to establish a chronology may be because there simply is not a distinct period of time in which a type of naming was used; linking naming to dates is not possible because naming occurred over a long period of time. On the other hand, the failure to establish a chronology may be because the sample of medals examined in this study is too small. It seems more likely, however, that multiple naming styles were used simultaneously and consequently that no chronology for types of naming exists.

What is certain is that the various styles of naming did *not* occur because different private engravers were used. Gordon Bickley, a collector of British and South African medals and long-time member of the Military Medal Society of South Africa, confirmed in recent correspondence that “all naming of [military] medals prior to about 1980 was done by the [South African] mint in Pretoria.” But, if naming variations are not the result of different private engravers with different machines, it follows that the Pretoria mint had at least six (and probably more) sets of dies and used them all more or less simultaneously when punching/impressing recipient names. It seems likely that there were so many stars to be issued after World War I that efficiency required Pretoria to use multiple machines for an extended period of time.

The result of this preliminary study of commando Stars raises additional questions for future study:

1. How many other naming styles exist on 1914-15 Stars for German South-West Africa?

2. Are the naming styles found on commando 1914-15 Stars also to be found on other Stars issued for service in German South-West Africa?

Similarly, Figures 34, 35 and 36 show that ‘Commando Type IV’ naming was also used on stars issued to troopers in the 1st Rhodesia Regiment, the only non-South African regiment to serve in German South-West Africa, Kalahari Horse and 2nd South African Mounted Rifles. It seems likely that all commando type naming styles will be found on Stars issued to non-commando units, with the
fewest number being Type VI.

The author welcomes comments from fellow collectors and photographs of German South West African stars to complete this study. The author also thanks Mr. Gordon Bickley of Johannesburg, South Africa, for his invaluable assistance and insights in the preparation of this article.

Endnotes
4. The phrase “urgent imperial service” comes from the telegram sent by London to Botha in August 1914, when British authorities told Botha that it would be “a great and urgent imperial service” if South African forces could capture German South West Africa.
5. Farwell, 103.
7. These numbers were compiled by South African collector Peter Digby.
9. Lot 620, City Coins Postal Auction No. 56 (November 2006), has similar 1914-15 Star. With impressed regimental number and rank. The catalogue description states the Star was issued in May 1954 and is “named in the World War II style.”

BOOK REVIEW

Qaravi Na’i Tavi - They Did Their Duty – Soldiers from Fiji in the Great War by Christine Liava’a, Polygraphia Ltd, PO Box 167 Westpark Village, West Harbour, Auckland 0661, New Zealand (website: www.polygraphia.com) at NZ$120 plus packing/postage. This soft-bound 2009 353 page publication (ISBN: 987 1 877332 62 3) includes extensive historic black and white illustrations, a number of color plates, and is organized in seven sections, with 11 appendices.

Early in the Great War 1914-1918, Lord Kitchener put out a call to arms to the British Empire. Fiji, an isolated South Pacific island colony, responded all out of proportion to its size and population. Many indigenous Fijians and 1255 men and women out of the tiny European population of about 4000 (which included children) served overseas or at home. Some were Fijians born and bred, others had come to Fiji to work and live from Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and India. Of these, 88 would be decorated, and 173 would die.

This book provides an eclectic and comprehensive compilation of historical photos, letters, documents, biographies, and extensive military details (including awards and mentions, and war memorials) concerning the war service of Fijians in the British Navy, Merchant Marine, Army, and RFC/RAF units, and those who served with Australian, New Zealand, South African, and Canadian contingents, and even those good few who served with American and French forces, including the French Foreign Legion. Particularly useful is an alphabetic Nominal Index that allows for quick lookups of individuals.

Researchers and collectors of Great War material will welcome this new book by Christine Liava’a on the war effort by the people of Fiji during World War One. I recommend it.

Reviewed by Irv Mortenson
ANNIVERSARY AND MEMORIAL BADGES OF THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

DOUGLAS D. SCOTT

The Battle of the Little Bighorn or Custer’s Last Stand is one of the most iconic battles of the American Indian Wars era. It epitomizes the conflict between the federal government and the American Indian in such a flamboyant manner that it still captures scholarly and public interest today. Regardless of the interest in the Little Bighorn battle story and its related awards, few are aware of the ribbons, pins, and badges produced for some battle anniversaries and other special events.

The battle occurred on June 25 and 26, 1876, pitting the 7th US Cavalry against Lakota and Cheyenne warriors of the northern Great Plains. Commanding the 7th Cavalry was Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Major General) George Armstrong Custer. On June 25, 1876, a hot Sunday afternoon in southeast Montana, Custer’s immediate command of 210 was surrounded and destroyed by up to 1500 firearm-wielding warriors. Some 3 1/2 miles to the south another 350 7th Cavalrymen under the command of Major Marcus Reno and Captain Frederick Benteen were also surrounded by hundreds of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors, but they managed to survive two days, before being relieved by a column commanded by Brigadier General Alfred Terry on June 27.

Interest in the battle began almost as soon as the gunsmoke wafted from the field, and history turned to legend almost as quickly. The battlefield was memorialized soon after the 1876 fight when a portion of it was set aside as Custer National Cemetery in 1879. From that date until 1940 the site was administered by the United States Army. As the Custer legend grew from history to American myth the Army expanded the boundary to include the Reno-Benteen defense site, but by 1940 the army realized it could no longer maintain the cemetery and interpret the history of the battle, neither being a part of its legal mandate. The site was transferred to the National Park Service in 1940 as Custer Battlefield National Monument and Custer National Cemetery. The name was changed to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in 1991, although the associated Custer National Cemetery retained its name.

In the first few years following the Army’s defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn there were no celebrations at the site, which was still very much a part of the remote western frontier. However, in 1886, the tenth anniversary of the battle, a small memorial event was held on the battlefield. The event was attended by battle veterans Major Frederick Benteen, Captains Edward S. Godfrey and Thomas McDougall, Doctor Henry Porter, Sergeant Curtis Hall, and Trumpeter George Penwell. The Hunkpapa warrior-chief Gall was present, specifically for the purpose of being interviewed by Captain Godfrey, as were several of Custer’s Crow scouts. An enterprising photographer, David Barry, recorded the events, and created a memorable set of photographs of the battlefield a mere ten years after the fight. The party was escorted to the site by members of the 5th Infantry stationed at Fort Custer some 15 miles from the battle site, near present-day Hardin, Montana.

A few small memorial events were held in subsequent years but no major organized celebratory events were held on site until 1916, the 40th battle anniversary, and none were commemorated by badges or ribbons until the 1916 event. By this time the western frontier and the battle story...