

Defence Honours & Awards

ISSUE # 4, November 2007

REMEMBRANCE DAY

11 NOVEMBER 2007



Sea Patrol

Wearing of Medals by Actors

The recent Australian television drama *Sea Patrol*, about the adventures of members of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), resulted in a number of complaints to DH&A. These complaints from recipients of the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) were specifically connected with the publication of photographs of actors in the series dressed for their *Sea Patrol* roles.

The complainants were upset that the photographs showed the actors wearing, amongst other things, the ribbon of the ADM. They believed that a criminal offence may have been committed by wearing a medal to which they are not entitled. A number of the complainants demanded that the persons connected with the show face criminal charges for their 'offences'.

The actors wore not only the ribbon of the ADM, but also the ribbons of the Australian Active Service Medal and the Iraq Medal, the RAN Sea Readiness Badge and the

uniform (including buttons and badges of rank) of officers in the RAN.

However, the wearing of these items is legal. In particular, Section 80B(3) of the *Defence Act 1903* states:

It is not an offence ... for a person to wear a service decoration in the course of a dramatic or other visual representation (including such a representation to be televised) or in the making of a cinematograph film.

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The *Defence Honours & Awards Newsletter* is produced by the Directorate of Honours & Awards.

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Lisa McCune plays Lieutenant Kate McGregor in Sea Patrol and is wearing replicas of the Australian Active Service Medal, the Iraq Medal, the Australian Defence Medal and the RAN Sea Readiness Badge.

Steve Bisley plays Commander Steve Marshall and is wearing these replicas as well as replicas of the Commendation for Distinguished Service, the Defence Force Service Medal with two clasps and the RAN Principal Warfare Officer Badge.

Australia's Most Highly Decorated Woman: Alys Ross-King or Nancy Wake?

DH&A received a number of comments about an article in the last edition of the *Newsletter* which stated that Alys Ross-King is Australia's most highly decorated woman. Most of the comments related to the belief that Mrs Nancy Fiocca Forward, also known as Nancy Wake – the 'White Mouse' – is Australia's most highly decorated woman.

Without taking anything away from the service and achievements of Nancy Wake, the fact is that she was not born in Australia, and she left Australia in her late teens to live in Europe.

Nancy Wake was living in France at the outbreak of World War II. She served in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, a female auxiliary organisation of the British Army. After the war she served in the Women's Royal Air Force. However, Nancy Wake never served in the Australian forces, never wore an Australian uniform and did not return to Australia until the 1950s.

For her part, Alys Ross-King (Mrs Alys Appleford) was born and brought up in Australia, and trained and worked as a nurse in Australia before World War I. She served in both the first and second world wars as a member of the Australian Army and she raised a family in Australia.

She contributed much to Australian society through her work as a nurse, nursing trainer and nursing administrator. Consequently, all of Alys Ross-King's recognition was to her as an Australian, for services to Australia – and much of it in Australian uniform.

Readers also nominated Joyce Nankivell Loch and Olive May King as contenders for the title of most decorated woman. Again, while recognising the service and achievements of these two remarkable Australian women, all of their awards and recognition were from foreign authorities for service outside Australia, not in Australian uniform and not to Australia. In the case of Joyce Nankivell Loch she was awarded largely for contributions to arts and culture. Thus these two women cannot be accepted as outshining Alys Ross-King as Australia's most highly decorated woman.

Jubilee Medals

DH&A regularly receives inquiries about Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee Medal 1977 and Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal 2002. Medals to recognise various significant events connected with the reigning monarch, including coronations and anniversaries, have been issued to Australians since 1887. Medals issued to recognise significant anniversaries are referred to as 'jubilee medals'.

Two jubilee medals have been issued to date during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The first was to commemorate the 25th (silver) anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne – the Silver Jubilee Medal 1977. The second was to commemorate the 50th (gold) anniversary of Her Majesty's accession – the Golden Jubilee Medal 2002.



QEII Silver Jubilee Medal 1977

For the **Silver Jubilee Medal 1977**, approximately 30 000 medals were issued throughout the British Commonwealth, with 6 870 Australians receiving them. As with previous coronation and jubilee medals, the British authorities provided Australia with an allotment of medals. The decision about who was to receive the medals was left to Australia.

For the Australian Defence Force, the individual Services were each given a suballocation of medals from the overall Australian allocation. The Services then provide lists of the names of the recipients to the Australian Honours Secretariat at Government House. The secretariat then issued the medals to those who had been selected. Readers need to be aware that if they did not receive a Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, then they are not entitled to one.

The procedure for the issue of the **Golden Jubilee Medal 2002** was entirely different. It was not offered to Australia for general issue to Australians. As a consequence, very few Australians are entitled to the Golden Jubilee Medal 2002. The only exception is the small number of people who received the medal as a personal gift from the British Government. For example, Australia's only two living Victoria Cross recipients did receive the medal.

'Readers need to be aware that if they did not receive a Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, then they are not entitled to one.'

Combat Badges

DH&A regularly receives inquiries about the Infantry Combat Badge and the Army Combat Badge.

However, neither of these badges is an honour or award, and therefore they are not administered by DH&A.

The badges are uniform dress embellishments established by the Army, and their issue is the responsibility of Army.

Information about the two badges can be found in:

**Defence Instruction (Army)
Personnel 97-5; Infantry
Combat Badge,**

and

**Defence Instruction (Army)
Personnel 119-1; Army
Combat Badge**



Army Combat Badge

Inquiries about the Infantry Combat Badge should be directed to:

SO2 HOC Royal Australian
Infantry Corps
RMC D1-1-036
Duntroon Garrison
DUNTROON ACT 2600

Inquiries about the Army Combat Badge should be directed to:

RSM Ceremonial
R-9-046
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Infantry Combat Badge

A Victoria Cross for Simpson?

One of the most persistent medal related myths in Australia is about the supposed unsuccessful recommendation of a Victoria Cross (VC) for John Simpson (John Simpson Kirkpatrick) – the ‘Man with the Donkey’.

Simpson served at Gallipoli in 1915 with the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance. He is famous for his work in assisting wounded men to reach medical facilities by giving them rides on donkeys.



Anzac Commemorative Medallion

The medallion features an image of Simpson working with a donkey. It was issued to those who served in the Gallipoli campaign.

Simpson was killed on 19 May 1915, and since then the myth has grown that he was recommended for a posthumous award of the VC but did not receive the award. The myth has spread over the years, and many people continue to campaign for the award of either the Imperial VC or the VC for Australia to Simpson.

Despite the various claims that have been made, there was no formal recommendation of a VC for Simpson. The personal reminiscences of two officers intimately connected with Simpson – his commanding officer and his section commander – show that these officers certainly would have liked to have obtained a VC for Simpson.

However, there are claims that the documents of these two officers are ‘official recommendations’ when, in fact, they are diary entries and personal, written reminiscences. These were not and cannot be accepted as VC recommendations.

Similarly, there are claims that a statement submitted by Colonel John Monash, Commander of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade, was a VC recommendation.

The statement by Monash, however, includes errors of fact that indicate that Monash was not an eyewitness to anything Simpson did. Further, it is not actually a recommendation for anything, let alone a VC. Not only does the statement not make reference to a VC, it does not make any recommendation at all. The statement simply calls attention to Simpson and suggests that some form of recognition of him was in order.

Simpson was included in a list of names of members of the medical corps that was put forward by the Acting Commander of the 1st Australian Division on 28 May 1915 as being deserving of recognition. Along with the other seventeen members of the corps on the list, Simpson was Mentioned in Despatches (MID).

There is no doubt that John Simpson Kirkpatrick did a good and useful job at Gallipoli in assisting wounded men to reach medical assistance. He was killed in the process and was properly recognised by a posthumous Mention in Despatches. However, a VC recommendation cannot be substantiated by records.

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Wearing of Non-Official Medals

A relatively recent phenomenon in the medal world is the appearance of a wide variety of non-official medals, generally referred to as 'private commemoratives' but also called 'tinnies'. A non-official medal is any medal that is not listed in the Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards, which was published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette Special No. S.101 of 4 April 2002.

Medals not listed in the order of wear may be worn officially, on an unrestricted basis, only with the express permission of the Governor-General. As a general rule, such permission is extended only to official awards of foreign governments. It has never been extended to private commemorative medals. Those medals should not be worn at all, and certainly never on the left-hand side and mounted with officially issued medals.

While private commemorative medals are not recognised for wear in the Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) recognises a small number of awards of some organisations for wear. These are the awards of various bodies which are under royal patronage, or awards which have traditionally been recognised for wear, or both.

These include the Order of St John Life Saving Medal and the Red Cross' Florence Nightingale Medal, as well as the awards of the Royal Humane Society, the Royal Humane Society of Australasia, the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.



The Front Line Service Medal is an example of a non-official medal.



The Australian Defence Force has recognised a small number of awards ... for wear such as the Red Cross' Florence Nightingale Medal.

Various medals of these organisations, plus the St John Life Saving Medal and the Florence Nightingale Medal, are authorised by the ADF for unrestricted wear on the right-hand side at all times when medals or ribbons are worn. By extension, this means that these medals may also be worn on the right with civilian dress on all occasions when medals are worn. Authority for wear of these medals by members of the ADF is contained in the Service dress instructions.

As a general rule, official awards of the various states and territories – such as the medals of the various police forces – are not authorised for wear on ADF uniforms under any circumstances. Exceptions to this rule may be decided on a case by case basis.

Currently, the only exception is the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Medal (ACTEM), which was issued to a number of ADF members following the January 2003 bushfires in the ACT. In February 2005 the Chief of the Defence Force advised that restricted permission for wear of the ACTEM had been given to serving members of the ADF. The authority permits the wearing of the ACTEM on ADF uniform, on the right-hand side, when the recipient is attending an official function of the ACT Government.

List of Non-Official, Private Commemorative Medals

The following are examples of non-official medals which are available for purchase.

None of these medals is authorised for wear.

- Active Service Medal
- Allied Ex-POW Medal
- Arctic Campaign Medal
- Army Service Medal
- Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Medal
- Australian Logistic Support Forces Vietnam Medal
- Australian Merchant Navy Commendation
- Australian Merchant Navy Meritorious Medal
- Australian Merchant Navy Service Cross
- Australian Nuclear Veterans Association Medal
- Australian Security Medal
- Aviation Service Medal

- Battle for Malta Medal
- BCOF Medal
- Bomber Command Medal
- British Forces Germany Medal
- CMF/Reserve Forces Medal
- Combatant Service Medal
- Compulsory Military Training Medal
- Conscripted Service Medal

- Eastern Service Medal
- Far East and Asiatic Service Medal
- Foreign Service Medal
- Front Line Service Medal
- Hors de Combat Medal
- International Submariners Medal
- Korean War 40th Anniversary Medal

- Merchant Navy Service Cross
- Merchant Navy Service Medal
- National Defence Medal
- National Service Medal
- Normandy Campaign Medal
- Prisoner of War Medal
- Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal
- Regular Forces Medals
- Restoration of Peace Medal

- Sea Service Medal
- Siege of Tobruk Medal
- Simpson Medal
- Suez Canal Zone Medal
- Vietnam Veteran's Medal
- Volunteer Service Medal
- Vietnam 25th Anniversary Medal

I've received my ANSM – why is there a delay in being assessed for the ADM?

The Anniversary of National Service 1951-72 Medal (ANSM) and the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) are different awards which have different criteria.

The main difference relates to what the member signed on to complete.



Anniversary of National Service Medal

In the Navy and RAAF, members sign on to complete a continuous service training commitment.

When they complete this commitment they are eligible for the ANSM and the ADM.

It is for this reason that if a Navy or RAAF member has received the ANSM then their ADM application can be processed easily.

However, Army personnel signed on to complete a total number of days, only some of which are covered by the initial continuous training.

The remainder of the days are to be completed within five years. This is where the difference occurs.

Members of the Army qualify for the ANSM once they have completed their continuous service but, to qualify for the ADM, they must complete four years service or their full commitment.

It is the verification of this additional service that may cause delays in processing applications for the ADM.

ASM, AASM and clasps

There is a belief that DH&A initiates policy about which activities are to be recognised by the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) and the Australian Service Medal (ASM) and issues clasps accordingly. This is incorrect.

The establishment of clasps to the AASM and ASM are initiated by a Ministerial declaration about whether an operation is either warlike or non-warlike. The AASM is linked directly to a declaration of warlike service, whereas the ASM is linked to a declaration of non-warlike service. DH&A does not identify which operations are to be declared, but rather takes direction once the declarations have been put in place.

While the regulations for the AASM are quite stringent about recognising warlike service only, a little flexibility can be exercised in relation to the ASM regulations. However, this will only occur after careful consideration and clearance by the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) and the Minister, and subsequent approval by the Governor-General.

One exception at the moment is the Clasp 'SPECIAL OPS' to the ASM. This was established as a result of a recommendation of the 1993/94 Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards (CIDA). CIDA identified that during peacetime certain hazardous activities of a special nature are conducted outside of a formal declaration of a warlike or non-warlike operation by the Minister for Defence, and should be recognised by a medal.

The Government accepted the deliberations of CIDA and, as a result, some hazardous activities may be specified by CDF as 'special operations' for the clasp. However, these activities remain operational in nature and rely on military outcomes. Normally, CDF will only consider an operation under this category once it has been considered through the chain-of-command and recommended by the relevant Service Chief or the Vice Chief of the Defence Force.

The ASM with Clasp 'SPECIAL OPS' is not awarded alongside another medal for the same service. For example, veterans have asked that the medal be awarded for their service in Borneo, Vietnam and Somalia. In all these cases, operational service awards have been already made, including the AASM.

'One exception at the moment is the Clasp 'SPECIAL OPS' to the ASM.'

Unclaimed Medals – Does Defence have your current address and contact details?

Whether you are a current or former Defence Force member, you can ensure that you receive any medals you are eligible for by providing the Department with your current address and contact details.

If you have not advised us of your new address then the delivery of medals may be delayed, or they may be returned to Honours & Awards as 'unclaimed'.

If you are a current serving member or an active Reservist you should regularly check and update your address and contact details via PMKeyS Self Service using the **My Personal Details > Personal Data** page. You can also view your current honours and awards data by using the **My Qualifications > View Qualifications** page.

If you do not have access to PSS and are a current member or Reservist, complete an **AD150 ADF Personal Data** form and submit it to your administering unit, Military Personnel Administration Centre or reserve administration cell for processing on PMKeyS.

If you are a former Defence Force member and are not a Reservist, please notify your change of address by completing the change of address form at www.defence.gov.au/medals via the **Have you Moved** link.

Rumour Mill – ADM

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) is the subject of many rumours that have led to a great deal of misunderstanding in the ex-Service community. These rumours also create a lot of extra work for the staff of DH&A, and they take staff away from their core business of administering medal entitlements. It is hoped that the information provided here will help to lay these rumours to rest.

Rumour 1 – Clasps will be issued to recognise individual forms of service.

There is a belief that there is a plan or intention to establish and issue clasps, such as 'NAVY', 'REGULAR' and 'NATIONAL SERVICE', to be fitted to the ribbon of the ADM.

This rumour is false. The ADM is a medal designed to recognise the service of every serving and former serving member of the ADF who is entitled to it without distinction. There is no plan to issue clasps for the ADM, now or in the future.



Australian Defence Medal

Rumour 2 – A 'volunteer medal' is to be established and issued to complement the ADM.

This rumour is based on the fact that former national servicemen are entitled to the ADM in addition to the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal.

The rumour is that, in order to balance the fact that national servicemen receive two medals, those who were not conscripted will be issued a medal to recognise that they enlisted voluntarily.

This is false; there is no intention to establish such a medal.

Rumour 3 – The four years served to qualify for eligibility to the ADM is added to the 15-years service required for eligibility to the Defence Long Service Medal.

This notion is current among serving members of the Australian Defence Force. The rumour has it that the four-years service required for the ADM is now added to the 15-years service required for the Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM), and that this results in the member having to serve **19 years** before they are entitled to the DLSM.

This is false. The ADM is not a long service medal, so time served for eligibility for the ADM is not counted against time served for eligibility for the DLSM. The initial period of service required to qualify for eligibility to the DLSM remains 15 years, and is not affected in any way by the ADM.

60th Anniversary Medallion

DH&A receives regular inquiries about the World War II Commemorative Medallion 2005. This medallion is issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and has no connection with the Department of Defence or DH&A. It is not a part of the Australian honours and awards system.



60th Anniversary Medallion

For information about the medallion contact Veterans' Affairs on 133 254 (general inquiries from anywhere in Australia), or log on to www.dva.gov.au and look for **Commemorations; Web archives**

CONTACT US:

Website - former ADF members & general public
www.defence.gov.au/medals

Website – current serving ADF members
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dsg/sites/HonoursandAwards>

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