Renkin, and the previous

District Superintendent, Alan Fry, was at its worst. As she had changed Alan Fry's contract to part-time project work and part-time administrative work for Operations Branch, this opened the way for the appointment of a new District Superintendent. At a selection interview conducted by the Chief Commissioner (Professor Paul Arbon), Professor Rosenfeld and the CEO, the decision was made to promote District Officer John Marshall to District Superintendent. This reversion to a volunteer appointee was contrary to the preference of Sue Renkin who would have preferred a full-time salaried employee.[20]

John was a long-time St John volunteer who had risen through the ranks to become District Officer (Cadets).[3] His appointment as District Superintendent meant that there was an absolute commitment to the traditional chain of command and loyalty to the Operations Branch.

John Marshall recruited Peter Burke, another long-time volunteer St John officer, to be his assistant, sharing the administrative workload. It was not long, however, before their view of Operations Branch priorities clashed with the priorities of the CEO. The hostility of the CEO was intensified because Peter Burke was also a member of St John Council at the time and therefore able to raise questions about some administrative decisions.

The Commissioner was thereby placed in a difficult position attempting to reconcile requests by the District Superintendent with contrary views of the CEO, Sue Renkin. The Operations Branch staff saw many of her decisions as deferring important operational expenditure in favour of unproductive salaried staff in her office.[20]

However, the CEO had the authority and responsibility for making management decisions. The "One St John" principles adopted by the National Board after consultation with the States, and restated by the National Board in November 2002, expressly required that management at state and territory level be exercised through the relevant CEO. Thus, the requests of the Operations Branch had to be subordinate to the priorities of the CEO, and this was supported by St John Council.[21]

Alan Fry's contract for administrative support was not renewed and he left the organization somewhat embittered. An independent enquiry into the management structure of Operations Branch was conducted by the Chief Superintendent and the CEO of the South Australian Branch. This enquiry recommended abolition of the position of Deputy State Superintendent and Peter Burke's service was terminated.

Without adequate support for the workload and in the face of continuing tension with the CEO, John Marshall resigned as District Superintendent, leaving Jeff Rosenfeld with no alternative than the appointment of a new District Superintendent. Darren Johnston was appointed as the second full-time salaried District Superintendent, answerable directly to the CEO.

Notwithstanding his heavy professional and military responsibilities, Professor Rosenfeld served his full triennium as Commissioner before going on Reserve in 2005. His District Medical Officer, Dr Iain Nicolson, became Commissioner.[3] Professor Rosenfeld continues to contribute whenever practicable. In 2006 he was promoted to the grade of Commander in the Order of St John. His citation referred to the important role he played in guiding the transition from the former traditional Chain of Command within the Branch to a "One St John" dual accountability structure including the Victorian CEO and Council as well as to the Chief Commissioner.[18]

At the beginning of 2009 it was announced that Professor Rosenfeld had been promoted to Major-General in the Australian Defence Force and become the Surgeon General Defence Health Reserves. This is the most senior appointment a Reservist can reach in the ADF, and is an outstanding achievement.

Despite desperately busy professional and military careers, Professor Rosenfeld manages to find a small amount of time to play clarinet in the doctor's classical music orchestra, Corpus Medicum. In younger days he played with the Australian Youth Orchestra but nowadays his occasional playing is a source of

much-needed recreation for one of the busiest people I have ever met.[19]

Chapter Eighteen

Dr Iain Nicolson OStJ

Eighteenth Commissioner of St John Victoria District, 2006-2011

Although Dr Nadine Fisher was Deputy Commissioner to Professor Rosenfeld she declined appointment as Commissioner upon his retirement because of her work commitments, although she remained as Deputy. This opened the way for Dr Iain Nicolson, the State Medical Officer, to become the eighteenth Commissioner of St John in Victoria, the one who would complete the first hundred years of volunteer first aid in the State.

Iain Nicolson was born on 12th February 1941 in London, UK, during the blitz of WW II. His father was Sir John Nicolson (1895-1965), and mother was Dorothie, nee Cowell (1904-1999). There were three children in the family – Anne, who was born in 1934 and died in 2007, Iain, born 1941, and Mary, born in 1943 and died in 1945 of whooping cough. [1]

Sir John Nicolson was a surgeon, born and raised on the Isle of Skye as a gaelic-speaking Scotsman who learned English, French and Latin as secondary languages. He served as an infantryman on the Western Front in the first World War. He migrated 'south' to be a general surgeon in charge of the Manor House Hospital, a private hospital for the trade union movement. The hospital was taken over for use as a military hospital during the second World War, and Nicolson was knighted for services to medicine.

Iain's early years and primary schooling were in London, with secondary schooling as a boarder at Epsom College in Surrey. From there, in 1959, he went to St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, London University. He graduated MB BS from Barts in 1965. [1]

Whilst still at school before starting his University studies in 1959 he joined the London Scottish Regiment as an infantryman. This is a unit of the Territorial Army (Citizen Military Forces). Midway through his medical course he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as an officer cadet, and was appointed second lieutenant for the remainder of his training. On graduation he was promoted to lieutenant and did his internship year at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital and St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

In 1967 he did his basic training with the RAMC and was promoted to Captain. He was then posted to the British Military Hospital at Terendak, Malacca, as a medical officer with the 28th Commonwealth Brigade. This was at the end of the Malayan insurgency and the British Army still had a strong presence in the region. In 1968 he was posted to the British Military Hospital in Singapore as a trainee in pathology.

In 1970 Dr Nicolson was posted to the British Military Hospital at Munster, Germany. He spent two years there and one year at Hanover as a pathologist. After five years as a captain he was promoted to the rank of major and granted a permanent commission.

In 1973 Dr Nicolson was appointed as Pathologist to the Royal Herbert Hospital in Woolwich, UK, and in 1974 to the British Military Hospital in Cyprus. As a new graduate Iain had married Penelope (nee Boyce) and they had two children – Emma, born in 1967, and Torquil, born in 1970 at Munster. While in Cyprus they agreed to divorce. They returned home to the United Kingdom where he undertook vocational training for General Practice.

At this point Dr Nicolson married Caryl Ann (nee Beck). In 1976, after a year in training at Emsworth in Hampshire, he began as a junior partner in a General Practice at Gosport, Hampshire. While there he briefly joined as a medical officer in the Naval Reserve with the Rank of Lieutenant Commander. Because of his training and experience in pathology he became actively involved as a Police Surgeon.

Dr Nicolson was invited to take up general practice at Toora in South Gippsland. The family migrated to Australia and he began work on 1st October 1977. Their first son, James, was born in 1976 in England and their second son, John, was born in 1979 in Australia. After three years in Australia, Iain, Caryl and James became Australian citizens. Caryl became a member of the Shire of South Gippsland Council and went on to become Shire President. [1]

While in South Gippsland, Dr Nicolson was encouraged by Police Surgeon Dr John Birrell to undertake forensic work for the Police in Victoria. He also met another Police Surgeon, Dr Peter Bush, but was not aware until much later that Dr Bush was then Chief Surgeon for St John in Australia. In 1983 he became DISPLAN Area Medical Coordinator for the East Gippsland Region. He continued this role for more than twenty years until his appointment as Commissioner. This period covered a number of emergency callouts including several aircraft crashes and the Longford natural gas plant explosion and fire. [2]

In 1985 the family moved to Sale. In 1988 he joined St John Ambulance as the Divisional Surgeon of Sale Division. Because of his involvement in the Medical Displan coordinator's meetings he often met with another member, Dr Jeffrey Wassertheil who, as District Surgeon in 1991, recommended his promotion to Corps Surgeon for Gippsland Region. He continued as Corps Surgeon for the next eight years. This made him very aware of the vulnerabilities of small rural Divisions, and their need for support and training.

In 1999, with the appointment of Robert Boucher as Commissioner and Professor Rosenfeld as District Surgeon (or State Medical Officer as it was now retitled), Dr Nicolson was appointed Deputy State Medical Officer. This District Staff appointment introduced him to the complexities of state administration as he was often required to substitute for Professor Rosenfeld whilst he was unavailable through military and hospital commitments. [2]



Figure 105 Sir John Nicolson and Iain



Figure 106 Captain Iain Nicolson, RAMC

At the end of 2001 with the premature resignation of Bob Boucher and appointment of Professor Rosenfeld as Commissioner, Dr Nicolson was invited to become State Medical officer. Fortunately, with Dr Nadine Fisher as Deputy Commissioner, Dr Nicolson was able to do his primary task without having to deputise as much for the Commissioner. He was, however, heavily involved with training and Competitions and all the matters connected with the Branch Standing Committee meetings at Priory Conferences.

In 2002 Dr Nicolson was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John. [2]

From St John's day in 2005, at the end of Professor Rosenfeld's triennium as Commissioner, Dr Nicolson became the 18th Commissioner of Victoria District. He also became an ex-officio member of St John Council. Planning was well under way for Victoria's hosting of the Commonwealth Games. Darren Johnston had been appointed as full-time salaried District (State) Superintendent. Sue Renkin resigned as CEO and was replaced by Ian Clark. [2]

Ian Clark had been a former MICA Ambulance Officer who had demonstrated high level administrative skills by becoming Manager of the Air Transport section of Ambulance Service Victoria. He was a young and enthusiastic manager who had many connections with the professional ambulance field and he quickly negotiated an arrangement for St John to acquire a number of decommissioned Mercedes ambulances for refurbishment as St John mobile first aid vehicles, together with a significant quantity of associated equipment. This amounted to a major upgrading of the fleet and equipment in anticipation of the Commonwealth Games at financially attractive terms but which nevertheless produced considerable cash flow stress. At the same time he convinced St John Council to sell the freehold property in South Melbourne to lease a 50% larger space at Mount Waverley because the former property was too small and the organization did not have enough money to purchase larger inner urban property.



Figure 107 British Military Hospital, Singapore



Figure 108 Corps Surgeon receiving warrant

The new Headquarters at Mount Waverley is undoubtedly better equipped and more spacious than the previous property. It accommodates all the staff except those required at the City Training Centre, and it has significant additional storage space. The other advantage is that it has enabled a subleasing

connection with the Police and Emergency Services network whereby our Communications Centre could serve as an emergency Police Command Centre in the event of a major incident in the Central Business District. The fitout was more expensive than budgeted and significantly eroded the capital asset base. The improved quality has been at the expense of reduced equity, and for the first time in fifty years the organization does not own its own home.

After only eighteen months as CEO, Ian Clark left to become CEO of Tennis Victoria. The new CEO, Stephen Horton, had considerable previous experience with non-Government charitable organizations and immediately recognized the cash flow problems of servicing the non income-producing assets and the challenge of establishing sustainable business practice. It was a significant balancing act to contain costs, enhance income, and spend what had to be spent to conduct the largest public duty undertaken in Victoria since the Olympic Games fifty years earlier.

The first aid services at the Commonwealth Games were an outstanding success. Some 4500 competitors from 71 nations competed in 24 sporting disciplines in 21 venues across Melbourne and rural centres. Altogether there were 1.72 million patrons and another 2.38 million members of the public who visited the 16 public domain sites where events occurred. Eleven hundred volunteer first-aiders provided 27,000 hours of service. They treated 3514 casualties, of whom 2279 were at event venues. Altogether 69 patients were transported to hospital. There were no deaths recorded. In addition to the 936 members from local Victorian Divisions there were 144 volunteers from interstate and 96 from UK, Canada and New Zealand. The guest volunteers were accommodated at three major sites and transported to rostered venues by a highly organized official transport system run from St John Headquarters. The whole exercise gained high praise from those who understood what was involved, including the professional ambulance service. Unusually, for such a complex exercise, it was managed within budget. [3]



Figure 109 Receiving St John Long Service medal



Figure 110 Dr Nicolson with Governor John Landy



Figure 111 Ian Clark



Figure 112 Stephen Horton

Stephen Horton, the new CEO, is an exceptionally good business manager, probably the best that the organization has ever had. In the three years to date he has consistently achieved a surplus of income over expenditure of between five and ten percent of gross turnover annually, which is approximately ten times the average of the preceding decade.(See Figure 92) Needless to say, the tight rein on expenditure has not always

been favourably received by volunteers who have their own views on what should be priority expenditure. Stephen's stated aim is to develop a sustainable business with stable income that can provide the support needed by volunteers to do the job they volunteered to do, without their having to shake collection tins on street corners to raise their own funds. [4]

The primary source of income for the organization has always been from fees charged for First Aid teaching. In order for this to become more commercially stable the emphasis shifted more and more towards salaried instructors until the volunteer instructor pool was completely phased out. Thus, instead of only being able to teach classes when volunteers were available, classes can now be provided whenever or wherever clients wish them. This is a much more customer-oriented and commercially stable basis for the training business. It does mean, however, that classes are not ordinarily run at remote locations that would not be profitable. Hence, classes run by volunteer instructors from rural Divisions no longer occur and this source of recruitment for Divisional membership has been lost.

In the absence of any significant Government subsidy for the cost of providing First aid services at public events, the funding of such services has traditionally been supported by income from training activities. Whilst events like ANZAC parades do not have any source of reimbursement and are expected to be subsidised by income from other sources, Stephen is increasingly concerned at similar expectations held by commercial organizations. Even multi-million dollar enterprises like the Australian Football League expect services to be provided for a miniscule grant. The idea of making volunteer First Aid service financially self-sustaining is a dream that has thus far been elusive. Stephen hopes to change that. It will be a difficult task to get organizations to pay realistic amounts for the care of their patrons, but that is the aim. The task will be all the more difficult when balanced against the increasing difficulty of supplying enough volunteers to provide the service.

The context within which these negotiations are undertaken is undergoing major change. Several years ago the National Board made the decision that all activities of the organization in each State should be under the direct control of the Chief Executive officer in that State, who in turn would be accountable to the Board of Directors in that State. The former system of Heads of Branches in the States being accountable to the National Headquarters Heads of Branches was replaced. This occurred quickly in the training and community care areas but the change in volunteer First Aid Services has been much slower.

Dr Nicolson has, like Professor Rosenfeld before him, been faced with difficulties of cultural change in the volunteer First Aid Services Branch. Stephen Horton characterises it as a "parallel universe" in which the membership sees itself as answerable to the Commissioner rather than to the CEO and operates as though it is almost unconnected with the rest of the organization. In seeking to change the management structure to have it more directly aligned with and responsive to the operational objectives of the organization rather than its own priorities, the Commissioner and CEO have introduced the most radical change in the history of the organization. They have abolished the position of State Superintendent and appointed a full-time salaried Volunteer Services Manager, Vicki-Anne Spurrell, with decentralisation of operational command to Regional Managers level. The Regional Managers are accountable directly to Vicki-Anne, and through her to the CEO. The Commissioner is seen as having a kind of advisory role to the Volunteer Services Manager, the CEO and Board. [6]

Vicki-Anne has been with St John for a couple of years as manager of the Community Care Branch. Although having no experience in operational first aid matters she has shown herself to be an excellent manager and is very well liked by those who work with her. This change in administrative responsibility involves a dissociation between managerial and operational tasks. It is happening just as the newspapers are calling for the resignation of the Chief Officer of the Country Fire Authority. The Royal Commission into the Black Saturday

bushfires has been scathing of his not having full operational details of events on the day. His explanation that it was his job to manage the organization, to see that it was appropriately resourced and that appropriate personnel were in place to manage the operations, and that it was not his role to manage the operations, does not appear to have been heard. It is unclear how our Commissioner would fare in a similar enquiry.

Operational administrative changes have also been complicated by unexpected personal difficulties with two recent full-time salaried State Superintendents. Both were asked to resign because of complaints by volunteers about their way of relating to members. Stephen instituted a 'whistleblower hotline' whereby complaints would be investigated independently of the organization's own chain of command. This was in keeping with his 'zero tolerance' policy towards abuse. Shortly after its implementation the policy was put to a stringent test.

Three young men who had been St John cadets more than twenty years ago complained to police that they had been sexually abused by their Cadet Divisional Officer. The man admitted the offences, mercifully saving the added emotional trauma of contested court cases. He was convicted and imprisoned. The victims sought compensation. St John acknowledged its duty of care to the young people and the legal proceedings which had been instituted were settled between the parties. In the decades since the offences there have been major changes in social awareness of abuse, in legislation and in administrative procedures such as development of specific policies and procedures including checking of police records of staff who will be in contact with our young members. Stephen's 'zero tolerance policy' was a timely statement of the outlook.



Figure 113 Commissioner Dr Iain Nicolson

Although the business activities are more stable than they have ever been, the availability of volunteer members remains a major difficulty. The decline in volunteerism which has been noted throughout society has also affected St John. The impact of recent organizational changes is also unclear. The improved efficiency through salaried staff has to balanced against the perceptions of volunteers as to whether their contribution is valued or merely exploited.

Every year the call for volunteer first aid services at public events is growing but is becoming harder to meet because the availability of volunteers does not keep pace with the increasing demand. The services provided by members are at an all-time high. [4]

The members are better dressed, better trained and better equipped than they have ever been. The events are better organized now than they have ever been. The communication with members through the weekly electronic newsletter "St John Review" is better than it has ever been, enabling members to select from a variety of duties at known times and locations. But the limit is being tested. More and more events are not able to be serviced because there are not enough volunteers.

St John is at a watershed point. How will we meet the demand in future? When the demand for first aid class instructors could not be met by volunteers the solution was to employ sessional and full-time salaried instructors. This has met the demand in metropolitan areas much more satisfactorily than by the use of volunteers but the way it has been managed has resulted in the fading away of volunteer availability, even in rural areas where there is insufficient work to justify salaried instructors. There is now almost no volunteer first aid instruction for the public. A possible solution to the unavailability of volunteers for public first aid duties would be the employment of sessional or salaried first-aiders. This is particularly appealing for daytime working hours events when few volunteers are available. What would it mean for volunteer recruitment if some people are paid for similar work and others are not? It is difficult to escape the conclusion that volunteer first aid would go into the same

kind of availability decline that volunteer instruction has experienced unless managed in a totally different way. Therein lies the challenge for current leaders.

The ethos of the organization has not been damaged by professionalism of first aid training. Indeed, one could argue that it has been enhanced by improved quality. Would the ethos of the organization be damaged by professionalism of first aid service provision? Probably not at paid events, but it possibly would if sick and injured people were not assisted because the costs were not being reimbursed. Finding the right balance of cost recovery and service provision remains a problem of considerable delicacy.

The year 2010 marks the end of Iain Nicolson's second triennium as Commissioner and the hundredth year of volunteer first aid services in Victoria. There have been many ups and downs in our first hundred years. In general, the organization has coped well. Can we do as well in our next hundred years?

Epilogue

The journey

This book began as an exploration of our beginnings. As information was discovered about who did what, several themes emerged. Over the hundred years of volunteer first aid service our leaders have shown an extraordinary degree of determination and commitment to the quality of the service provided.

Some have been deeply religious and moved by the first motto of the Order – "*Pro Fide*" – For the Faith. The title of this book is in homage to those men. All of the leaders, religious or not, have lived by the second motto – "*Pro Utilitate Hominum*" – For the Service of Mankind. The service that has been given is breath-taking, and I am honoured to have walked in their footsteps. The humanitarian ethic has been particularly strong, not only in their St John work but also in working for Red Cross and a variety of other community agencies.

As a group, the Commissioners have shown extraordinary achievement in their professional lives and have brought their abilities to bear on the organization. In early days there was a predominance of military medical officers but as the World Wars have receded from our personal experience this emphasis has also receded. Early chapters showed the extent to which leadership positions were determined by the "old boy network". That was the way it was done in those days, not only in St John but in many other social institutions. In time, however, the members' Committee of Management has given way to the Board, with its modern business practices of strategic plans, budgets, key performance indicators, duty statements, policies and so on.

The other important thread has been that of continuity. Individual stories have been played out against the National history - the American alliance, the Great Depression, the World Wars, and the great public events. Events have affected

people and the organization. To some extent the converse is also true.

At the St John Museum in Victoria there are two exhibits side by side which seem to provide a response to the question about our future. One exhibit shows the first method of taking injured patients to hospital a hundred years ago. The other exhibit shows resuscitation and defibrillation of a patient with cardiac arrest. This reflects keeping up to date with scientific advances by which we have achieved world's best survival rate for cardiac arrest at major public events. The organization remains relevant if it keeps up to date.

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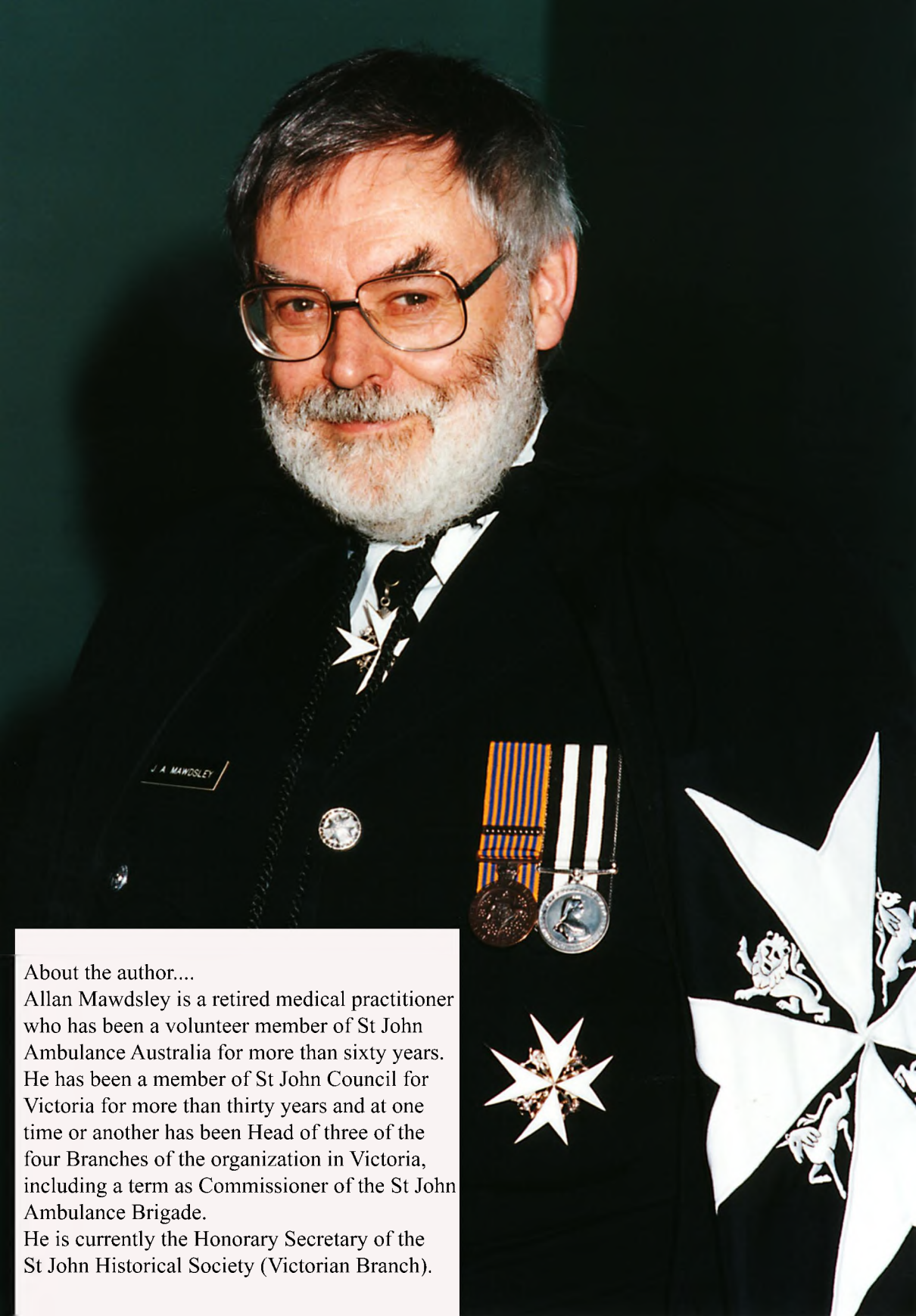
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Allan Mawdsley is a retired medical practitioner who has been a volunteer member of St John Ambulance Australia for more than sixty years. He has been a member of St John Council for Victoria for more than thirty years and at one time or another has been Head of three of the four Branches of the organization in Victoria, including a term as Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade.
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