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ARGYLE BULLETIN

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**GOULBURN DISTRICT
HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL
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Goulburn District Historical and Genealogical Society Inc.

Trading as HISTORY GOULBURN

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1st Vice President	Roger Bayley
2nd Vice President	Annette Murphy
Secretary	W. Sommerville
Treasurer	Helen Condylis
Members	Bruce Harvey
	Linda Cooper
	Daphne Penalver

Meetings

General meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of February, April, June, August (AGM) and October at the Goulburn Workers Club, McKell Place at 10.30am. All are welcome. December Christmas function location to be decided.

Access to Archives

Public access to our archives is available at the temporary research centre situated at 324 Sloane Street between 10am and 4pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment by ringing (02) 4821 1156.

Research

Research enquiries welcome.

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Email: wollondillynet@gmail.com

Membership Fees:

Junior (under 18 years)	free
Single	\$20.00
Family (2 adults)	\$25.00
Corporate	\$150.00

Disclaimer.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the year is ending, History Goulburn is having a Christmas Party. It will be on Thursday 28 November straight after our 10.30am members' meeting at The Deck at the Workers Club (where we had our AGM). Please come along – History Goulburn is providing some light refreshments, and it will be good to have a few chats before the onslaught of the festive season.

At our AGM last month, we elected a new committee – Jennifer Lamb (President), Roger Bayley (1st Vice President), Annette Murphy (2nd Vice-President). Bill Sommerville (Secretary), Helen Condylis (Treasurer) and Bruce Harvey, Linda Cooper and Daphne Penalver as Committee Members. I welcome on board the new committee members Linda and Daphne – both long-time and valued History Goulburn members and researchers.

On behalf of the committee and members, I wholeheartedly thank previous vice presidents Garry White and Margaret Kendall for their outstanding service to History Goulburn.

Garry White is renowned as a long-time president of our Society, steering it through many challenging, and happy, times. Throughout, he has been and continues to be one of our best sources of information about Goulburn's history.

Margaret Kendall has been a valuable supportive vice-President and President since 2018 and set up and manages the History Goulburn Facebook. In 2017 Margaret more than proved her worth by overseeing the massive move of our collection from St Clair to Bourke Street storage.

We will miss both Garry and Margaret on committee, but continue to appreciate their involvement in other ways.

Finally, working with Stuart Hume (pictured), we helped successfully commemorate the bicentenary of the 1824 Hume and Hovell expedition – on 13 October beside Lansdowne Bridge. There were talks by descendants of six of the expedition team and the planting of a tree cultivated from one planted by Hamilton Hume in 1840, and still thriving at Cooma Cottage. Thankfully, Goulburn's fickle spring weather behaved itself.



Hope to see you at our next meeting and Christmas Party on 28 November

Jennifer Lamb
November 2024

Correction from the November Bulletin:

The article in our last Bulletin about the Hume and Hovell expedition has brought to light a controversy over the end point of their journey.

The explorers believed that their adventure had terminated at Western Port, but Hovell had made an error in his calculations. Five months later when he visited Western Port by boat and failed to recognise the place, he realised his mistake.

For many years historians have argued that they reached Corio Bay instead, but recent research by Peter Harper of the Albury and District Historical Society, supported by Dr. Keith Clifford (the retired Surveyor-General of Victoria) challenges that conclusion, and indicates that they reached the mouth of the Werribee River on Port Phillip before turning for home.

Lance Pritchard of the Werribee District Historical Society has compiled the evidence into a dossier which can be viewed at the following website:
www.humehovellexpedition.com

Letter to the Editor

Hovell's Field Books

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 20 August 1921

Dear Sir, Having had the privilege of being on intimate terms with Captain Hovell for many years, I read with much interest to his Field Books in your last issue and it is most pleasing to hear that the records that have been found show that he gave full credit to Hume, contrary to what has so often been asserted. No doubt, as you say, it would come as a surprise that Captain Hovell, left any descendants; but the explanation is that he was twice married. There was no issue to the second marriage; but there was a daughter – and I think the only child by the first marriage, who became the wife of the well-known William Bradley, the original owner of Gundary and Lansdowne Estates and also of all land lying between Citizen-street and the Wollondilly River. There were several daughters of this marriage, the youngest of whom married Colonel Roberts, who also lived at Goulburn for some years, and Mrs. Roberts is no doubt the grand-daughter who presented these valuable historical Field Books to the Mitchell Library. Yours faithfully,

A. M. Betts.

GOULBURN AND THE SUDAN WAR

In the 1880's Goulburn's population was around 10,000. Threats from bushrangers had eased after Ben Hall had been shot and killed by police in 1865 and his gang dispersed. However, Goulburn was soon to be involved in international politics in a most unforeseen manner for in a country that most hadn't even heard of, events were occurring that were to have far reaching effects on Australia and New South Wales in particular.

In 1883 in North Africa in The Sudan, a religious fanatic, Muhammed Ahmed (Mahdi) and his supporters rebelled against the Egyptian based government supported by Britain. Egypt responded by sending an army to quell the revolt which was soundly defeated by the rebel forces. The difficulties in extricating the survivors soon became apparent and Britain sent General Charles Gordon to assist and advise as to how an evacuation could be carried out. General Gordon disregarded his orders and instead decided to use his force to defeat the Mahdi and restore law and order. Regrouping and incorporating the Egyptian troops with his own, Gordon set out but was beaten by the Mahdi's army and had to retreat to Khartoum. Gordon's forces were soon surrounded and under siege. After much dithering and political argument in London a relief force was despatched from Cairo and was fighting its way to lift the siege when on 26 January 1885 news came that Gordon had been killed. This news was soon known across the world, Empire colonies indignant that a British General should meet his death at the hands of a force of natives.

The news of Gordon's death reached New South Wales in February 1885 and an offer was made to Britain for troops from NSW to serve. The British government accepted the offer but made it quite clear that any such troops who served would come under the British commander. This stipulation was accepted by the NSW government. It was deemed historically significant, being the first time that soldiers from a self-governing colony were to serve in an Imperial war.

Goulburn wasn't immune from the patriotic fervour that swept NSW. Volunteers flooded in and it was then up to the medical staff to find those whose age precluded them from arduous active service or who had large families. The Sydney Morning Herald 17 February 1885 reported that "Thirty-eight persons have given their names to the captain of the local volunteer infantry as willing to proceed to the Soudan. Thirty-five of the number are members of the local corps."

At a meeting of the Goulburn City Council the following resolution was carried: 'That the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, forward a cablegram to her Gracious Majesty the Queen, expressing their loyalty to her person and throne, and their sincere regret at the loss the British nation has sustained by the tragic end of General Gordon.' Businesses in Goulburn were quick to offer to the volunteers and their families their services at reduced or no cost. The Sydney Morning Herald advertised that "Mr George P Vincent, druggist, of Goulburn Street announced to the mothers, wives and families of the Goulburn volunteers who are going to the Soudan(sic) that he will willingly give his advice and supply them with medicines, free of cost, during the campaign." Gillespie's Boot Factory in Goulburn donated 500 pairs of boots to the contingent and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company agreed to transmit messages from the volunteers to their families and friends free of charges upon their arrival in Egypt.

The Goulburn Herald newspaper also contributed to the excitement by reporting anything remotely associated with the recruitment and impending despatch of the locals selected to serve in the Contingent. It reported on progress in its edition of

Thursday 19 February 1885 “The preparations for the despatch of the New South Wales contingent to Suakin for service in the Soudan continue to occupy the public mind, and in Goulburn as in other parts of the country, the interest occasioned by the movement has suffered no abatement.

On Tuesday last Captain Blackshaw of the local Volunteer Company received a telegram from headquarters requesting all those who had offered themselves as volunteers for service in the Soudan to report to Victoria Barracks at their earliest convenience.

The Captain at once summoned the bugler of the local corps and they went around the city, having the call to arms frequently sounded upon the bugle, requesting the men who had volunteered to muster in Belmore-square at three o'clock. About five and twenty obeyed the summons, and being formed into line and the roll called the Captain read the telegram conveying the instructions. The men were then dismissed with instructions to assemble at the railway station next morning to leave by the mail train.

The following is a list of names:

Captain Blackshaw, Colour Sergeant CS Fuller, Sergeant J Morris, Corporal S Nelson, Privates W Haigh, T Bassett, G Bigwood, R Horan, F Wright, J Stubbings, J Duffy, J.G Nelson, J Cameron, D Osborne, W Divall, E Jeffery, W Barnes, A Barrett, W.J Liggins, all members of the local volunteers corps, also SMM Dennis; JT Lockard & E.A Kenny, formerly members of the local volunteer corps and trained men. On the 21st, 5 warders from Goulburn Gaol departed by train to join the Contingent in Sydney.

In its issue of Thursday 26 February 1885 The Post reported “At a parade held last evening in Belmore Square, Captain Blackshaw read a telegram from Major Baynes stating that all bona fide volunteers would be allowed free passes to Sydney to take part in the procession on Thursday in connection with the embarkation of the troops for the Soudan (sic). The members of the Goulburn Company will meet in Belmore-Square on Monday at midnight and accompanied by the Premier Band, will parade several streets before leaving by the mail train for Sydney. The Captain intends to try to obtain free passes for the band to accompany the volunteers. It has been determined to hold a church parade tomorrow morning. The friends of Corporal S Nelson and Private JG Nelson, two of the volunteers from the Goulburn Company, will be glad to learn that they have been appointed sergeants in the contingent going to the Soudan and were presented on Thursday with silver mounted revolvers in recognition of their smartness in barracks. The Premier Band also intend to give Corporal Nelson some memento as a token of the service he has rendered to the band.”

After arriving in Sydney and making their way to Victoria Barracks in Paddington, the local men were greeted by those that had already arrived and were shown their quarters. They didn't have much time to find a bed for they were soon summonsed to



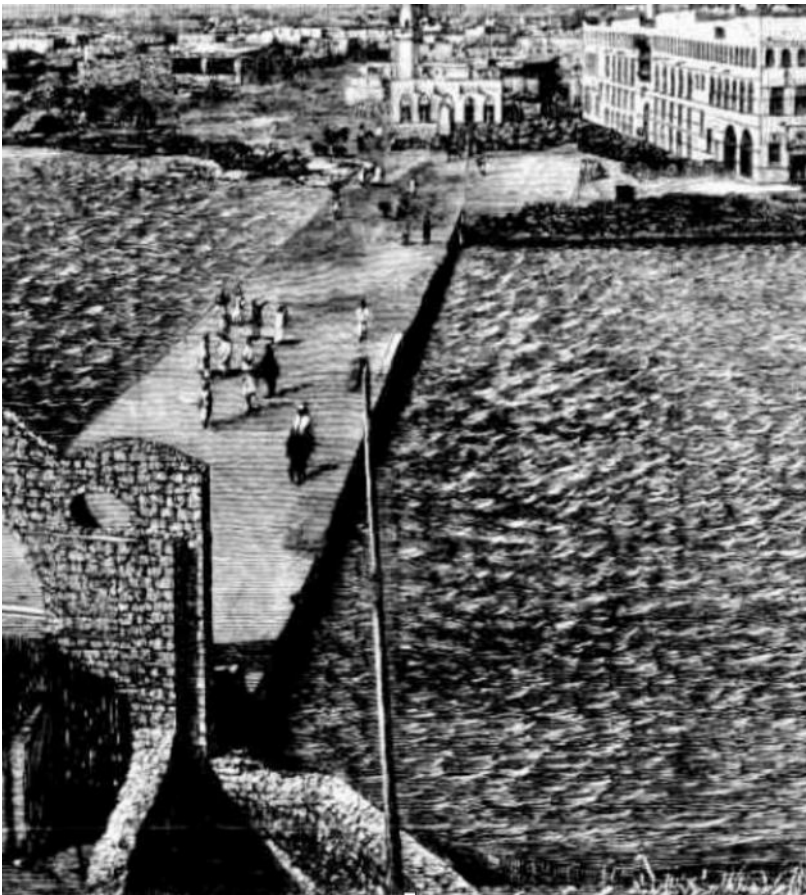
The NSW Soudan Contingent at Circular Quay

attend the medical section of the barracks and undergo a stringent examination to ensure they were fit for service in a hot dry climate. After passing this they were allotted to their companies and given instructions as to what they were to wear and carry on their march through Sydney streets to their waiting transports Iberia and Australasian waiting for them at Circular Quay.

Corporal Samuel Nelson described the voyage over in a letter to friends published in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post of 21 May 1885. "I have often been thinking about all of you in Goulburn. It is a very trying kind of country we are in now, being extremely hot, but I think we will be able to stand it all right and I do believe we will give a very good account of ourselves. The British troops are a fine body of men, and General Graham, who is at their head, has a very soldierly appearance. He gave us a warm welcome, and the British soldiers were surprised to see we were such a first class lot of men. One of the Englishmen thought we were all blacks and he could not make it out. We had a very good voyage it was very calm, in fact in the Indian Ocean the water was as smooth as glass. The lovely scenery at sunset and sunrise is astonishing."

In a letter to his parents from Handoub written on 11 April 1885 and published in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post of 28 May 1885, Private J.S Cole tells of his arrival at Suakin "We arrived safely at Suakin and disembarked the same day, and I tell you it is the most comical looking town. It is full of Egyptians, Turks and Arabs, and it is a dirty black-looking town. The English troops are camped around the town so we marched into our camp straight away.

We are attached to the Coldstream Guards, Grenadiers and Scots Greys. We are called the Australian Guards. The day after we landed we were served with a brown linen kind of stuff for clothing, the colour of sand, and we had to stain our helmets and belts with coffee. The English troops are all dressed the same way. On 2nd April we advanced to Tamai, and on the 3rd we took the wells and burnt the village. The Australians did not have a shot at all, but four of them were wounded and five or six of the English troops. We reckon that six hundred Arabs were killed. We could not get them out of the hills so we retired, and they would not show, so we went back to camp, and the next day marched back to Tamai. I believe the Tamai battle is considered a general engagement so we get a bar for it, for we were under fire. I have been carrying ammunition since we have been here, and I have two mules for the



Disembarkation point Suakin

purpose. There were four of us told off from each company, and we were the furthest to the front of the Australians. The bullets were whizzing over our heads, and one hit the butt-end of the rifle belonging to a young fellow standing beside me. He is a Goulburn volunteer, and his name is William Divall. He and I are comrades. We have great sport riding the mules. We are going to advance tomorrow morning at 3 o'clock towards Berber. We are going to take some villages but I do not know their names. About half of the Australians are going (I among them) also the Coldstream Guards and two or three regiments. The rest of the troops will remain here to guard this zareba. Long

marches knock our volunteers about a great deal. A great many fainted during the march to Tamai. The distance was ten miles (16km) and the road was very sandy and the weather rather warm. We do not get much water.....”

Gunner Benjamin Mowbray wrote to his father as to how the campaign was progressing for him in a letter published in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post 28 May 1885 “.....It is very hot in the middle of the day and very cold towards morning. it is sand everywhere; in our boots, eyes and everywhere. We are at the front now and are

going 20 miles (32km) further inland soon. As for the fighting that has taken place at Tamai and Hasheen, you know as much about that as I do. There are about 1500 troops here. the camels are the greatest enemy we have at the moment, the horses are very frightened to go near them. The water is very scarce, what we do get is condensed by steamer, and brought by train. there are great rocky mountains where the last battle was fought, covered with prickly bushes about ten feet (3m) high, and in some places there is only room for one man to pass through. The Arabs lay behind these in fours and fives and wait for you. Sometimes they sneak up on the sentries and stab them. There were 12 men killed that way. The town of Suakin looks as if it had been bombarded and the roofs taken off.”

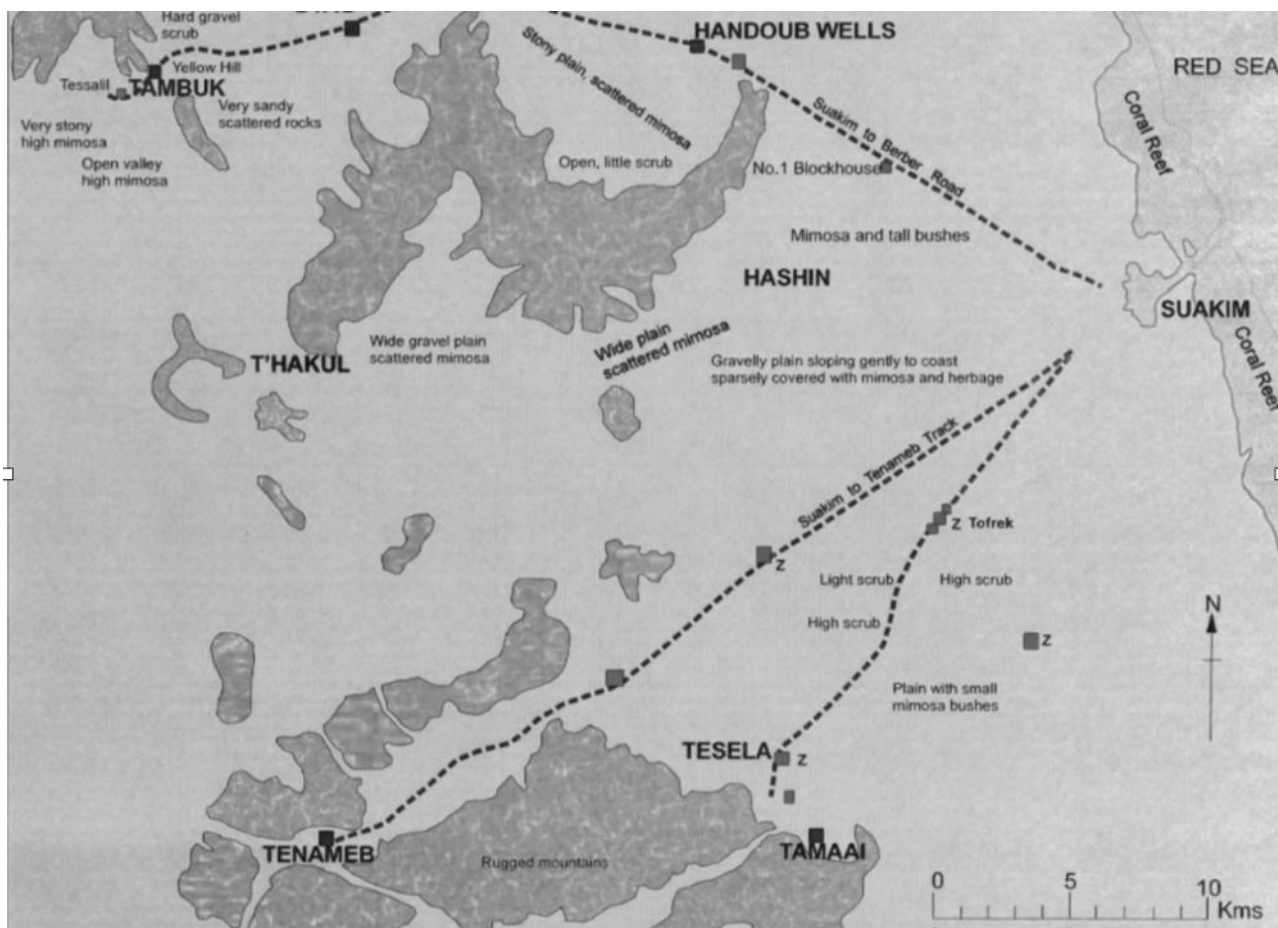
Private Fred Wright wrote to his brother regarding the encounter from Handoub 10 April and published in the Goulburn Herald 28 May 1885. “.....Of course you have read the details of the fight at Tamai before this. On our way out we marched across the field which had been the scene of a previous battle. It was strewn with dead Arabs, camels, donkeys and packs. It was a sight one does not see every day. Some of the Arabs were not buried at all. I walked over a few dead bodies and had to look at them. The stench was very bad. We stayed at the Zareba, had some dinner, and proceeded to Tamai where we camped out, and took up position in a little gully with a long flat leading into it and surrounded by hills upon which small bodies of men took up position. On one of these I found myself. I was posted with a mate by a bunch of rocks. About ten o'clock a party on a hill about a mile (1.6km) off commenced firing, and the bullets came buzzing about like flies around a joint of beef, perhaps not quite as thick. I was so tired after the march, which was about fourteen miles (23km), through sand and brambles that had they been twice as thick I would not have sought cover.

After several months abroad the Australians returned home. The men gradually made their way back to Goulburn where they were met with a royal reception and greeted as men of considerable pluck and martial prowess. The Goulburn press were there too as part of the greeting dignitaries and described the proceedings.

The Sydney Morning Herald of 27 June 1885 said “The 4 o'clock train this afternoon brought nine of the members of the Contingent belonging to Goulburn. They met with a most hearty reception, the station being crowded with the Goulburn public.

The Goulburn Evening Penny Post went to press with a more detailed account

“A very large crowd assembled in the station-yard yesterday to honour the few volunteers who represented Goulburn during the brief but wearisome campaign in the Soudan. A full half-hour before the time for the arrival of the train the entrances to the platform were choked. Admission to the platform was only by ticket. Amongst those thereon we noticed Mr Gillespie (Mayor), and Aldermen Meyer, Richardson, Tait and RT Ball. At a few minutes to four the train came steaming into the station, and ‘our boys’ in their unattractive khakee(sic) uniforms, and with their grey Soudan helmets in various stages of dilapidation stepped onto the platform they had left only four short months months ago. We could not see where the crowd had come from but the platform, only one minute before bleak and half deserted, seemed filled with a talkative mass of elbowing people, each one



Map of the British advance in Soudan

endeavouring to get into the best possible position for 'reviewing' in an unofficial and civilian sense the nine returned warriors. The men looked tired and colourless, but otherwise in health, but the apparel so very unmartial in appearance, however suitable for the burning sands of Africa, came in for a large share of criticism in Goulburn. After some delay caused by the friendly greetings of comrades, the men, in company with the Goulburn Volunteer Corps were mustered in the station yard, and formed the centre of a large surging crowd, while Captain Blackshaw read to them the following address:

To the Goulburn portion of the New South Wales Soudan Contingent.

It is with extreme pleasure that I have the honour this day of welcoming you back to your homes and comrades after your brief campaign in the Soudan. It cannot but be exceedingly gratifying to you to receive the high encomiums which have been passed upon the behaviour and military bearing of the contingent by the Governor of this colony and your own Colonel. After his address the returned men, proceeded along Sloane Street then into Bradley Street, into Auburn Street to Clinton Street where they were dismissed.

On 4 July a meeting was held chaired by the Mayor Alderman E Gillespie and after lengthy discussion it was decided that a welcome home ball would be held and a subscription fund be opened with the funds raised being used to strike gold

medallions for those that had served with the Contingent. The date decided upon was the 28th July and that for those wishing to attend the admission price of 2/- (20c) per person was decided upon.

After tea on the 28th, a parade was held in Belmore Park and after being dismissed, those that attended made their way to the Oddfellows Hall, the Premier Band playing popular marching tunes of the day, such as The Girl I Left Behind Me and Rule Britannia. At the hall the procession made its way to their seats for the official welcome.

‘The members of the Goulburn Company Volunteers Infantry have deep and unfeigned pleasure in welcoming you home after your brief but meritorious period of service in the Soudan and in presenting you with this small token of their esteem, they heartily express the hope that you will long be spared to enjoy the honours so deservedly won.

When all the addresses had been presented roof-shaking cheers were given for the Queen as the national Anthem was played; for the contingent as the orchestra played Jolly Good Fellows, and Mr Dalley and the returned soldiers called for three cheers for Captain Blackshaw, and three cheers for the Goulburn Volunteers. Captain Blackshaw returned the thanks on behalf of the corps, and, addressing the contingent, he said he would be only too glad to receive them into his company again. He could not promise promotion to them all, but he would do his best amongst them. Thus ended the ceremony. The ball was well attended by about thirty couples. Dancers were allowed the option of wearing fancy dress, but only the gentlemen availed themselves of it. Many of the ladies were nicely dressed, and as the decorations used at the Masonic ball were brought into requisition, the scene from the stage was a very pretty one, with the bright scarlet and the dark blue of the volunteer and brigade uniforms and the pretty colours of the ladies’ costumes, the packed audience in the circle forming an animated background, the hall never appeared to better advantage. Those who were present most certainly enjoyed themselves to the full, and very rarely has there been a merrier ball in the city. The dancing members of the contingent at times figured amongst those on the floor. The music was supplied by Messrs. White, O’Keefe and Slater, and it is hardly necessary to add no better could be desired. Mr Parkinson was the caterer, and he provided an excellent spread that was most highly spoken of by those who were privileged to test the good quality of the eatables provided. It was laid out on the stage, and at 12 o’clock the company sat down to it, and entered into its discussion with zest. The appropriate words ‘Welcome Home’ were emblazoned in large letters.”

So ended Goulburn’s first major contribution to supplying recruits for battles in distant lands. Few people had heard of or knew where the Sudan was but by the time the volunteers returned home it had become a household name and Goulburn’s pride in itself at what the citizens had done gave a real sense of community and belonging, for it had shared the cares and concerns of those who had family or relatives serving and brought everyone closer together in a desire to be seen as loyal and patriotic

members of a growing city in an important colony. For their service they were awarded the Egypt Medal with Suakin 1885 clasp and Khedive's Star.

Written by William Needham, research by Rod McLean

A topical discussion!

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Thursday 4 November 1971, page 2
Daylight saving

Sir, — We were discussing the initiation of daylight-saving and were concerned at the possible effects that it could have on our environment Canberra is having a dry spell at the moment and an extra hour of daylight could make the position worse. In fact the level of Lake Burley Griffin could drop and could, conceivably, dry up. Increased photosynthesis may occur, causing the lawns to grow at an alarming rate and making it impossible for the average Australian lawnmower to handle the pace. However, there may be compensation for the dairy farmer who feels that milk production will drop with the introduction of daylight saving, because increased growth of grass will actually make his cows more contented and they would surely give a corresponding increase in milk production.

We thought that Canberra's winters are too frosty and that the daylight saving would be better transferred to winter where the extra hour of daylight would be really appreciated. In fact if we saved enough daylight in summer we could distribute it over the rest of the year and have a more equitable climate all year round. People at Antarctica have quite a radical daylight, saving schedule; by saving all winter, they have their daylight for the whole of summer; the North Pole people have thoughtfully staggered theirs the other way so that birds would have something to fly north to during winter. But they get more sunlight up there, because being on top of the world, they are closer to the sun any way.

Our final concern was that if we are getting more daylight, someone in the world is missing out. We hope this will bring many saving issues to the light of day.

W. J. NETHERY Campbell.