



## THE VILLERS-BRETONNEUX CROSS

Out of the mayhem, came another memorial. From a crucial victory against the Germans near the Somme in April 1918, came a quickly-fashioned wooden cross to bear blessed witness to heroism and sacrifice on the Western Front.

Diggers of the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion found pieces of timber from a destroyed church. Private Horatio "Bade" Julian of Leederville, who had distinguished himself as a messenger between infantry units, used a hammer and nails to help immortalise the mates who had died in the battle of Villers-Bretonneux.

Today that Cross is about to make a return to northern France. For the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle that helped turn the tide in favour of the Allies, it will stand once more on European soil, but this time in peace, not war. It will be a focal point of an Anzac Day Dawn Service at which the St George's Cathedral choir will perform.

Some of the singers are descendants of men who fought at Villers-Bretonneux, where WA men had a special role in hastening an end to the war in the following November. Of the local Diggers given formal honours, Lieutenant Clifford Sadlier won the Victoria Cross and Sgt Charlie Stokes the DCM.

This State is doing more than lending a simple but priceless item of heritage to the small town where Sadlier and others fought.

A replica cross, the same size but hewn from stone, is being given to Villers-Bretonneux as a tribute to that day of fresh hope in the spring of 1918.

This cross is a donation by Martin Colgan, Colgan Industries in Perth, one of many tangible contributions to the journey to France in April.

The Dean of St George's Cathedral, Dr John Shepherd, says that as leader of the tour he is immensely proud that so much backing has come from a broad spectrum of the community.

"As well as being grateful for the Colgan stone cross, which will stay in France, we thank Qantas, which is transporting both crosses to Europe and will bring the wooden one back to the cathedral.

"There is also World-Link, the company that is handling all sorts of arrangements including paperwork. What is particularly heartening to us is that many donations have come from the people of WA. They have told us they are, for example, impressed by the international impact of this tour – the cultural as well as spiritual significance."

Anyone wishing to help with the fundraising is invited to contact Jo Malone, administrator of the St George's Cathedral Restoration Appeal, on 9325 5766 or e-mail [apeal@perthcathedral.org](mailto:apeal@perthcathedral.org)

The Villers-Bretonneux Cross, which has been cleaned and prepared by conservation experts at the Maritime Museum in Fremantle, will be returned to the Cathedral for Easter. A travelling case is being made for its first departure from WA since it arrived from Sydney in 1956. On that day it was met at Fremantle by three men – its maker, Horatio Julian, Mr R. Wood, of Lesmurdie, who had commanded the party that erected it in France in 1918, and Mr. R. Keesing, of Riverton, president of the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion Association.

Newspaper reports noted that all three were members of the "West Australian 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion when it suffered the heaviest casualties of the 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade in a counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux."

The three were pleased to have received the memorial after it had hung in St Anne's in Sydney since arriving in Australia in the 1930s.

Mr Julian had been chosen to fashion the cross from the timber fragments because he was a carpenter. Before signing up for the army on the same day as his three brothers, Jack, Ted and Arthur, he had been a stalwart of the family's cabinet-making firm at the corner of Wellington and Barrack Streets.

They were certainly not the only set of Australian brothers to volunteer for the cause in another hemisphere, but they all knew they were more than usually fortunate to survive.

Today their nephew, Thorold Julian, is among the family members with fond memories of the brothers.

"I enjoyed hearing Horatio's war stories while I was growing up in Perth in the 1920s," he says.

"I always called him Uncle Ray. He was only about 5 foot 4 but won a lot of praise from his officers for his abilities as a reliable messenger, running between any two points, dodging enemy fire."

Not that Horatio (Ray) was one to blow his own trumpet.

Thorold – now 92 and living in Nedlands – did not learn from his uncle that he had marked the victory at Villers-Bretonneux by making the cross.

"I didn't know about this until the Dean of St George's phoned to see if I was related to Ray."

Thorold, who was born in November 1915, seven months after Gallipoli, served in World War II, in army signals. Now a great-grandfather, he recalls Ray's generosity.

"When I went to Hobart in 1938, in the WA State sailing team, he gave me ten pounds – a small fortune!"

In the same year Thorold played in the first of his three consecutive Claremont football premiership teams. There were plenty of uncles at Subiaco Oval to cheer on the wingman carrying on the Julian name.

The fleet-footed messenger must have been particularly proud to see Thorold leaving opponents behind in any race for the ball.

Seventy years on, the Cathedral is getting ready to underline the legacy of those Julian brothers and many others who had unquestioningly taken up arms for Australia and Empire.

Easter (Good Friday is March 21st) is a perfect time to reflect anew on the brave action at Villers-Bretonneux – which is on the Somme river, just east of Amiens – and which happened to come on the third anniversary of Gallipoli.

A week later, on Friday March 28<sup>th</sup>, the St George's Chapter and Friends are holding a fundraising event in the Burt Memorial Hall – all are welcome. By then the Choir will be well used to the programme for France arranged by the new musical director, Dr Joseph Nolan.

After a Farewell Evensong at 5.00 pm on Sunday 6 April, the choir members will pack their bags for foreign fields and escort the Cross back to its origin, knowing that their music will lift hearts and turn minds to the peace that followed within months of the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion's finest hour.



# THE SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

**DOING BUSINESS  
WITH RSL  
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**ANZAC HOUSE**  
28 St George's Tce, Perth  
PO Box 3023,  
Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832  
Website: [www.rslwahq.org.au](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799  
Fax: 9287 3732

**RECEPTION**  
Monday to Friday - general enquiries  
Email: [reception1@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:reception1@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

**OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR**  
Monday to Friday - PA to State President & State Secretary,  
Listening Post  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Monday to Thursday - membership enquiries, Sub-Branch enquiries  
Email: [membership@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:membership@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3705

**WELFARE**  
Monday to Friday - welfare applications, emergency housing, food & lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust Fund applications. Overseas pensions  
Email: [welfare@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:welfare@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3707

**ADVOCACY**  
Monday to Friday - S31 reviews, Veteran Review Board, Admin Appeals Tribunal  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3708

**FINANCE**  
Monday to Wednesday - all account enquiries, Sub-Branch credits  
Email: [accounts@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:accounts@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3706  
Sub-Branch Insurance, information, claims, grant application assistance, DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)  
Email: [State.Acc@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:State.Acc@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3703

**PENSIONS**  
Monday to Friday - pension entitlements, claims preparation  
Email: [pensions1@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:pensions1@rslwahq.org.au)  
[Pensions2@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:Pensions2@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3709  
9287 3710, 9287 3711

**ANZAC CLUB**  
Monday to Friday - facilities bookings, catering/hospitality  
Email: [anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3724

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

### Membership

Membership Cards and Discount Voucher Books have been distributed to Sub – Branches for issue to members as they renew their membership. Please encourage patronage of our valued supporters listed in the Voucher Book and avail yourselves of the many offers and discounts available. If your Sub Branch has not made arrangements for the collection of the Voucher Books from ANZAC House, please contact Kathy Clarke, our Membership Officer to do so.

### Kokoda Track

Considerable interest has been shown on the issue of proposed mining activity on the Track. It is our understanding that PNG Government will permit mining within one kilometre of the track and exploration within 500 metres. I am not aware of any change to that proposal. The media have made several reports on the activities of various lobby groups that favour the mining company and the people living near the site. In the end, as the PNG is a sovereign country and can act as it sees fit. However, it will be the intensity of the Australian Governments representation that will sway the issue. RSL National Executive is yet to debate the issue but you can be assured the best interests of the veteran community will prevail.

### Learmonth Air Base.

The proposal by tourist operators at Exmouth to change the name of the Learmonth Air Base to Ningaloo is being strongly opposed by RSL. The air base was named in to perpetuate the memory of Second World War Wing Commander Charles Learmonth DFC and Bar who lost his life at the age of 26 years in an exercise off Rottneest in 1944. We must not stand by and watch our military heritage be compromised by such thoughtless ideas. If your Sub Branch feels strongly about this issue then you may consider contacting the Shire of Exmouth to voice your opinion.

### Recruiting Trailer

The RSL Recruiting Trailer is now fully refurbished and available to Sub Branches as a mobile display of RSL promotional material. It is a valuable display unit for shows, functions and other activities where the RSL can be promoted. Bookings may be made by contacting Display Unit Co-ordinator Chris Campbell on 0409370548. The unit is in demand and advance bookings are recommended.

### ANZAC Day Services

By now Sub Branches should have a clear idea of their activities associated with the conduct of local ANZAC Day Commemorative Services. I wish you well in the presentation of the Services and hope that you enjoy the full support of your local community. Schools, in the main, will conduct their services before they go on holidays and assistance should be offered by veterans to assist them through being Guest Speakers or advising on protocol. Young people are showing a keen interest in our military heritage and we have that responsibility to see that information is passed on from generation to generation.



### Hearing Services Provided by DVA

There has been some confusion about the services offered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) with regard to hearing aids and other hearing services. DVA has clarified the services they offer including what options are available to veterans for free-of-charge hearing aids. In addition, DVA has recently made available to veterans the service of an audiologist to assist veterans with complex hearing issues.

### Hearing Aids

DVA has a wide range of hearing aids that are free-of-charge to veterans. The free-of-charge devices that are available include both in the ear and behind the ear types. All entitled veterans will have access to a hearing aid free-of-charge that meets their clinical need, including those with special clinical needs.

Some Veterans may choose to purchase hearing aids that have additional features than the devices that are available free-of-charge through DVA. In such an instance, veterans would have to pay the difference in cost.

### Audiologist

Audiologists are trained to manage and/or treat problems with hearing. They can also help design and implement personal hearing aids. Veterans may organize an appointment with an audiologist to discuss their personal hearing problems issues.

Veterans should call the Office of Hearing Services on 1800 637 816 to find out more about DVA hearing services or to arrange to speak to an audiologist.

### RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund

The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) provides packages to Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police personnel serving overseas.

The majority of these personnel serve in peacekeeping or peacemaking missions on a six month rotation basis and, to ensure that each receives the benefit of a package during his period of service, the packages are made available for delivery twice yearly. These packages are loosely referred to as the mid-year and Christmas packages.

Recently, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bougainville, Cyprus, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Syria.

Recently, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bougainville, Cyprus, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Syria.

Recently, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bougainville, Cyprus, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Syria.

The packages contained various items to remind personnel of home, and included ANZAC biscuits, confectionery, dried fruit, salted peanuts, muesli bars, cake, a selection of RSL newsletters, a letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians, RSL State Branch contact details and RSL membership details.

Australia has large numbers of personnel serving in these overseas missions. The packages were prepared in facilities kindly made available by the Deployed Forces Support Unit within Randwick Barracks (DFSU Randwick). The packages were prepared on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of May and November.

We receive regular support from the RSL community and are most grateful for any individual and Sub Branch donations.

RSL AFOF is proud to have been able to make this contribution to the welfare of our serving personnel on behalf of our grateful Nation.

RSL wishes all those serving overseas good fortune and a safe return home.

### RSL Corporate Golf Day

#### Advance Information

*The Annual RSL Corporate Golf Day and President's Cup is to be held at Meadow Springs Golf Course on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2008.*

*One of RSL's major supporters – BGC – will host the event*

*Please reserve that date and encourage your Sub Branch to participate.*

*Full details will be released shortly*



### ANZAC Day Parade and Service – Perth CBD—Transport

If you can no longer march the distance of the parade on ANZAC Day, there is a very willing group of voluntary drivers who will pick you up from your residence, assemble on Langley Park, drive you through the parade, provide seating and light refreshments for during the service, then return you to your home. This way you can still be involved in the parade.

The following people are whom you need to contact:

•Cars – Cassandra Brennan Ph: 9315 3413 / 0402 845 459

•Jeeps – Jack McRoberts Ph: 9330 9752

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2008

Service Members 5,930  
Affiliates: 255 Total: 6,185



### HQ POSTAL ADDRESS

RSL WA Branch  
PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832

### Director's Report

We welcome Digger Cleak OAM director responsible for Sub Branch Liaison to State Executive. Digger, as recently retired president of Albany Sub Branch has wide experience in sub branch administration and his expertise will be valuable as we enter into a growth phase that has currently resulted in proposals for the formation of three new sub branches. Digger will assist in the foundation of Walpole, Jurien Bay and the Turkish Sub Branches. He will also be able to assist recently formed Sub Branches to firmly establish themselves. Please feel free to contact Digger through ANZAC House if you have matters you wish to draw to his attention or arrange a visit.

### ANZAC Day Street Appeal

The Street Appeal is to be held on **WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL, 2008**. If your Sub Branch intends to participate you are required to submit your Order Form to HQ by 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.

We remind participants that the conduct of the Street Appeal and the Regulations governing the Appeal are the same as for the Poppy Day Appeal.

**Collections can only be undertaken in public areas from 7.00am to 6.00pm on the day of the appeal.**

**Collections on non-public areas – shopping centres etc are subject to the owner's approval and may take place before the actual collection day.**

You are also reminded that your sub branch may be asked for a Certificate of Currency for your Public Liability Insurance if you are operating in Shopping Centres. This has already been issued to your Sub Branch.

**Please Note: A condition of participation in the Street Appeal is the return of the Financial Reconciliation Statement and 50% of the Nett Collections to ANZAC House by 7 May 2008.**

### ATTACHMENTS

- \* Membership Promotion Poster
- \* TPDVWA Respite Information
- \* Saint Georges Cathedral Choir Tour
- \* Scam Alert
- \* Toni Lamond Poster
- \* Congress Admin Instruction

### Congress 2008

Included with this issue of The Sub Branch Signal is the Congress 2008 Administration Documentation. Please ensure this document is actioned as soon as possible.

### Important Closing Dates are:

#### **30th April, 2008**

*Nominations for Meritorious Medal  
Nominations for Life Membership  
Submission of Congress Motions*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> June, 2008**

*Nomination of Delegates etc  
Payment of Congress Charges  
Dinner Attendance  
Competition Entry Form*



### Remembrance Day 2008

This year marks the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the Great European War.

This significant occasion will be commemorated with the traditional Service at the State War Memorial and the Remembrance Day Lunch.

This year the organizing Committee has arranged to hold the lunch at the RAAFA Estate at Bullcreek. There will be some changes to the format and with other advantages offered at Bullcreek a first class function is guaranteed.

### Amelioration Accounts

Sub Branches are reminded that the *Survey of Amelioration Accounts* currently being undertaken by the Trustees needs to be returned to ANZAC House by

**31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.**

**Your co-operation would be appreciated**