St John Ambulance Transport Services officially started running the ambulance service on 1 February 1952. Over the next two years it absorbed the South Australian Ambulance Transport (SAAT), Northern Suburbs Ambulance, Cole & Stevens of Port Adelaide, the Civil Ambulance and Joe Myren’s Ambulance. Phil Ferrier was appointed to the position of Public Relations Officer for St John in 1953. Norm Woods was the Depot Manager at this time and when he retired, Phil Ferrier became Depot Manager.

In 1953, work started on a new ambulance station at Hindmarsh, designed by St John’s Honorary Architect, Mr. L. Dawkins, who was the son of a former Commissioner of the Brigade in South Australia. It was completed in 1956. A new station was also built at Prospect, completed in 1958.

One of Mr. Ferrier’s first jobs was to equip all 15 St John Ambulances with two-way radios. This was completed in the late 1950s. Before this ambulances were dispatched through messages sent by fixed landlines to depots and hospitals.

Phil Ferrier grew up in the Port Lincoln area and was Dux of the Port Lincoln School. He also attended Norwood High School. Prior to joining St John, Mr. Ferrier had a distinguished military career. He joined the Army in 1941 as a sergeant, and was promoted through Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel. He served in the Middle East and was one of the famous “Rats of Tobruk”.

He was a dedicated leader and was respected by his Army colleagues and later by the volunteers and staff of St John Ambulance.

By 1958, Mr. Ferrier had persuaded 36 country ambulance services to become affiliated with St John. He organised them to form country ambulance committees, thus beginning an integrated state-wide ambulance service. Years later, in 1969, the country ambulance competitions began. The teams competed for the “P. L. Ferrier Trophy”. That trophy is on display at the St John Ambulance Museum at Arthur Street, Unley, along with other Ferrier memorabilia.

Phil Ferrier was very good at promoting St John and at organising fund-raising events. This fund-raising was a major source of income for the service.

In 1964 Mr. Ferrier was appointed General Manager of the St John Ambulance Transport Division in South Australia and was instrumental in having Jock Berry appointed as Depot Manager.

In his 24 years with St John, Phil Ferrier oversaw many developments: vehicle upgrades, new ambulance stations, amalgamated country services, and the St John Air Ambulance Service.

It was a remarkable career by a very remarkable man.

**Question:** Who were “The Rats of Tobruk”?

The answer will be in the next edition of Open Airways.

**Brian Fotheringham**

Chairman
The badge of the Order of St John has, alternately, in its four principle angles, a lion passant guardant and a unicorn passant. Passant and guardant are heraldic terms: passant = “walking” and guardant = “looking towards you”. If you look closely at the badge you will see that the lion is looking at you but the unicorn isn’t.

But why are these creatures there? The early Knights of St John, the Hospitallers, had a simple eight-pointed cross without animals. When the Knights of St John ruled Malta for 268 years (from 1530 to 1798) the badge, still without lions or unicorns, was often called a “Maltese Cross”. It is still frequently referred to as a Maltese Cross today.

The “Queen’s Beasts” were added when Queen Victoria granted St John Ambulance its Royal Charter on 14 May 1888 to form the Order of St John, a British Royal Order of Chivalry. The lion and unicorn represent in heraldic terms the link between British Royalty and the Order of St John.

Heraldic lions first appeared on the Second Great Seal of King Richard I in about 1195 and have appeared on England’s Arms ever since. From very early times the unicorn has been a feature of the Royal Arms of Scotland. After the death of Queen Elizabeth I, the English Crown passed to King James VI of Scotland who also became King James I of England. The lion and unicorn thus also represent the union of England and Scotland.

Question: In 1939 a carved stone lion was taken from the Houses of Parliament at Westminster and presented to the Parliament of South Australia. Where in Adelaide is it?

The answer will be in the next issue of Open Airways.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman

And now, the answer to last month’s question

Who were “The Rats of Tobruk”?

“The Rats of Tobruk” was the name given to the soldiers (mostly Australians) who held the Libyan port of Tobruk during a siege from April to November 1941 during World War II. The term was one of derision used by Radio Berlin but was adopted, with dry wit, as a term of honour by the Australians.
Many readers of Open Airways will realise that the Annual Church Service of Rededication of St John Ambulance members usually takes place at a date close to 24th June. There is a reason for this. The Patron Saint of St John Ambulance is St John the Baptist and it is said that he was born on 24th June in the year 5 BC. John’s parents were Zacharias and Elizabeth and John was both the cousin and baptiser of Christ.

When the Crusaders reached Jerusalem in 1099 they found a small hospital managed by a man named Gerard from Martigues in the French region of Provence. Gerard’s work was untiringly for the sick and injured and he earned the title of The Blessed Gerard. He organised his co-workers into an Order of Hospitallers and acquired an ancient monastery of St John the Baptist as its hospital. As a consequence, St John the Baptist became the Patron Saint of the Hospitallers, the forerunners of the members of St John Ambulance.

That association with St John the Baptist has continued to the present day. Members of the cadets who earn the Grand Prior’s Badge will see a representation of St John’s wort on the badge. Various other St John Ambulance insignia also feature St John’s wort.

In England, the headquarters of St John Ambulance are at St John’s Gate in the London suburb of Clerkenwell. In that ancient building there is a stained glass window with a representation of St John the Baptist. A photograph of this window is illustrated on this page. The Latin words NON SURREXIT MAJOR appear under the image of St John.

St John the Baptist was not afraid to speak out against things he thought were not right. He criticized King Herod for liaising with Herodias, the widow of Herod’s brother Philip. At a birthday celebration for King Herod, Herodias’s daughter Salome danced for the King. He was so pleased by her dance he offered her anything she wanted. Salome’s mother urged her to ask for the head of John the Baptist. She did and her wish was granted so that St John was executed on 29 August in the year 29 AD.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman

QUESTION: This is a difficult one.
What do the words NON SURREXIT MAJOR mean in English?

The answer will appear in the next edition of Open Airways.

And now, the answer to last month’s question

In 1939 a carved stone lion was taken from the Houses of Parliament at Westminster and presented to the Parliament of South Australia. Where in Adelaide is it?

The front of Parliament House, Adelaide.
Historical Happenings

SIR EDMUND LECHMERE (1826 – 1894)

There is a good reason at this time of year for drawing attention to the far-sighted contribution of Sir Edmund Lechmere to the Venerable Order of St John. No, it is not that his Christian name is the same name as the avenue on which our St John Headquarters is sited in South Australia. The Edmund of Edmund Avenue, Unley, was Edmund Issac Stephen Trimmer who donated the land that now contains the Unley Council Buildings, the Unley Library and the Unley Oval.

Sir Edmund Lechmere was born into a well-to-do family based in Worcestershire in England. He was educated at Charterhouse and at Oxford University and became the third Baronet Lechmere. He was an energetic individual as can be seen from his many roles in society. He was at various times a Member of Parliament, Deputy Lieutenant High Sherriff of Worcestershire, Vice-President of the Worcestershire Historical Society, a captain of the local company of Worcestershire Rifle Volunteers, a member of the Worcestershire Chamber of Agriculture, landlord of the tavern on the family estate, a director of the family banking firm and a leading figure in the Worcestershire Rowing Club. He was influential, with his friend Sir John Furley and the Duke of Manchester, in forming the “British National Society for the Sick and Wounded”, which later became the British Red Cross Society.

He was interested in history and in the restoration of old buildings. Each year he and his wife travelled to the Holy Land and there he learned details of the Crusades and the part played by the Hospitallers, the early Knights of St John.

In 1865, back in England, he joined the “Illustrious Order of St John: Anglia”. Remember this was before Queen Victoria had granted St John its Royal Charter. He soon became prominent in the affairs of St John and was made Secretary General to the organisation. He strove to enhance the Order’s activity in medical as well as first aid projects. He called meetings at which topics such as “sanitary education”, “diets for poor convalescents” and “the conveyance to hospital of sick and infirm persons” were debated. This resulted in a medical sub-committee being formed as part of St John. Lechmere was one of the pioneers who instigated the formation of the first of the foundations of the Order, the St John Ambulance Association.

None of the above activities are the reason for writing about Sir Edmund Lechmere on this occasion. From 10th to 16th October this year will be declared St John Ophthalmic Week when there will be special emphasis on promoting the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

In 1876, it was Sir Edmund who initiated the move to establish the hospital in Jerusalem when he wrote to the British ambassador in Constantinople to ask if the Turkish Government (that ruled Jerusalem at the time) would grant St John a parcel of land on which to build a hospital. The request was later approved and the rest is history. Did you notice the pun in the first line of this commentary?

The Ophthalmic Hospital remains an extraordinary institution to this day. It is run by Christians in a Jewish State and most of its patients are Muslims. We owe a great deal to Sir Edmund Lechmere.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman

Question: In 1873 Sir Edmund Lechmere purchased with his own money a significant building, the title of which he later transferred to the Venerable Order of St John. What building was that?

The answer will be in the next issue of Open Airways.

The answer to last month’s hard question: The Latin words NON SURREXIT MAJOR can be translated into English as “The Greater One has not yet risen up”. 
Historical Happenings

THE BEGINNING OF THE CADET DIVISIONS

The Gateshead Cadet Nursing Division was the first St John Cadet Division. It was formed near Newcastle in north-east England in 1922. Earlier, in 1903, there was a “Juvenile Section” of the Sutton-in-Ashfield Division in Nottingham but that was a combined adult / cadet division.

In Australia the first Cadet Division was at Glebe in New South Wales. This began in 1925, just three years after the one at Gateshead, UK.

In South Australia, the first few Cadet Divisions were at Prospect, Norwood-St Peters and Port Adelaide (all in 1936) and at Woodville and the Adelaide No. 1 Nursing Division (in 1937).

There was a particular stimulus for the formation of Cadet Divisions in South Australia in the 1930s. It was the visit of Sir James Sleeman. Sir James, the London-based “Chief Commissioner of the Brigade Overseas” (as distinct from the Brigade in Britain) was to visit Australia and New Zealand from December 1935 to May 1936. At this time St John in Australia reported directly to St John in England as Australia had not yet been granted the status of being a Commandery, let alone a Priory. Sir James’ visit was partly to advise St John in Australia on how to proceed towards Commandery status.

The Commissioner of the Brigade (now the Operations Branch) in South Australia in 1936 was Dr. Sidney Dawkins. He realised that Sir James was keen on St John Cadet Divisions and arranged for District Officer Dr. E.A.H. Russell to hurriedly form several Cadet Divisions just in time for Sleeman’s visit. Dr. E.A.H. Russell (informally known as “Skinny Russell”) was the brother of the then District Surgeon Dr. H.H.E. Russell (known as “Fatty Russell” because, shall we say, of his circumference).

On Tuesday 14 April 1936, Sir James visited Woodville and noted “one of the few Cadet Divisions yet formed in Australia” despite the cadets still being a contingent of the adult division. On the following Sunday, Sir James was present at a St John parade at the University Oval where the Band of the Sturt Street School took part, the members of which had very recently been moulded into a Cadet Division.

Sir James was pleased by what he saw of cadets in South Australia in 1936 but regretted that there were only twenty Cadet Divisions in the whole of Australia at that time.

No account of the Cadets history in South Australia would be complete without reference to the Annual Cadet Camps, but that will have to wait for another Open Airways. However the 61st Cadet Camp will be staged at Angaston on the first weekend in October this year.

In the St John Museum at Unley there is a large framed print used as a recruiting poster for St John Cadets (see illustration). The original painting is at St John’s Gate in London. It is reproduced on this page.

Answer to last week’s question: In 1873 Sir Edmund Lechmere purchased with his own money a significant building, the title of which he later transferred to the Venerable Order of St John. What building was that? Sir Edmund Lechmere privately purchased St John’s Gate, Clerkenwell, UK, in 1873 and then transferred the title of the building to St John. Today, 138 years later, it houses a magnificent refurbished St John Museum and is the Headquarters for St John in England.

Question: Who was the artist who painted the picture of the cadets shown above?

The answer will be published in the next edition of Open Airways.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman
Historical Happenings

**ANNA KATRINA ZINKEISEN (1901 – 1976)**

The topic this month is entirely devoted to answering the question in the last issue of Open Airways. There was a picture of cadets and the question was: Who was the artist who painted the picture of the cadets?

The answer is Anna Katrina Zinkeisen. Although Zinkeisen does not sound like a Scottish name, Anna was born in Kilcreggan, Scotland on 28 August 1901. She and her sister Doris Clare Zinkeisen (1898 – 1991) studied art in London and both became recognised artists.

In 1935, they were jointly commissioned to produce a significant work by the ship builders John Brown and Company of Clydebank, Scotland. The work was to paint the murals in the Verandah Grill of the famous ocean liner, the Queen Mary. That liner is now permanently moored in Long Beach, California, but visitors can still view the murals by the Zinkeisen sisters.

In 1928 Anna married Colonel Guy Heseltine and they had one daughter, Julia, who also became noted in the art world.

The two Zinkeisen sisters joined the St John Ambulance Brigade during World War II. As auxiliary nurses they were employed at St Mary’s Hospital in the London suburb of Paddington. There they helped look after the victims of air raids. Indeed Anna’s own home was demolished in one of those frequent air raids. Anna and her sister recorded in their paintings scenes they witnessed in the Wards at St Mary’s.

Anna’s portrait of the famous pioneer of plastic surgery, Sir Archibald McIndoe, is in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

In 1955 St John Ambulance commissioned Anna to paint two recruiting posters, one for attracting adults, the other to attract young people to join St John. The originals are in the St John Museum at St John’s Gate in London. Copies of both posters are displayed in the St John Museum at Unley. Some of the questions posed in this monthly column are quite difficult, but the answers are generally found in our Unley Museum.

**Question:** A famous Australian artist was admitted to the Order of St John in 1993. Who was he? His work is on display in two places in Unley, in the St John Museum and also at St John Headquarters.

The answer will be in the next edition of Open Airways.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman
Historical Happenings

**SIR EDWARD HAYWARD**

Edward Hayward, later Sir Edward Hayward, but known by his friends as “Bill”, was born in 1903. Both his father and his grandfather had been involved in the management of the John Martin & Co. store situated between Rundle Street (later Rundle Mall) and North Terrace, where David Jones now stands. Edward Hayward joined John Martin’s in 1931 and two years later he initiated the annual Christmas Pageant that always led to John Martin’s Magic Cave. St John Ambulance has been involved in providing first aid cover at every Christmas Pageant since that first one eighty years ago!

Edward and his wife Ursula (nee Elder Barr Smith) built, and for many years lived in, a mansion at Springfield. Subsequently the home was bequeathed to the people of South Australia following Sir Edward’s death in 1983.

In the Second World War years Edward enlisted in the Army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the War he gained a franchise from the USA to found Coca-Cola Bottlers (Adelaide) Ltd. and was its chairman for 33 years.

Of significance to the readers of this brief biography, Edward Hayward joined the St John Ambulance Centre Committee in 1946 and then was the Chairman of the St John Council (now the Board) for South Australia from 1959 to 1976. He then became President of the Council for a further seven years. He was made a Knight of the Order of St John in 1959 and became a Knight Bachelor in 1961.

He is particularly remembered for negotiating the arrangements for St John Ambulance to run the State-wide Ambulance Service as it did for over 30 years beginning in the early 1950s.

The St John museum at Unley has a portrait of Sir Edward painted in 1950 by Sir Ivor Hele. The portrait was officially unveiled by the Duke of Gloucester on 9 February 1979, when the Haywards presented it to St John. The unveiling coincided with the opening of St John House on Greenhill Road, Eastwood.

**Question:** What is the name of the mansion at Springfield that Sir Edward and Lady Hayward bequeathed to the State Government?

The answer will be in the next edition of Open Airways.

**Answer to the question in the last edition:** The Australian artist who was admitted to the Order of St John in 1993 was Pro Hart. “Pro” (actually a nick-name) derived from “Professor”, which he wasn’t (at least academically) made several paintings with a St John theme and allowed the prints to be sold with funds going to St John. One of those prints, featuring St John’s Gate, is reproduced here (left).

**Brian Fotheringham**

Chairman

Historical Happenings

A LITTLE HERALDRY

It is nearly Christmas. “Hark the Herald Angels sing ....”

Heralds proclaim important matters or announce the arrival of important people. Back in the Age of Chivalry it became necessary to distinguish one knight in armour from another. To do this, each knight displayed emblems on his shields, flags or various parts of his armour, and these emblems are now known collectively as heraldry. Incidentally, the word “chivalry” relates to when horses were the main means of transport for the knights. Chivalry derives from the French cheval, meaning horse and chevalier, meaning horseman.

Over time, rules developed about the use of heraldic symbols and the means by which they could be handed on from generation to generation. In 1484, King Richard III established the English College of Arms (or Heralds’ College) to administer the rules.

A so-called “Coat of Arms” which includes figures (“supporters”) on either side of the shield is more correctly called an “Achievement of Arms”. Strictly speaking, the term “Coat of Arms” applies only to the shield and its markings. The supporters are often shown on a grassy mound or other object known as a “compartment”. Two or more coats of arms can be combined on a shield in a process called “quartering”.

There are rules about the colouring of coats of arms. There are two metal colours, gold and silver, referred to by their French names or and argent. Metal colours are never placed over one another, i.e., a silver object is never placed on a gold background.

There are five main non-metal colours in heraldry. They are red (gules), blue (azure), black (sable), green (vert) and purple (purpure). As with metal colours, a non-metal colour is never on another non-metal colour. Occasionally an object may be shown in its natural colour ... so-called “proper”. There are various furs used in heraldry (for example, ermine) and these are considered neutral so that either a colour or a metal can be placed on a fur.

The Arms of the Venerable Order of St John are only used by the Headquarters of the Order or subsections of St John as authorised by the Grand Prior.

The picture shows the Arms of the Venerable Order of St John. It comprises a silver cross on a red background with the Sovereign’s Crest in the top left hand corner. As you may now appreciate the heraldic description is Gules, a Cross Argent, in the first quarter a representation of Her Majesty’s Crest.

Question: The illustration is of the Arms of the Order. What is the eight-pointed cross with its Queen’s Beasts called?

The answer will be published in the next edition of Open Airways.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman