

= Reg Pollard (general) =

Lieutenant General Sir Reginald George Pollard , KCVO , KBE , CB , DSO (20 January 1903 ? 9 March 1978) was a senior commander in the Australian Army , serving as Chief of the General Staff from 1960 to 1963 . Born in Bathurst , New South Wales , Pollard graduated from the Royal Military College , Duntroon , in 1924 . A regular officer , he served as adjutant / quartermaster in several battalions of the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) during the 1920s and 1930s . In 1938 he was posted to England to undertake staff training , which was cut short by the outbreak of the Second World War . Pollard joined the Second Australian Imperial Force in 1940 , and the following year saw action with the 7th Division in the Middle East , where he was mentioned in despatches . Promoted to colonel in 1942 , he became senior staff officer of the 7th Division in New Guinea , and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his actions . He spent much of the remainder of the war in staff and training positions in Australia .

Pollard 's early post-war roles involved recruit training , land / air warfare , administration , and planning . In 1953 , he was promoted to brigadier and took command of the Australian Army Component of the British Commonwealth Forces Korea . He joined the Military Board as a major general in 1954 , and was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire the following year . In 1957 he was promoted to lieutenant general and took charge of Eastern Command in Sydney ; two years later he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath . Knighted in 1961 , as Chief of the General Staff he presided over the Army 's reorganisation as a pentropic structure , and worked towards making Duntroon a degree-granting institution . In 1962 , he oversaw deployment of the first team of Australian military advisors to South Vietnam . After retiring from the military in 1963 , Pollard became Honorary Colonel of the Royal Australian Regiment ; he served as Australian Secretary to Queen Elizabeth II during the Royal Visit in 1970 and was appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order the same year . He died at Wyrallah , New South Wales , in 1978 .

= = Early life = =

Reginald George Pollard was born on 20 January 1903 in Bathurst , New South Wales , the third son of Albert Edgar Pollard , an English accountant , and his Australian wife Thalia Rebecca , née McLean . Schooled in Bathurst , Reg entered the Royal Military College , Duntroon , in 1921 , and graduated with the Sword of Honour for " exemplary conduct and performance " in 1924 . Pollard and fellow graduate Frederick Scherger , winner of the King 's Medal and future air chief marshal , applied to transfer to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) under a scheme designed to augment the RAAF 's officer corps , but only Scherger was accepted . The previous year , Pollard and Scherger had inaugurated a Duntroon tradition when they found a horse 's jawbone during a field exercise . Inspired by the Biblical tale in which Samson slays the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass , they declared their find a lucky charm and brought it back to the college as a mascot ; it became known as " Enobesra " (reportedly because " jawbone seemed so commonplace , an arsebone sounded much more interesting and spelt backwards sounded both mysterious and respectable ") .

Ranked lieutenant in the Permanent Military Force (PMF) , Pollard was appointed adjutant / quartermaster of the 17th Battalion (Citizens Military Forces) , headquartered at North Sydney , in July 1925 . He married Daisy Ethel Potter , a typist , at St Andrew 's Anglican Church , Strathfield , on 31 October ; The Bathurst Times reported that Daisy cut the cake with her husband 's Sword of Honour . Pollard departed for India on attachment to the British Army in September 1927 , serving with the Royal Fusiliers and the York and Lancaster Regiment . He returned to Sydney in November the following year and was posted as adjutant / quartermaster to , successively , the 18th Battalion (CMF) and , in September 1932 , the 44th Battalion (CMF) . In December 1932 , while serving with the 44th in Western Australia , he was promoted to captain . Pollard was camp commandant of the National Rifle Association of Western Australia from 1934 to 1936 . He was transferred to Army Headquarters , Melbourne , in October 1936 . His next posting , in July 1938 , was as General Staff

Officer Grade 3 , Training and General Duties , at the 2nd District Base , Sydney . In November 1938 , Pollard travelled to England to attend Staff College , Camberley ; he graduated in September 1939 , the planned two @-@ year course having been curtailed owing to the outbreak of the Second World War .

= = Second World War = =

Following the declaration of war , Pollard served as Assistant Military Liaison Officer at the Australian High Commission , London ; during this posting he spent two weeks attached to the British Expeditionary Force in France . Promoted major , he joined the Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in June 1940 . The provisions of the Defence Act (1903) prohibited members of the PMF (or the CMF) fighting outside Australian territory except as volunteers in the AIF . Pollard was appointed brigade major of the 25th Brigade , an Australian infantry formation raised in England mostly from logistics personnel to help combat a possible invasion by Nazi Germany . The brigade became part of the Australian 9th Division , and in January 1941 sailed for the Middle East ; it was transferred to the 7th Division on arrival . In March , Pollard was assigned to the 7th Division 's headquarters staff in Libya under Lieutenant General John Lavarack . On 24 April , towards the end of the campaign in Cyrenaica , Pollard led a raiding party on Giarabub , Libya , to remove Senussi civilians and destroy wells and ammunition . He took command of the 2 / 31st Battalion at the end of June 1941 , during the Syrian campaign , after the battalion 's commanding officer , Lieutenant Colonel Selwyn Porter , was wounded . A cease @-@ fire on 12 July ended the campaign in Syria , and Pollard was mentioned in despatches for his service ; the award was gazetted on 30 December 1941 .

Pollard was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1941 , and was responsible for establishing the AIF Junior Staff School in Palestine . He was raised to temporary colonel in March 1942 and posted to the AIF Staff in Ceylon , where the 16th and 17th Brigades had been garrisoned while on their way back to Australia from the Middle East . Returning to Australia in August , Pollard was appointed General Staff Officer Grade 1 of the 6th Division ; he served on its headquarters in Papua from September until mid @-@ November 1942 , when he became Major General George Vasey 's senior staff officer at the 7th Division . Pollard received the Distinguished Service Order for his actions in operations at Gona and Sanananda , during which he " displayed unlimited energy and ascertained vital information for use in future operations " ; the award was promulgated on 21 December 1943 . At the conclusion of the Papuan campaign in January 1943 , Pollard was posted to Queensland with the 6th Division , which was undergoing training and reinforcement . He was Chief Instructor of the Senior Staff School at Duntroon from December 1943 until February 1945 , when he became Deputy Director of Military Operations at General Sir Thomas Blamey 's Allied Land Forces Headquarters , based in Melbourne .

= = Post @-@ war career = =

= = = Rise to Chief of the General Staff = = =

Pollard held command of the Army 's Recruit Training Centre at Greta , New South Wales , from February to May 1946 . He spent the next two months attached to the headquarters staff of Northern Command . In August he was posted to England to undertake a course at the Royal Air Force 's School of Air Support in Old Sarum , and following his return in February 1947 was allotted to instruct at the soon @-@ to @-@ be @-@ opened RAAF School of Air Support at Laverton , Victoria . It was redesignated the School of Land / Air Warfare in March 1948 and relocated to RAAF Station Williamstown , New South Wales . Pollard was appointed Director of Personnel Administration at Army Headquarters in January 1949 . One of his tasks was to prepare the ground for the reintroduction of compulsory national service ; the new scheme was enacted in 1951 and remained in force until 1959 . Pollard 's lieutenant @-@ colonelcy had been made substantive in

September 1946 and his colonelcy in July 1949 . He attended the Imperial Defence College , London , throughout 1951 ; he served as aide @-@ de @-@ camp to King George VI from April that year until August 1952 , and in the same capacity for Queen Elizabeth II until April 1954 .

In January 1952 , Pollard succeeded Colonel John Wilton as Director of Military Operations and Plans at Army Headquarters , and became Chairman of the Joint Planning Committee . That August he was one of the Australian delegates joining the Minister for External Affairs , Richard Casey , for the inaugural meeting of the ANZUS Council in Honolulu ; the US and New Zealand delegations were led , respectively , by Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Minister for External Affairs Clifton Webb . Pollard also took part in planning for the atomic test at Montebello , Western Australia , in October 1952 . Promoted to temporary brigadier in March 1953 , Pollard acted as Australian military advisor to Prime Minister Robert Menzies at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers ' Conference in London that June . From July to November he served as commander of the Australian Army Component of the British Commonwealth Forces Korea ; the role was responsible for managing the turnover of Australian troops in the theatre and the upkeep of their personal records . Pollard was later appointed Deputy Adjutant General at Army Headquarters , and his rank of brigadier became substantive in December 1953 .

In September 1954 , Pollard was promoted to temporary major general and appointed Quartermaster General and Third Military Member of the Military Board . At fifty @-@ two , he was the youngest member of the Board . His promotion to major general was made substantive in December 1954 . Inspecting conditions for Australian troops deployed to Malaya in December 1955 , Pollard was quoted as saying that there were " one or two " serious complaints but that he was " amazed how few there were , considering that the average soldier complains considerably all the time " . In August 1957 , he was promoted lieutenant general and succeeded Eric Woodward as General Officer Commanding Eastern Command , upon Woodward 's appointment as Governor of New South Wales . Headquartered in Sydney , Eastern Command covered the state of New South Wales and was the superior headquarters for the 2nd Division (CMF) . Pollard was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen 's Birthday Honours promulgated on 9 June 1955 , and a Companion of the Order of the Bath in the Birthday Honours promulgated on 13 June 1959 .

= = = Chief of the General Staff = = =

On 1 July 1960 , Pollard succeeded Lieutenant General Sir Ragnar Garrett as Chief of the General Staff (CGS) , and was raised to Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen 's Birthday Honours promulgated on 2 June 1961 . Although favoured by Garrett , Pollard 's succession had not been a foregone conclusion . The Minister for the Army , John Cramer , attempted to appoint Major General Ivan Dougherty , a retired CMF officer , but the proposal was defeated in cabinet on the advice of the Minister for Defence , Athol Townley , who feared the antagonism it was likely to engender among the senior ranks of the Regular Army .

As CGS , Pollard oversaw a major restructure of the Army . Following the lead of the US military , in 1960 the Australian Army replaced its " triangular " divisional structure of three infantry battalions under brigade headquarters , with a " pentropic " organisation consisting of five larger battalions without a brigade layer between division and battalion headquarters . The reorganisation had been sponsored by Garrett and agreed to by Townley in December 1959 . According to historian Chris Clark , Pollard was " personally ambivalent " about the change , which was intended to rationalise resources and strengthen the battalions for overseas deployments but also resulted in the disbandment of the citizens ' brigades and many other militia units . The US in any case abandoned the pentropic system in June 1961 , and the Australian Army ultimately returned to the triangular formation following a review commissioned by Pollard 's successor as CGS , Lieutenant General Wilton , in October 1964 . Another of Pollard 's focus areas as CGS was the academic qualifications of Army officers . Concerned that Duntroon graduates would begin to fall behind their tertiary @-@ educated peers in the community , he worked to make the college a degree @-@ granting institution , though this did not come to fruition until 1968 .

In December 1961 , Pollard told the Secretary of the Defence Committee that he considered the Army 's strength inadequate to support the government 's policy of " forward defence " , which involved meeting Communist aggression in South East Asia , well away from the Australian mainland . The CMF , he contended , was not properly equipped to provide relief for regular forces deployed overseas , and conscription " would appear to be politically and economically out of the question " . Nevertheless , the government reintroduced conscription in 1964 . As the threat of South Vietnam falling to a Communist takeover became more apparent , the Army began in 1962 to exercise specifically to combat counter @-@ insurgency operations , a type of warfare Pollard characterised as " frustrating groping at an elusive enemy " ; he added that " no purely military solution to a Communist insurgency situation is possible " . In May that year , the Federal government agreed to South Vietnam 's request for military instructors ; Pollard was responsible for laying down guidelines for the thirty advisors deployed in August as part of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam , led by his friend Colonel Ted Serong .

= = Retirement = =

Upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of sixty , Pollard left the military on 20 January 1963 , having recommended Wilton as his successor . He became a grazier on a farm at Wesburn , Victoria . In July 1965 , he was made Honorary Colonel (later Colonel Commandant) of the Royal Australian Regiment , in which capacity he visited Australian troops in South Vietnam . He served as Australian Secretary to Queen Elizabeth II for the Royal Visit in 1970 , and was appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in recognition of his services ; the honour was promulgated on 29 May 1970 , backdated to 3 May . In 1974 , he moved to a new property , which he christened Duntroon , at Wyrallah , New South Wales . Pollard died suddenly at his Wyrallah home on 9 March 1978 . He was survived by his wife and two sons , and cremated .