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### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANZAC Day March</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Congress — 1987</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lest We Forget: PNG</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Army Holiday Resort</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z Force Memorial</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSL Bowls</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRANS Window</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To The Editor</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Trails</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Branch News</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vale</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Post</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Associations</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Deadlines for Listening Post Contributions

- 31 January for Autumn Edition
- 30 April for Winter Edition
- 31 July for Spring Edition
- 31 October for Summer Edition

If possible submissions should be typed, double spaced. Photographs must be black and white glossy.

This is your journal and contributions are welcome. Post to:

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ANZAC Day
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226 York Street
Ph: (098) 41 6877

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2 Spencer Street
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Firstly, may I, the members of the State Executive and the staff at ANZAC House and the War Veterans’ Home wish you and your families all the very best for 1987. I would like to thank you all, particularly those who hold appointments in the Sub-Branches, for your enthusiastic and dedicated efforts last year, and we look forward to your ongoing assistance to achieve all the goals we set for this year.

Membership
As you are aware, our 1986 State Congress resolved that a membership recruiting campaign be run in 1987. In December we circularised all Sub-Branches advising them that a special recruiting pamphlet, which included a membership application form, would be available for use in a letter-box drop or for any other campaign they considered appropriate, such as running it in local newspapers, etc.

Regrettably, to date, only 20 Sub-Branches have agreed to participate in one form or another. Membership is the life blood of any organisation and the League is no exception. If we are to continue to be a viable organisation in the future, we must continue to increase our membership. Therefore, I ask you one and all to give this membership drive your maximum support.

Immigration
You will have noticed that immigration, and the League’s policy on it, have been in the headlines recently, and in this issue you will read a letter I wrote to a local newspaper criticising the way it had reported one of my many interviews on the subject.

I believe it is essential that we do not make a rod for our backs by pursuing immigration practices that could create immense difficulties for us in the future. I also believe that the League’s standing policy on this matter is quite clear and is built around the fundamental position that “Australia’s immigration policy should seek the proper development and enhancement of the nation. There should be a sustained and selective immigration policy based not on racial or cultural backgrounds but on each migrant’s ability to integrate to the Australian way of life and the benefits that might accrue to Australia from the migrant’s skill, experience and personal qualities”.

Private Health Cover
On page 15 of the last issue you would have read a letter from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs concerning the Government’s decision to recover costs of treatment provided to insured veterans and war widows from their private health funds.

The RSL National Veterans’ Affairs Committee has looked very closely at the proposal. It was recognised that most health funds limit the number of days in any one year for which cover is provided and, should a veteran require a further period of hospitalisation after this cover is exhausted, he could be disadvantaged under the arrangements implemented by the Government. The new arrangements could also lead to increases in premiums charged by health funds.

The National Executive opposes the use of private health funds in the repatriation system. Members are advised that they should not agree to nominate the private hospital fund they belong to, if they are hospitalised or receive any treatment authorised by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

J.P. Hall
State President.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 3
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ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

The annual ANZAC Day Commemorative Services will be held at the State War Memorial as follows:
1. The Memorial Ceremony for schools from 1.00pm to 1.25pm on Friday, 24 April 1987
2. The War Veterans' Home ANZAC — Eve Service at 2.30pm on Friday, 24 April 1987, and
3. The Dawn Service at 6.00am on Saturday, 25 April 1987.

71st ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS — 1987

For the guidance of Sub-Branches the following information the forthcoming Annual State Congress of this State Branch.

DATES: 19 June 1987 — Official Opening
20 June 1987 — Working Sessions
21 June 1987 — Working Sessions

VENUE: Function Room, 1st Floor, Anzac House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth.

MEAL: Each Sub-Branch is responsible for delegates expenses. Morning, afternoon tea, lunch will be served at the Congress Venue.

NOMINATIONS: Rule 25: All nominations for the position of President, Vice-Presidents (2), and Committeeen (9 required), shall be made by a sub-Branch at a properly constituted meeting; shall be in writing and close with the State Secretary by Friday, 8 May, 1987 and all Sub-Branches shall receive notification of all nominations received not less than one (1) month before the opening of Congress.

All nominees must be financial members of the State Branch and must signify their willingness to accept office.

All candidates for office in the League, whether paid or honorary, shall when nominated, declare themselves in full accord with the principles of the League.

It will be necessary for Sub-Branch Secretaries to act immediately.

LEAGUE TRUSTEES: League Trustees elected in 1984 for three years are: Messrs P. Pearson, CMG, OBE, JP, K. Broadhurst, FRAIA, ARIBA; R.N. Stone, AM, JP.

AGENDA ITEMS: All agenda items for State Congress must be accompanied by preamble for each item, be in writing and close with the State Secretary on 17 April 1987. (Please submit Agenda items as soon as possible).

It is important that Sub-Branches carefully discuss any proposed Agenda items to ensure that the subject matter comes within the scope of League activities. Particular interest must be given to Constitutional items, and a clear and special indication given as to the Rules which are desired to be altered.

The following are suggested as appropriate headings for Agenda items:
(a) Immigration
(b) Defence
(c) Repatriation
(d) Listening Post
(e) Defence Service Homes
(f) State War Memorial
(g) Anzac Day
(h) War Veterans' Home
(i) Rememberance (Poppy) Day
(j) Membership
(k) Anzac House
(l) Anzac Club
(m) Constitution (National and State)
(n) Administration

DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT: One delegate per 75 financial members, or part thereof, and based on membership figures, as at 31 December 1986 with a limit of six (6) delegates per Sub-Branch.

An accredited delegate may be extended to allow one delegate to represent more than one Sub-Branch.

Proxy Delegates may be appointed, but may only act in the absence of Delegates from any sitting of Congress.

Delegates and Proxy Delegates to the Congress must be nominated on the official form, and in the hands of the State Secretary by 8 May, 1987. Late nominations will not be accepted.

CONGRESS LEVY: $10 per delegate. Two (2) or more delegates $20.

ANNUAL TROPHY COMPETITION: Entries for consideration in the various Trophy Competitions should be submitted to the State Secretary not later than 8 May 1987.

It has been pleasing to receive more entries over the last couple of years and all Sub-Branches with small membership have equal opportunity with larger Sub-Branches as this is taken into account on a proportionate basis.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 7
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Dear Sir

The report on page 31 of the Sunday Times of 18 January 1987, by Anne Merkel, is the most distorted and inaccurate reporting I have ever seen. Fortunately, while this telephone interview took place, I had two State Executive members of the League, one of which is a Justice of the Peace, and both he and the other present member agree that this type of reporting is wrong.

Your reporter also assured me that the Returned Services League Standing Policy on immigration, which the WA Branch supports, would be printed in full; this I read slowly so that she could take it down word perfect, and she read this back correctly. I also sent a copy of the Standing Policy around to your reporter with your camera man so that there would be no misunderstanding.

I also maintained that we did not want black or white South Africans unless they met the requirements of the Standing Policy of the League, and the same would apply to immigrants from America, England, Wales, Ireland, Europe and Asia.

On Mr Ruxton, I said the media had blown everything out of proportion. The attack by Mr Ruxton on Bishop Tutu was unfortunate and the attack by Mr Hayden and the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne was just as bad. I don’t agree with personal attacks on anybody.

I also stated that I did not feel that Bruce Ruxton was an embarrassment, but was a good person, and that Bruce has always been controversial and has never been a diplomat.

When asked about what most members and Australians thought about Mr Ruxton, I simply stated the results of the TV Poll conducted by Channel 7, which indicated that 15,000 ordinary Australians in the community supported, and only 3,000 were against; which would seem to be 80 per cent in favour. I feel this indicates that most Australians do not want the immigration policy that Australia has now.

I also stated that what we fought for was a democracy which allowed people to have their own opinions. I next expressed that all State Branches of the RSL, including WA, are bound by our Standing Policy on immigration.

Incidentally, your reporter brought up the words black and racist and I reminded her that she had brought this up, and that the League was bound by a policy that was NON-RACIST.

I feel that you are honour bound to reproduce this letter in full with an apology, including the attached Standing Policy, in your next issue of the Sunday Times.

Yours sincerely
J.P. Hall
State President RSL

cc Premier’s Department
National President, Returned Services League
State Branches, Returned Services League
State Executive, WA Branch
Sub-Branches, WA Branch

(Attachment to letter)

STANDING POLICY

Immigration

16.1 Admission & Entry

(i) General

Australia’s immigration policy should seek the proper development and enhancement of the nation. There should be a sustained and selective immigration policy based not on racial or cultural backgrounds but on each migrant’s ability not only to integrate into the Australian way of life but on the benefits that might accrue to Australia having regard to that migrant’s skills, experience and personal qualities.

(ii) Screening of Migrants

That screening procedures including health tests be maintained in selecting intended migrants to eliminate those who have extremist or disruptive tendencies; who are unlikely to fit into Australia’s social structure or who are liable to become an undue burden on Australia and that further screening procedures be maintained for the same purpose at all ports of entry into Australia.

---

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Page 10 — Listening Post — Autumn, 1987
RSL members congratulate the following recipients of the Medal of the Order of Australia, general division, in the Australia Day Honours List.

- Mrs Alice Gwendoline Corry, President of the AWAS Association (WA).
- Miss Victoria Alexandra Hobbs, Returned Sisters' Sub-Branch.
- Mr Thomas Peter Kemm, RAA Association.
- Mr Philip Gerard Maley, TPI Association.
- Mr Frederick Charles Pennell, 39's Association.

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS (WA)

The 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers are invited to attend quarterly meetings at ANZAC House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth. The next meeting will be held at 11.00am on Friday, 20 March 1987.

(LENN PREEDY)

ACK-ACK GUNNERS

Anzac Day

All Ack-Ack Gunners are invited to march on Anzac Day. Assemble at the Deanery in St. George's Terrace, corner of Pier Street at 0915 hours. Enquiries Len De Grussa, telephone 276 7253 or write 43 Pitt Street, Dianella, W.A. 6062. Look for the A/A banner.

REMINDER TO VISITORS GOING OVERSEAS

If members are travelling overseas and intend to visit war cemeteries, particularly to find individual graves, they are advised to contact the Office of Australian War Graves before leaving Australia so that they can be given adequate directions. Letters should be sent to Mr A.T.S. Clarke, AM, Director, Office of Australian War Graves, P.O. Box 21, Woden. A.C.T. 2606.

Anzac Club Draw

The winner of the Listening Post's free voucher Christmas Draw for $100 worth of the Club's supplies was won by Mr R.J. Cole of 55 Frederick Street, Shoalwater, who has written to the Anzac Club Board stating his pleasure with the prize.

N. HEALY

UNCLAIMED WAR MEDALS

ARMY

About 800,000 army war medals, still in their original wartime brown boxes and pertaining to the Australians who served in World Wars I and II, Korean and Vietnam Wars, remain unclaimed. Twenty-seven different Campaign Medals and a variety of clasps and lapel badges are included. People interested in tracing unclaimed medals should write to the Central Army Records Office, PO Box 1932R, Melbourne, Vic, 3001.

RAN, RAAF AND MERCHANT NAVY

There are additional unclaimed medals pertaining to these Services. Enquiries should be addressed to the Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT.

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259 WALCOTT ST. MT. LAWLEY.
The troops stood at ease with bayonets fixed.

The units from which some of those present had come were still in battle positions in the jungle around and on the nearby coast. Those lined up had been chosen for the event. The parade was formed up on Wewak’s Cape Wom Cub airstrip 10 miles north of the base.

World War II had ended in the South West Pacific Area with Japan’s unconditional surrender. The parade, headed by Maj. Gen. H.C.H. Robertson — the famed “Red Robbie” — General Officer Commanding 6th Aust. Div., was there to take the surrender of Lt. Gen. Hatazo Adachi and those surviving his original 120,000-man forces in New Guinea. The survivors were not many.

Australia had lost 15,000 men dead in Papua New Guinea and the Islands, the USA 3000, and Japanese 107,000.

Two groups of AIF’s 8th Brigade stood either side of the lone table with Col. F.H.M. Armstrong, then commanding 35th Aust. Inf. Bn., only 10 metres from it.

One woman, a nurse of the eight nursing sisters at 104 Casualty Clearing Station, stood among the 3500 men.

The air was still and heavy. A silence hung over the assembly until there was a stir 400 metres away down the strip. Jeeps arrived there.

For almost every man present there was an atmosphere of complete unreality in what was happening. The very sight of a Japanese meant “kill or be killed” to these men. Now Japanese officers were riding in jeeps, driven by Australian soldiers, on the end of the airstrip.

While the day was September 13, Japan had laid down arms and, on September 6, submitted to its main surrender in the South West Pacific Area aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Glory in Rabaul Harbour.

Here was the Japanese military command in New Guinea coming to Wewak to surrender its forces for that area. In the leading jeep was Lt. Gen. Adachi, GOC 18th Japanese Army. Following him were Lt. Gen. Yoshiwara and four other officers, with an interpreter who wore white shorts.

They alighted, were marched up the strip by Lt. Col. J.A. Bishop, 6th Div. GSO and a provost guard, and halted 10 metres from the assembled Australians.
The Castle is a scaled down replica of the Neuschwanstein Castle in the Alps of Bavaria and the setting includes a small Bavarian Village. Other attractions include an 18-hole mini golf course and an adventure playground.

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whom the war crimes trials allowed to go. Even so, 1100
died on Muschu. Over on Bougainville the Japanese
17th Army had started with 50,000 and ended with
37,000.

A stone cairn at Wewak now marks the scene of the
surrender.

Forty years later, on 13th September 1985, at Cape
Wom Cub, a memorial party of Australians led by Col.
Armstrong, with representative New Guinea parliamen-
tarians and officials, returned to Cape Wom in pilgrimae.

Following is Col. Armstrong’s especially interesting
address to members of the group as they stood by the
cairn:

“Ours is not so much a commemoration of a
victory over the Japanese as it is a celebration of
the end of a war and a remembrance of our com-
rades, Papua New Guineans, Americans and
Australians who died in that war.

“As most may know, the British interest in
the south of then New Guinea was transferred to
Australia in 1906 and, in 1914, Australia sent a
force to turn the Germans out of the northern part
including Rabaul. Australia’s first casualty in WWI
occurred in the capture of a German radio station at
Rabaul.

“Thus Australia occupied New Guinea
through WWI. Japan had done some things for the
Allies in WWI but not fighting, so at the Paris Peace
Conference in 1919 the French Prime Minister
wanted a mandate over New Guinea given to
Japan. This would have enabled Japan to build a
base and forces at Port Moresby for its entry into
WWII. Despite strong opposition from Australia’s
Prime Minister W.M. Hughes, the Conference
agreed.

“The only thing that stopped the mandate to
Japan was Hughes saying ‘Who is to put us out?’.
No-one wanted that job and the mandate was given
to Australia.

“That is a piece of history that Papua New
Guineans and Australians should not forget.”

The Fuzzy Wuzzies

“A reference to the tremendous part in the
war played by Papua New Guinea soldiers and
civilians is most appropriate. The 2nd NG Inf. Bn.
was represented at the surrender, as noted on the
Obelisk.

“The men of NG were affectionately named
by the Americans as Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels because of
their work carrying back wounded for many miles
along incredibly steep and muddy jungle tracks.
Gradually the name applied to all men of PNG for
their enormous work in carrying food and ammuni-
tion, in helping to build roads, bridges and forward
airfields, and in continually providing scouts for our
infantry.

“Thousands of American and Australian
soldiers would not have survived the war and,
equally important, the Japanese would not have
been thrown out without these brave men.

“We should remind ourselves of the condi-
tions in which the fighting took place. Silent, mud-
ny, root-infested jungle tracks were death traps.
Hot rain soaked days and nights bedevilled every
man with fever, disease and miserable discomfort.
And, of course, there was the ever-present, cunn-
ing, fanatical and brutal enemy.

“Finally all these things were conquered by
unsurpassed courage, determination and superior
fighting qualities of Papua New Guineans, Ameri-
cians and Australians.

“We must remember the enormous part
played by the Americans. They could have been
excused had they decided just to prevent a direct
attack on their own country, but they chose to fight
the war thousands of miles away in Papua New
Guinea and the wide Pacific.

“There should be no apology for the atomic
bombs. It would have cost America at least one
million more dead had it been forced to land in
Japan to end the war.”

Source: R. Nyman

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 15
This space kindly sponsored by a Wellwisher

We take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to RSL members and families of Western Australia.

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This Super deal applies for travel between April 1, 1987 and March 31, 1988. For further information contact your travel agent and ask for Insight's Europe and Britain brochure.
Visit to Thanbyuzarat War Graves Burma

If you wondered who wrote the account of the visit to Burma which was published in our Christmas issue, it was Mrs Doreen Devereaux of Mt Pleasant. Our printer apologises for omitting her name from the article at the final print. Mr & Mrs Devereaux made the journey especially to visit the grave of Pte Ray Devereaux VX551058 2/29 Inf Bn AIF who died on November 20, 1943 while working on the infamous railway.

In Singapore, Mrs Devereaux visited the grave of her brother Pte Charles Delacour QX1885 2/26 Inf Btn AIF who was killed on January 21, 1942 in the fighting prior to the fall of Singapore on February 15, 1942.

Union Jack Club – London

In the Christmas issue we reprinted an article about the Union Jack Club from the NZ Returned Services Association's magazine 'RSA Review'. A reader with personal knowledge of the Club pointed out that the rates for accommodation given were neither in NZ or Australian dollars but should have been shown in English pounds.

PATRICIA BALFE

New Army Holiday Resort opens in the West

The South West of WA is a popular holiday area — for those lucky enough to find accommodation.

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In 1943 submariners of the Royal Navy, in the war at sea, made their historical attack on the German pocket battleship Tirpitz, raiding in the Atlantic north of the North Sea and holing up in Norway's fiords.

Six specially built Royal Navy X Class 3-man midget submarines, forming the Twelfth Submarine Flotilla, were assigned the difficult task and crews selected.

Thus three men to crew Submarine X9 met for the first time and began a friendship that is as strong today as it was when it began.

There were Joe Brooks, Sub Lieutenant RN from Lowestoft in the UK, Vernon (Ginger) Coles, Engine Room Artificer RN from Reading and myself, then Lieutenant RANVR from Perth.

The three subsequently crewed X24 to Bergen on the first successful attack, and returned, still in fighting condition.

The crew has met from time to time since then, most recently, late in 1986 aboard charter vessel "Silver Dolphin" at London's Charing Cross Pier on the Thames. That occasion was also a celebration for Joe Brooks' company, Mobel, which had completed 25 years of maritime engineering, much of the time under the North Sea.

Other shipmates, company people and wives all enjoyed seeing the floodlit London waterfront and talking of highlights and happenings of those bygone significant years — hair raising at the time but recalled with hilarity.

Whenever this crew remeets, a pilgrimage must be made to X24 herself, now at the British Submarine Museum near Portsmouth. Last time teeming rain seemed to make little difference to the occasion, as always there was the powerful motivation of comradeship of service.

Ginger, formerly the "least senior" in rank, has emerged as the crew's essential liaison man. He musters it and recalls incidents, achievements and debacles with an infectious chuckle reminiscent of seawater swirling down the scuppers.

One visit was to Brighton Palace Pier, under reconstruction by Joe's company, and then past Greenham Common where Ginger was Engineer in Charge before he retired.

I have proposed that our next meet should be in Fremantle and include a visit, at Commodore Baird’s invitation, to our own Submarine Base HMAS Stirling.

Ginge served in many submarines, some on Australian station. Joe was also in action in the demise of the other German battleship, Bismarck.
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Rejection of War Women

Last Anzac Day in Sydney three elderly women walked past a group of old Diggers. The men had obviously been celebrating and had spilled out on to the pavement in front of a pub. Most women would have given them a wide berth but these women walked by the men who stood and silently cleared a path for them. Those who had hats doffed them. Such is the respect in which these women are held.

They were World War II Nurses, two wore campaign medals from the Island Campaigns and the other a medal from the Middle East.

But despite the fact that the majority are approaching their seventies, with some of them living in distressed circumstances, a proposal to extend repatriation benefits to them put forward at the A.L.P. Conference in Hobart last October was rejected.

The rejection stemmed from an attack led by Senator Walsh, the Minister for Finance, who opposed the motion despite the fact that it was being moved by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Gietzelt, on behalf of the party's welfare committee.

Only 4000 Servicewomen went overseas in World War II — the majority of them nurses — but they served with distinction in every theatre of war where Australians fought. The only risk they did not share with the men was that of front-line combat.

But not only were they paid less than the men when they were on active service, they were actively discriminated against when they came home.

Until 1973 single ex-servicewomen were not eligible for defence service home loans. Few were able to make adequate provision for their old age on the low salaries paid to nurses when they returned to the profession.

Today, there are only some 3200 left. A large number now receive some form of repatriation benefit from a more caring Veterans' administration. The majority of them also receive the service pension because of a more generous interpretation of service in a "theatre of war" than is available to the men.

Despite the fact that their overall health is declining, more than 30 per cent are still not eligible for medical and hospital care and 90 per cent are excluded from receiving nursing-home care.

It was because of concern over their plight that the Returned Service League called on the Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct an urgent inquiry into the health and welfare of all returned ex-servicewomen. They also asked that the additional benefits, which were given to few surviving returned nurses from World War I in 1958, be extended to those from World War II.

These benefits had assured a blanket coverage for a similar number of World War I nurses who were then entering their twilight years and were in need of medical treatment.

The submission received a sympathetic hearing from the Government and a study was immediately commissioned by the Minister. The findings of the report handed down last year showed that, because the women had to be at least 25 years or over to have served overseas, their average age of 68 was well above that of the men, with a third of them now well into their seventies.

A third never married — probably because of the seven year break in their lives during their marriageable years. Most of those who did marry are now widowed. Many of them resent what they see as the wider benefits available to war widows but which are denied to them as "returned servicewomen".

The Government moved quickly once these facts became known — with Senator Gietzelt translating the findings of the report into a new clause in the A.L.P. Party platform. This new clause would have committed the Government to "progressively extend the treatment entitlements of World War II ex-servicewomen, in the light of the findings of the study of returned servicewomen of the Second World War".

In Hobart Senator Gietzelt was voted down in the face of opposition from the Minister for Finance on the grounds of what his office yesterday described as "budget considerations" and "problems of precedent".

Senator Walsh, it seems, is not only worried about the cost of looking after them but the fact that it could open the way for other groups to claim similar benefits.

Senator Gietzelt is reported to be angry over the stand taken by Senator Walsh and intends to take the matter to Cabinet. No matter who wins, the regrettable fact is that because these women are of a different generation which denied them the opportunities enjoyed by the women of today, the majority will eventually end up as a charge on the Commonwealth one way or another.

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Open Day at Pearce

Despite appalling weather conditions, a crowd of 25,000 turned out at RAAF Pearce on Sunday 12 October to witness the base's first Open Day and Air Display since 1979.

The day was planned to give Western Australians the opportunity of seeing the Royal Australian Air Force at work and to view many of the aircraft in service today.

Displays during the day included RAAF Police dogs, and a War Birds and civilian aircraft fly-in and fly-past.

Static displays included avionics, medical, model aircraft, 25 Squadron, photographic, recruiting, military memorabilia, catering, fire fighters, safety equipment and armaments, ground equipment, RAAF Museum historic display, structural fitters and surface finishers, Macchis under maintenance and the Air Force Association display.

Naturally the highlight of the day was the flying display. Aircraft participating were the RAAF's new multi-role fighter, the F/A-18 Hornet, Mirage all-weather interceptors, a F-111 strike aircraft, Hercules and Caribou transport, CT4A trainer, the Roulettes Aerobatic Team flying Macchis, Squirrel helicopter and a Dakota.

One of the stars of the show — the FA18 Hornet goes through its paces above RAAF Pearce.

Some of the planned activities for the flying display had to be curtailed or cancelled because of the inclement weather and the large amount of turbulence.

However, this did not detract from the highly skilled professional handling display performed by the participating RAAF aircraft.

One of the show stoppers was the display by a F/A-18 Hornet. Although being replaced by this interceptor, four veteran Mirage fighters showed their class as they gave a ground attack display.

Other aircraft which seemed to draw special interest during the flying display were the sinister-looking F-111 Strike aircraft — still in a world class after 20 years — and the venerable old Dakota from the RAAF Aircraft Research and Development Unit located at Edinburgh, South Australia.

The Air Force Association's MR.22 Spitfire and replica Sopwith Camel were eye catchers among the aircraft on static display. Others included a Boeing 707 transport, Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft and an Iroquois helicopter.

Vic Jeffery
Navy/RAAF PRO (W).

Always a favourite with the public, the RAAF "Roulettes" aerobatic team put on a breathtaking display despite a tremendous amount of turbulence above RAAF Pearce.

A far cry from the military aircraft of today - the Air Force Association's replica Sopwith Camel which drew a considerable amount of interest.
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The AWAS Association was established in 1947. Former signaller Alice Corry joined the next year. From the onset she was an active member in every field and, during 1952-3, served on the committee in every capacity. She was President from 1960 until she stood down in 1965, undertaking the Secretarial position until she was re-elected President in 1967.

Her undertakings and achievements while serving on Committees, and in her service as President, include a wide field of accomplishments.

In 1966, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Australian Women’s Army Service, a Sundial and a Bird-bath along with six stone seats were placed near the Chapel in the grounds of the War Veterans’ Home in Mt Lawley. In 1967 a time capsule was buried beneath the sun-dial containing a record of AWAS history.

In 1968 a bowling trophy was established for annual donations to the winner and runner-up of the bowls’ tournament at the War Veterans’ Home in Mt Lawley.

Again, in 1968, the dedication of books in large print to the memory of deceased members of the AWAS Association was established with services held in the chapel of the War Veterans’ Home, and the books donated to the Home’s library. Forty books have already been donated and more books are scheduled to be dedicated this year.

Funds were raised each year for the Silver Chain when a carpet of flowers was exhibited in the courtyard of Wesley Church. When the annual ‘Flower Day’ was discontinued, members held a stall at the Alfred Carson Hospital in Claremont; proceeds provided patients’ amenities.

In the earlier years the AWAS Association supplied Xmas food parcels to needy members, and assisted with help and advice on Repatriation matters. The establishment of help and visits to members in hospital continues.

Ex-AWAS gave assistance to the Association for the Blind by manning the trolleys at the Braille Hospital in Victoria Park.

Then there was the establishment of a photographic display at the Army Museum to celebrate the 150th birthday of Western Australia. This display, showing women at work during wartime, was in conjunction with the WRAAC and the VA-AAMWS: A permanent room has since been established as the Museum. Furnished with cabinets to hold the photographic memorabilia of the three services, the room also contains items of interest and uniforms relevant to World War II.

The establishment of a morning tea every second month at Anzac House, with an attendance of over a hundred, is a good source of fund-raising and allows the Association to make its donations.

These achievements are some of the activities carried out by our President, Alice, whose leadership has endeared her to all members. Her aim is to bring members together in a bond of fellowship and goodwill. Appreciation of her fine service has been recognized by the WRAAC Association members who have appointed her their Patron.

‘The Medal of the Order of Australia’, awarded to Alice Corry in this year’s Australia Day Honours, is a fitting recognition of her unselfish and dedicated work in helping other people.

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Visit by Miss Jocelyn McGirr

The State President Mr Jim Hall and Mrs Joan Dowson represented the RSL at a function on 7 January to welcome to Western Australia Miss Jocelyn McGirr, Acting President of the Repatriation Commission and Acting Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Miss McGirr, who joined the Commission as Deputy President in April 1984, was visiting Perth to meet with the ex-service community and to become acquainted first-hand with the operations in Western Australia.

Representatives from various local ex-service associations were present and the host, Mr John See, the Deputy Commissioner, and various members of his senior staff helped to make the event a very pleasant evening.

Miss McGirr, expressing great pleasure at being in Western Australia for the first time, remarked on the strong progress being made locally by the Department on behalf of the Veteran community.

Citing such examples as the new $10 million operating theatre and ward complex, the shortly-to-be-completed $3 million Palliative Care Unit, the Aged and Extended Care Service and new parking facilities, Miss McGirr said these ongoing developments at Hollywood Hospital were proof of the Government’s commitment to ensuring first class treatment facilities for Veterans.

Referring to the Palliative Care Unit, Miss McGirr commented that the new facilities would offer most complementary surroundings and support for terminally-ill cancer patients and their families. Those facilities, together with others in the hospital and complemented by the costly technology continually being introduced (such as the $700,000 plus angiographic x-ray unit), would ensure that the hospital’s services were the equal of any in Australia.

Praising the efforts of the Director of Nursing in attracting high nursing-staff levels (a trend contrary to experiences elsewhere in Australia), Miss McGirr said that, from her observations, it was conspicuous that Hollywood Hospital was a happy environment which was conducive to good staff morale and friendly patient care.

She also referred to the great strides being made in Western Australia towards achieving the Minister’s goals of reducing processing times for disability and service pension claims. In some instances these goals had been met, and it was said that these achievements were due, in no small part, to the dedication of the local staff.

Miss McGirr encouraged ex-service associations to participate in the Joint Venture Scheme and gave, as a guide, examples of achievements made in Sweden in caring for its elderly community, particularly in relation to fitness campaigns including specialised sporting programmes for the disabled.

While acknowledging that some difficulties were being experienced in encouraging greater State Government involvement in the Veterans’ Home Service programme, the service was nonetheless making progress through arrangements with individually contracted carers.

Miss Jocelyn McGirr, Deputy President of the Repatriation Commission visits WA.

Miss McGirr expressed pleasure at the results of the Country Visits Programme, the Customer Liaison service and the 008 facilities in improving access for country Veterans, and encouraged associations to provide suggestions on improving these and other services provided by the Department.

Paraphrasing the situation in Western Australia, Miss McGirr stated that although the staff in Western Australia were generally young and not familiar with war-time hardships, they were dedicated and enthusiastic and committed to enhancing relations with Veterans and their Associations. This reflected well on the Department’s motto, “Veterans’ Affairs Cares”.

Joan Dowson.
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WEST GOSNELLS NEWSAGENCY

Page 28 — Listening Post — Autumn, 1987
Most veterans know — but most Australians do not — the dramatic heroism of the men who took part in Australia's two cloak-and-dagger raids made on enemy shipping in Singapore Harbour during World War II and, in the second raid, lost their lives.

The first raid, Operation Jaywick, was undertaken in the tiny motor-powered vessel "Krait" which went from Exmouth to Singapore and back in 1943. It was a resounding success. "Krait" had been a Japanese fishing boat which looked strangely like that famed pinnacle of romance "The African Queen" but was, if anything, even less accommodating.

Her gallant men, all in the battle daub and gear of commandos, paddled the last miles to Singapore in their frail folboats which were nothing more than collapsible canvas canoes. In dead of night they sank their target ships with magnetised limpet mines. They succeeded magnificently, despite it being their first effort, with poor equipment, extreme hardships and not a lot of collective previous combat experience.

"Krait" made her 3000-mile trip home again, half of the way through enemy waters, after her satellite "folboats" (folding kayaks) had sunk 40,000 tons of Japanese shipping at anchor in Singapore Harbour Roads.

Fate somehow deserted the second raid, Operation Rimau, a year later, though it lacked nothing by way of equipment, experience and planning. Rimau almost reached its destination, a position from which to launch its submarines into Singapore Harbour, but things went awry just before that when their captured Asian junk mothership, "Mustika", had to be scuttled, with all mini-submarines aboard, among Singapore's nearby Indonesian island.

Twenty-four Navy and Army men made up the Rimau party. A good number of them had carried out Jaywick. Rimau strike force, almost to a man, was caught by the Japanese after "Mustika", threading its way through a labyrinth of islands south of Singapore, ran foul of an enemy patrol craft. It raised the alarm of a raider force. "Mustika"s" crew had to sink her, with all submarines aboard, and flee into the islands. The complete party was lost, killed in skirmishes or captured and later, after Japanese military trials, its remaining members were shot or beheaded. The men of Rimau were:

- Lt-Col. I. Lyons
- Capt. R.C. Page
- Lt. W.G. Carey
- W/02 J. Willersdorf
- Cpl. C.M. Craft
- W/02 A. Warren
- A/B W.C. Falls
- Lt. B. Reymond
- Lt. Cdr. D.M.N. Davidson
- Lt. H.R. Ross
- Sub. Lt. J.C.M. Riggs
- Sgt. D.P. Gooley

Cpl. R.B. Fletcher
Sgt. C.B. Cameron
A/B F.W. Marsh
Cpl. A.S. Campbell
Major W. Chapman
Major R.N. Ingleton
Lt. A.L. Sargent
Cpl. C.M. Stewart
Pte. D.R. Warne
L/Cpl. H.J. Pace
A/B M.W. Huston
L/Cpl. J.F. Hardy

Whereas Jaywick had used hand-paddled, 2-man submarines to sow its mines, Rimau developed to a very different plan. It used one-man, accumulator-propelled steelcraft that were in fact, mini submarines. They had the type-name "Sleeping Beauty" and were designed by the Royal Army Service Corps during 1942.

The first Sleeping Beauties were secretly hand made in England at the Special Operations Executive production plant at Aston, source of the famed Fairmile torpedo attack and air-sea rescue craft. Two units made for trial

Members of Z Special Unit International Inc. Ex-Service Association of WWII's Z Force in S.E. Asia, in Perth recently aroused the "Sleeping Beauty" loaned to them from the UK.

L to R: Jack Bickford, A. Bird, Bruce Cale, Ross Bradbury (V. Pres), Les Parham, Jack Sue (Pres), Gordon Hamilton, Colin Ledger (Hon Sec), Lloyd Gibson, Rosa Davidson.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 29
Easter Greetings to all R.S.L. Members from
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were stationed at Staines Reservoir where crews and maintenance men were given some preliminary training. Lt.-Col. Ivan Lyons, commander of both Jaywick and Rimau, was a Scots Highlander who had escaped from Singapore. He saw, and used, his first Sleeping Beauty at Staines. Lyons was among those executed.

The value of small underwater craft in war had been well established before Rimau or its predecessor. Successful operations in Norway and Denmark had led to the immobilising of major units of the German Navy, including the Tirpitz, by using X-craft, Human Torpedoes, Chariots and similar craft. The Italian Navy had pioneered the art of attack by mini-submersibles and reached a degree of perfection.

Similarity between Jaywick and Rimau did not go far beyond Lt. Col. Lyons’ leadership. Some men took part in both operations for which the targeted port was Singapore, but from there the resemblance began to diminish.

Sleeping Beauties were introduced to Services Reconnaissance Department (controlling the expeditions) at Garden Island and were under the direction of Colonel Ednie-Brown, well-known in Perth in those days. The Rimau party trained on SBs at the island to a master plan. It was to ship the whole Rimau complement together with 15 Sleeping Beauties on HMS “Porpoise”, a converted mine-laying submarine, to within a reasonably close radius of Singapore. On the way up there they were to capture a Japanese or Asian junk and load the party onto it, complete with stores and mini-submarines. A special hoist was attached to the submarine for the purpose.

The capture was made, and the junk’s crew taken to Australia by “Porpoise”. The junk sailed on to within striking distance. There the SBs were to be launched and the operatives intended to steal up to their targets and place their limpets by hand. Each Sleeping Beauty carried three limpet mines weighing 3-4 lbs. But, at that stage of the plan, the Japanese interception occurred. In the fight that followed all Japanese were killed. However, a Malay policeman with them escaped and raised the alarm. “Mustika” was scuttled and never positively located. Her party melted into the jungle islands, but inevitably its men were found and captured.

**Force Building Replica**

Some former “Z” Force members, now together again in one of RSL’s sub-branches, have been fired since the war in their quest for a Sleeping Beauty to display at the “Z” Force Memorial on Garden Island.

“Krait” and Garden Island have epitomised “Z” Force operations as, equally, has the sophistication that developed from Jaywick and Rimau into “behind the lines” warfare.

The Association’s search for an SB began with the Garden Island area where one operator, Bob Wood, recalled his machine going into a “power dive” and Bob baling out. He believes that Sleeping Beauty was never recovered. Another operator, Gordon Hamilton, recalls “walking home” from two sunken SBs which he thinks were recovered. Dr Malcolm Smith, with the force, had similar experiences. Nevertheless, searches by divers some years ago did not yield any easily recoverable craft of the type in the area. Some units left at Garden Island after the war were scuttled in the 1000-metre deep Rottnest Trench, as were some Catalinas and Sirkorsky seaplanes.

In 1978 Bill Escott, writing a book of “Z” exploits, came to Australia looking for material. He contacted the group and mentioned that he had located remains of a Sleeping Beauty in England, arousing the interest of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. The museum secured the remains but Bill Escott died before restoration could be completed. The SB lay part-restored and in danger of final decay.

“Z” Special Unit International (Inc), as the group is named, took up this challenge and the RN Museum has lent it the Sleeping Beauty for a reasonable period. The group responded with a donation.

Now “Z” Special Unit International has brought the submarine to Australia with sole rights to display, copy, take drawings etc., and Bill’s widow, Mrs Shirley Escott, has supplied a number of parts that her husband had, but not installed. These are now being used to help restore the unit in Perth.

Colin Ledger, who saw war service in Liberators with RAAF 200 Flight that flew for “Z” Force, is doing the rebuild. The work goes on at Jack Sue’s “Underwater Shop” at Midland. Sue was a “Z” Force man.

“Z” Special Unit International, with Sue as W.A. President and Ledger hon. secretary, has a six-point plan for Sleeping Beauty:

1. Re-furbish the present one.
2. Build two facsimile units.
3. Interest a suitable sponsor.
4. Return the original machine to the UK.
5. Donate one facsimile to the Australian War Museum.
6. Donate one facsimile to the Royal Australian Navy to mount as a permanent display at “Z” Force Memorial on Garden Island.

Last October, with appreciated help from the Prime Minister, the Minister for Aviation, the WA Premier and particularly the RAAF, the Submarine Museum unit arrived at Pearce Air Base. Much restoration work has already been done. Limited funds donated at a national “Z” Force Reunion in Perth in 1982 have now been expended and “Z” Special Force International seeks further funds to continue restoration before offering a package proposal to a suitable sponsor.

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**General dimensions of a Sleeping Beauty were:**

- **Length:** 12ft 8ins.
- **Beam:** 2ft 3ins.
- **Hull:** Mild steel with aluminium cowls.
- **Control:** Stick operated to rudder and hydropropeller.
- **Weight:** 600lbs (272kg).

C.F. Ledger
Gooseberry Hill

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 31
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Page 32 — Listening Post — Autumn, 1987
On December 27, 1986, approximately 800 lawnbowlers from each State congregated at the Shrine of Remembrance, Adelaide, to pay homage to our dearly departed troops from those Wars that were meant to bring peace.

The WA party of 55 men and 28 ladies made their way to Adelaide in various ways. It was easy to make friends; all we needed to do was succumb to Victoria, NSW and all others, except Tasmania.

Those who travelled voted it a worthwhile way to spend Xmas and New Year, the majority spending Xmas Day travelling. New Year’s Eve was arranged by the home State in the way of a large gathering at the Morphettville Race Club where we were entertained in the traditional way “DANCING” in the PHAR-LAP Room which is the member’s area. It’s amazing how music seems to work miracles, even if one has ailments.

**BOWLS RESULTS**

The Jack Hamilton VC Interstate Series was won by the host State SA quite comfortably. They won all five Tests. W.A. did not perform as well as hoped and finished 5th.

The Dr Sydney Krantz Memorial Trophy Series was won by NSW and again, WA finished 5th. The National Fours Championship is of teams nominated privately, not by the Selectors, and this time we had 14 teams entered. Nobody won much glory, but I’m sure everyone enjoyed the bowls and, in particular, the fellowship of old diggers, sailors and airmen.

For next season, 1987-88, the host State is Queensland.

Reg Axford
Captain
WA RSL BOWLS

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**BCOF Association of Perth, WA**

On July 28, 1986, twelve ex-members of the British Commonwealth Occupational Force in Japan met at ANZAC House with a view to forming an Association in WA that would line up with the existing bodies in the Eastern States, notably, Queensland.

The meeting was the result of a notice placed in “The Listening Post” by Lt. Col. R.J. Nyman JP who chaired the proceedings. He is now President of a flourishing WA BCOF Association with an increasing membership of forty eight coupled with continual enquiries from ex-BCOF members domiciled throughout the state.

This new Perth kindred Association is now affiliated with the National Council of BCOF Associations in Australia which, in turn, has become actively connected with BCOF International. Great Britain in particular has associated with Australia.

The meetings are held at ANZAC House, first floor, every month on the fourth Monday at 11.30am (next meeting, March 23rd, 1987). All ex-BCOF men and women are encouraged to attend and are made most welcome. On such occasions the dining room and bar facilities of ANZAC Club are available.

Further information may be had by contacting the Hon Secretary, Doug Spice, 110 Daglish Street, Wembley, 6014. Phone: 381 6114.

R.J. NYMAN

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WRANS Commemorative Window

Navy News — Kenelm Creighton: The chatter of morse should well be the sonic symbol for the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service.

Certainly the excited talk and zest for life shown by six of the fourteen pioneers of the WRANS at a recent Garden Island Naval Dockyard reception reflects the same professionalism of RAN's women sailors today as when those six became telegraphists in the dark days of 1941.

WRANS Commemorative Window in the Naval Chapel at Garden Island Dockyard, Sydney.

Highlight of the occasion, attended by Wrans from those war years, the fifties, sixties and through to 1985 when Wrans became sailors with equal status and rank with men, was the dedication by Lady Stephen, wife of the Governor General, Sir Ninian Stephen, of a stained glass window for the WRANS in the Naval Chapel.

Convener of the event and reception in the Tarakan Building, which drew 600 of the Navy's ladies of today and yesterday, was Mrs Jess Doyle — one of the original six telegraphists.

Among those who contributed so much to the day's organisation were Warrant Officer Merett Christiansen (the mess manager at HMAS KUTTABUL's Wardroom) and Warrant Officer Maureen Weir (in charge of Command Transport).

There was a guard of honour to parade the WRANS banner, and Wrans lined the stairs up to the main body of the Naval Chapel.

THE WINDOW

The WRANS window commemorates the two periods of service 1941-1947 and 1951-1985.

It depicts two figures; one is in navy winter uniform with felt hat and red badges as worn by the earliest Wrans and signifies the dark days of war. The other girl, wearing the contemporary white summer uniform with round cap and tally ribbon, represents those who served during peacetime.

The rich heraldic style border around the top and sides with rope intertwined, features every category of badge worn by Wrans over the forty years, telling the story of the many and varied tasks they performed. Across the bottom are the rank badges, linked together in a "chain of command".

The beginning of the WRANs is represented by the inclusion of the WESC (Women's Emergency Signalling Corps) badge, worn by the first girls for about five months until the Navy decided to keep them on permanently and issue them with Naval uniforms. This appears as a nucleus which expands gradually in a blaze of beautiful marine colours that take the eye to the height and breadth of the window by the direction of the beautiful glass shapes outlined by dark lead. A swirl of pink and jacaranda tones encompasses the dark uniformed figure, adding an impression of rolling hills with wireless masts and highlighting a cameo of distant ships in convoy. The richly coloured Naval Crown in the arch at the top appears to be levitating above the tally ribbons bearing the words "Women's Royal Australian Naval Service". At the uppermost point, attention is drawn down the window again with a movement of aqua tones curving around the figure of the white uniformed girl and leading to the magnificent WRANS crest adjacent to another cameo. This shows the bow of a ship and a bollard, around which is a taut rope that could be connected with the ship or the crest; it signifies the strong link the Wrans had with the ships in port as well as the distant fleet at sea and with Naval establishments all over the world.

The peacetime Wran looks smart, fresh, forward-looking and confidently optimistic. She epitomises the "Navy preserving Peace" in the most practical way, and we hope she will never have cause to look anxious.

There really is magic in that window which has cemented a very strong relationship between the wartime and peacetime girls. It is a profound expression of how much that period of service meant to all those who supported and encouraged the project to install a beautiful and lasting work of art to commemorate forty years, covering that span of history when the WRANS had its own identity while being an integral part of the Royal Australian Navy.

EX — WRANS DITTY BOX

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 35
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Dear Editor

I have been asked to write an account of our Ladies’ Day Dinner on Monday, 1st December 1986. This was not our first dinner but it was certainly the best we have attended.

Perhaps I could relate a few of the happenings leading up to the date of this happy event. Approximately 18 months have elapsed since our first meeting was convened at ANZAC House. The membership proved a little disappointing at that meeting as only eight members were enrolled. Over the ensuing months our President, Bernie Long, and Secretary, Bill Thomas, have worked tirelessly to increase membership numbers as well as coping with the many tasks associated with the formation of our new branch.

Their efforts earned their just reward as, today, we have forty financial members and, with the influx of country members, we will no doubt exceed this number in the near future. Jack Patterson was appointed Social Secretary at our Election of Officers’ meeting, and was instrumental in organising our Ladies’ Day Dinner with the co-operation of the President and Secretary.

Now to the Dinner. A large and happy crowd of ladies was present and festivities started before the scheduled time. Everyone was in a jovial mood and enjoyed the appetising meal and liquid refreshments. Bernie Long, President, gave an excellent speech and supplied details of our activities over the preceding 18 months of operation. His speech was enthusiastically received and he was, no doubt, a very proud man at having realised his ambition; namely the rapid advancement of our branch during his Presidency. He has the good wishes of all members, and we hope he continues as President for many years to come.

Perhaps the hardest worker of our branch would be Secretary, Bill Thomas, who has played a major role in the success of our branch. He should be justifiably proud of his achievement. I can assure him he has the support and admiration of all members.

One of the highlights of the day was the unexpected arrival of Bill Johnson and his lovely lady. Bill now lives at Busselton and made the trip to mix business with pleasure. The pleasure at seeing you was all ours Bill.

We spoke at length before the dinner and, of course, the name of Jack Hennerberry cropped up several times. Jack was Bill’s mate on the barge at Labu and, as often happens, his lifelong friend thereafter. Perhaps Jack, if you read this epistle, you may be tempted to do a business trip to Perth for the weekend and the Monday. I am sure the genial Johnno will arrive about the same time.

We thank all the ladies for attending and the members for their continued support. I am sure the Ladies’ Day Christmas Dinner, 1986, will be long remembered by all who attended.

Intending members are asked to contact Bernie Long or phone 446 5674 for further particulars regarding membership.

Jon Trew

If You Are Going to Make A Sentimental Journey ...

Dear Editor,

A pilgrimage to the Atherton Tableland has been the ambition of many of the thousands of troops who spent time there during Tojo’s War, and it is a popular destination when they retire.

Great disappointment has been the reaction of many of them because of the lack of any signs or means of identifying their own particular camp area.

Fortunately a combined effort on the part of The 2nd AIF Memorial Association, The Tableland Promotion Bureau, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, The RSL and the four Tableland Shires has resulted in the locating, identifying and marking of 22 camp sites, so the old problem has been eliminated. The job took three years and substantial markers now indicate where the 6th, 7th and 9th Division troops were located.

The marker at Tinaroo, near the Harold Holt Memorial Camp, was unveiled by Sir Albie Abbott ... Qld RSL President.

The plaque outside Ravenshoe was unveiled by the Herberton Shire Chairman, Harry Rankin. Bishop Lewis of North Queensland conducted the dedication service. The bugle was sounded by a 14-year-old Tolga School boy and a map of the camp sites, together with photos, was presented to the Atherton RSL for the benefit of visitors looking for particular sites.

So, if you are making that sentimental journey back to the Tablelands, call at the Atherton RSL for the ‘Good Drum’ on locating a particular spot where you soldiered on between battles.

From “Sarina Diggers News”
(Ivan Walter, Applecross Sub-Branch).

When you have finished reading the “Listening Post” take it to your doctor’s, dentist’s or optician’s surgery for others to read. Perhaps this will assist in obtaining new members. Or give to an ex-serviceperson who is not a member and perhaps he or she will join.
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The Boomerang Club
Australia House, London 1940-1945

From February 1940 until December 1945 there was, in Australia House, London, an organisation called the Boomerang Club. This Club operated for the benefit of Australian servicemen and provided many services.

These included:

- Hospitality and liaison with other hospitality schemes such as the Victoria League, The Lady Francis Ryder, Miss McDonald of the Isles, a number of Church and other organisations, as well as private homes and facilities.
- 'Anzacs Calling Home' via the BBC and special BBC broadcasts.
- Free theatre and cinema tickets were distributed, resulting in more hospitality from the entertainment world.
- Current Australian papers and literature.
- A special feature was a message board used by visitors to contact friends and display information.
- A very fine canteen operated in the basement. Staffed by voluntary workers, it provided good meals and snacks at reasonable prices, despite strict rationing and great difficulties in obtaining supplies.
- Possibly the most important and appreciated service was that the Club was a meeting place and centre point for Australians in London and the UK.

Thousands of Australians had access to, and visited, the Club while they were in London. Most of them were R.A.A.F. personnel - there were not many Army and Navy men in the U.K. - and probably very few of the 15,000 R.A.A.F. men did not, at some time, visit the Club and appreciate its services and friendly atmosphere.

It is believed that the Club was started by Mrs Flora Troy, wife of the then Agent General for WA. She spent hundreds of hours on duty, remaining until the Club closed in Dec. 1945.

Mrs Troy's sister, Miss Marie McKinnon, managed and operated the catering for the canteen. She was awarded an MBE for her work.

There were, of course, hundreds of other voluntary workers including Miss Eileen Orland, Lady Bruce, Mrs Smart, Col. George Sutton, Col. Jim Harrison, Major Lenehan, Lillian Munroe and many, many more who deserve recognition.

It seems there has been no formal record or accolade for these people.

I am gathering material (in the form of anecdotes, personal experiences, names of voluntary workers, meetings, romances - there were indeed many pretty young ladies on rosters - and any other relevant details) pertaining to the Club's activities.

Many of you will have benefited from, and enjoyed, the services of the Boomerang Club. I urge you to please make an effort to show your appreciation by setting down, and letting me have, any details you can remember, or any impressions you have, of the outstanding contribution the Club made to the morale and well-being of so many of us.

It is really the least we can do.

E.M. Copley (Bill)
P.O. Box 37
AUGUSTA 6290
W.A.

Dear Editor,

May I, through the 'Listening Post', tell members that there is now a Normandy Veterans' Association. It is open to members of the Navy, Army and Air Force who were engaged in the Normandy landings from June 6 to August 20, 1944. If any readers wish to join our Normandy Vets Association would they contact me, or the Secretary whose address is:

Eddie Hannath, 53 Normandy Road, Cleethorpes, S. Humberside, DN35 9JE England UK.

Recently a medal has been struck at the Royal Mint for Normandy Veterans and all members of the NVA are entitled to wear this commemorative medal. Enclosed please find a pamphlet featuring this beautiful medal.

Jim Mayers
(RIVERVALE-CARLISLE SUB-BRANCH)
15 Finlay Court
Rivervale WA 6103

Editors Note: The pamphlet is available for inspection at Anzac House office.

Dear Editor,

Recently, my son found an old photograph album in a dilapidated shed. The album is marked "Palestine Syria Egypt 1941-1942" and belonged to C.M. Prosser. Amongst the photographs inside is a postcard addressed to:

WX7568
Cpl. Clem Prosser
28 Company
24 A.I.T.B.

A.I.F. ABROAD


We have been unable to contact anyone named Prosser who recognises the photos, and would ask any of your readers who can throw any light on the ownership of the album, or who is interested in claiming the contents, to contact A. James, PO Box 215, Gnowangerup, 6335.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Chapman

P.S. Would the album be of interest to army historians if no owner can be found?
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Dear Editor,

An Honour Board is planned for former "Firbank" Grammarians of Brighton, Victoria, who served in the Nursing Services, the Women's Services, or the V.A.D.'s during World War II.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to please contact (Mrs) Patricia Penrose at the below address. I would appreciate your co-operation in bringing this matter to the notice of your members so that our Honour Board will be complete.

In anticipation of your co-operation I thank you. With best wishes to your organisation.

Yours,

Patricia Penrose Rattray
(Formerly served in A.W.A.S. Signals, Victoria).

Dear Editor,

I am collecting material for a limited edition book detailing the war service of all people who have lived in the Wyalkatchem district, whether they lived here before, or after, their service.

I would like anyone who thinks that they, or one of their friends or family, are eligible for inclusion to please send me a black and white photo taken in uniform, and a very brief resume of their service, as soon as possible. All borrowed photos will be returned.

Thank you.

Paul DePierres
PO Box 76
WYALKATCHEM
WA 6485

History of Army Nurses being written

Dear Editor,

The Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps has commissioned the writing of its official history. The author, Miss Jan Bassett, would like to hear from people who have any diaries, letters, photographs, artifacts or documents that will assist her research.

The material, which will be returned to the owners, should be sent to:

Miss Jan Bassett
C/- Dr Margaret Browne
Historical Research Section
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345,
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Miss Bassett's research over the next two years will take her to all states where she would be happy to meet with past and present Army nurses.

Yours sincerely,

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National Secretary
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Mr Arthur Benson, President of the Bayswater-Meltham Sub-Branch, presented the "Youth of the Year" trophy to the 1986 winner Miss Melinda Smith at a combined Sub-Branch and City of Bayswater dinner held last November.

BAYSWATER-MELTHAM

One of the points of Standing Policy of the League is concern for Youth.

The Bayswater-Meltham Sub Branch shows that concern in a very practical way. Since 1969 the Sub-Branch issues, annually, the "Youth of the Year" Award. Nominations are submitted by clubs, church groups, schools or individuals.

Young people — 16 to 21 years of age — so nominated, must be involved, within the district, in such fields as sports coaching, charity work, caring for the young, the aged, the disadvantaged, etc. All nominees are interviewed by a panel of members of the Sub-Branch and the Council of the City of Bayswater which, by invitation, is the co-sponsor of the award. One of the stalwarts of the Sub-Branch, Alan Kibblewhite and his wife, both well experienced in youth affairs, are the mainsprings of the panel of Trustees. The winner receives a specially designed scroll, with the RSL Code of Citizenship as the theme, and a handsome trophy.

For the last few years there has also been a "Junior Youth of the Year" Award, together with a trophy, awarded to youth up to 15 years of age. The awards are issued at a dinner hosted by the City of Bayswater. All nominees, their families and representatives of the Sub-Branch are guests.

The Bayswater-Meltham Sub-Branch is to be congratulated on both their effort in implementing a Standing Policy of the League, and on bringing the work of the League into the public eye in a most positive manner.

Z.T. Kwiecinski

SCARBOROUGH

The train trip to the Northam Show was quite a success. Our allotted seats were booked out, and an enjoyable day was had by all.

The Annual Anniversary Dinner was well attended with dancing to old-time music by Mary that was very much appreciated by members. During the course of the evening the M.C., Bob White, announced that there would be presentations. The Sub-Branch Liaison Officer, Sam Dallywater, then presented a Life Membership badge and Certificate to Syd Lewis who has been treasurer for seven years and has worked with our Trustees in investing our capital. A Certificate of Service was presented to Doug Piggott in recognition of his many services to the Sub-Branch. Both recipients were quite surprised by their presentations.

Amongst our guests were Mrs Dallywater, City of Stirling’s Mayor George Strickland and councillors Joe Camilleri and Maureen Grierson.

In the annual election of officers Mr McClements, President of the Claremont Sub-Branch, kindly took the chair.

The election results were: the return of Norm Elms, President; Howard Grafton, Hon Secretary; Syd Lewis, Hon Treasurer; Bob White, Senior Vice President; Doug Piggott, Junior Vice-President.

A Committee meeting was held in the New Year regarding what should be done about the recruiting pamphlets, and certain other requirements.

A discussion was held regarding the next outing — whether it is to be a bus trip or a ferry trip — and when it is to take place.

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Sub-Branch News cont.

BOYUP BROOK

The Remembrance Day Service at Boyup Brook was commemorated by a gathering of over 60 people at the local War Memorial.

The assembly listened to a special broadcast prepared for the occasion by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation which was followed by the rector of St Saviour, the Rev Dr Lee, leading the gathering in the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Remembrance.

Among those present for the commemoration was the State Secretary for Torchbearers for Legacy, Mr Robert Bentley, who had travelled from Perth and a party of ex-servicemen and their wives from Bunbury.

Wreaths placed on the Memorial after prayer included one by Mr A. Doust on behalf of the Shire President, Cr Cecil Moore, who was unable to attend. Other tributes were placed by Mr Arnold Meredith, on behalf of the Boyup Brook Sub-Branch of the RSL, Mr Richard Nield, on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans, Mrs Meg Knapp for the RSL Women's Auxiliary and Mrs Thelma Proctor for the Red Cross.

At a special lunch held later at the Boyup Brook Hotel, Mr Ken Beatty said Grace and Mr Jack Clancy proposed a toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr Robert Bentley then gave a talk on the importance of Torchbearers for Legacy and presented Certificates of service to Mr Ted McLaughlin and Mrs May McLaughlin. The Boyup Brook RSL Sub-Branch was awarded a Torchbearers Shield.

The President of the Boyup Brook RSL, Arnold Meredith, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs Moya Reid for her assistance with the secretarial work of the Branch.

Mr Bill Stukely then gave a short talk in which he reminded guests of the debt owed to all the young men and women who served their country and did not return.

At his proposal, a toast was drunk to their memory.

RON DANIELS
(097) 651118

ROCKINGHAM DISTRICTS

On the 26 November forty-four members of our group attended a Christmas luncheon at the new club facility at Anzac House. We were pleasantly surprised at the standard of food available and the hospitality and service provided by Ted Steele and his staff. All members expressed their complete satisfaction.

We would like to suggest that other groups could use this facility for unit and branch social occasions as we are sure they would find the same cheerful hospitality that we enjoyed.

Keith Backshall
Secretary
24 Lowe Street, Karrinyup. 6018.

GREENBUSHES

In the annual Department of Veterans' Affairs — Victorian Branch Story Writing and Art Project (SWAP) this year, an Honourable Mention, a Trophy and Diploma, were awarded to Mr Edward Bench for his entry in the True War Experiences category out of 225 entries.

Mr Bench is President of the Greenbushes Sub-Branch and also President of the WA Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association.

GERALDTON

The Missions to Seamen Officer at Geraldton, the Reverend Peter Nelson who is a member of the Sub-Branch, has been appointed its Chaplain.

At the November meeting the Sub-Branch decided to write to State Secretary, adding its protest to the desecration of War Graves in Thailand.

The National Secretary, Mr Ian Gollings, replied to the Geraldton Sub-Branch's congratulations regarding his inspiring address at the WA State Congress. Mr Gollings had this to say in his reply to the Secretary, Mr Charles Phillips:-

"It was very kind of you to write to me on behalf of your Sub-Branch. There is often a tendency for us in Canberra, or you at such a long distance from Canberra, to feel that we are not both really part of the same organisation.

"I hope my address has reassured you that we are all thinking along the same lines and all at Sub-Branch, Branch or National level, have our part to play in making this organisation what it is today and helping it progress into the future. With best wishes.""}

Record Poppy Income

The distribution of Remembrance Poppies at Geraldton on Friday, November 7, resulted in a record income of more than $1,477. The previous record was $1,287 in 1984, and the latest collection was $405 more than the 1985 figure of $1,072. This information was provided at the November meeting of the Geraldton Sub-Branch.

The President, Mrs Lorraine Gilbert, thanked the collectors and the contributors for the outstanding success of the Remembrance Poppy Street Appeal and made special mention of the associated display at Northgate Shopping Centre.

The Sub-Branch conducted its annual Pilgrimage to the War Cemetery at Utakarra on Sunday, November 9, when Remembrance Poppies and fresh flowers were placed on the graves of 83 World War Two servicemen. Poppies were also placed on the graves of ex-service personnel in the adjoining general cemetery.

In addition, two wreaths were laid at the War Cemetery Memorial — one by the Sub-Branch President, Mrs Lorraine Gilbert, and the Sub-Branch Secretary, Mr Charles Phillips, and the other by Mr Maureen Phillips and Mr Bert Berryman on behalf of the Laurel Club and Legacy.

The Pilgrimage was followed by the annual Diggers' Luncheon, hosted by the RSL Women's Auxiliary.

Remembrance Day — Tuesday, November 11 — saw
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Sub-Branch News cont.

the Sub-Branch conduct the annual observance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, in central Marine Terrace, with the help of the Town Band.

Lawn bowlers taking part in all-day competition at the Geraldton Bowling Club on Remembrance Day also observed the occasion, with Mr Peter Barden reciting the Ode to the Fallen over the amplifier system.

Appreciation Certificate

A Certificate of Appreciation plaque has been received by the Geraldton Fishermen’s Cooperative from the Geraldton Sub-Branch.

It was presented to the Co-operative Chairman, Mr Fred Connell, by the Sub-Branch President, Mrs Lorraine Gilbert, when a party of RSL officers visited the Co-operative. Mrs Gilbert expressed appreciation of the generosity displayed by the Co-operative in making supplies of fish available over a lengthy period for the Gunfire Breakfast on Anzac Day.

Mrs Gilbert told the December meeting that Mr Connell had stated that the plaque would be displayed in a prominent position, and that this Anzac Day gesture would continue.

A Tarpaullin Muster among members at this meeting will result in a cheque being sent to the Uniting Church towards the Christmas Dinner for needy people.

Two officers from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Mr Steve Carroll and Mr Roger Atkins, provided members with advice both during and after the December meeting.

Members of the Women’s Auxiliary joined Sub-branch members for a Christmas party during which the Sub-Branch Senior Vice-President, Mr Frank Sharp, thanked the Auxiliary for its outstanding support during the year and also extended best wishes for the festive season.

Peter Barden

RETURNED Ex-SERVICEWOMEN

Mrs R Donaldson was presented with a Life Membership Certificate by the State President, Mr J Hall, at the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch Christmas lunch on November 27th 1986. The following is a summary of Mrs Donaldson’s Sub-Branch activities which accompanied the application for Life Membership.

Mrs Ruth Gwendoline Donaldson has been an active, hard working and dedicated member since joining the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch in 1948.

She was involved in every activity of the Sub-Branch, particularly those involving welfare and fund-raising, and has been Treasurer of the Sub-Branch continuously since 1970 (approximately).

In spite of illness, injuries and family commitments, Mrs Donaldson has, at all times, fulfilled her duties as Treasurer in a most efficient and methodical manner.

Sub-Branch funds have been invested wisely and carefully under her stewardship, giving us the healthy balance we have now. We have also been able to donate funds to the RSL whenever called upon to do so.

A helpful, pleasant manner combined with her efficiency and loyalty to the Sub-Branch have made her an outstanding Treasurer and well-deserving of an award of Life Membership.

Miss T.A. Korbosky

BELLEVUE

The election of Officers for the Sub-Branch, conducted at the recent Annual General Meeting, resulted in some changes to executive positions. Alan (Swannie) Rivers was re-elected to the Presidential position with newcomers, Ken Bevan and Des Parker, becoming Vice Presidents. John Barrington, formerly Vice President, was elected Secretary and Harold Klopper re-elected Treasurer.

The significance of the election is seen in the departure from office of long time Sub-Branch supporters Harry Read and Andy Stuart. While not seeking active positions in the coming year, it is certain their good counsel and advice will be readily available to the new office bearers of the Sub-Branch.

Although attendance at the Annual General Meeting was a little disappointing — considering the number of members on the register — the enthusiasm of those present was certainly encouraging.

All Bellevue Sub-Branch members are reminded that the Branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY in each month (except January) at 8.00pm in the Bellevue R.S.L. Club.

The Bellevue Sub-Branch, in association with the Shire of Mundaring’s Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site Advisory Committee and Greenmount Primary school, will host the following Anzac Services.

24th April, 1987:
2.00pm — School Children’s Service at Blackboy Hill
5.50pm — Sunset Service at Blackboy Hill
25th April, 1987:

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 47
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Sub-Branch News cont.

6.15am — Dawn Service at Blackboy Hill
10.30am — Anzac Day March and Service
Parade forms at Bellevue R.S.L. Club

Blackboy Hill Advisory Group Formed

The Shire of Mundaring has formally established a Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site Advisory Committee with duties stated as: the organisation of Anzac Services and other commemorative occasions and the development and maintenance of the Commemorative Site and adjoining, public, open-space reserve.

Inaugural Committee Members are councillors Allen and Dullard from the Shire, Harold Klopper, Alan Rivers and Don Barrett-Lennard of Bellevue RSL, Mike Hall of RSL State Executive, Bill Gaynor of the Education Department, Colyn Lee of Legacy, and former Mundaring School President, Tom Brodz.

The significance of the establishment of the Committee is seen in the formation of a group that will provide some definite developmental plan for the Commemorative Site and its environs. The recent sub-division of the hill into building blocks started concern among the ad hoc committee, already in operation, that unco-ordinated development of the area may proceed without any local comment.

With the committee having such clearly defined areas for operation, future planned development may be anticipated.

Local RSL acknowledges educational achievement

Bellevue Sub-Branch continues its annual practice of acknowledging educational service and achievement in local schools. The League’s involvement in the school community is seen as vital in recognising the work and achievements of members of our society.

The former Principal of the Greenmount Primary School, Mr Jim Naylor of Mundaring, was recently presented with the League’s “Certificate of Appreciation” by State Executive member, Mr Mike Hall for seven years active involvement in the development of Blackboy Hill Museum.

Blackboy Hill, site of a Great War military training camp, is now occupied by the Greenmount Primary School and Mr Naylor, together with staff and students, has been most active in researching the history of Blackboy Hill and the establishment of the museum.

The League recognises that there is much work to be done on the project but it was through Mr Naylor’s dedication to the task, together with his leadership, that progress on the project has been made.

Children from Greenmount, Koongamia, Bellevue and Midvale Primary schools also received recognition for their efforts in the field of leadership and citizenship. Mr Hall, together with Bellevue Sub-Branch members, Alan (Swannie) Rivers, Andy Stuart and Harold Klopper, presented children from each school with a copy of “Lest We Forget” — A History of the RSL in Australia.

On each occasion the school responded with thanks and expression of a desire for continued involvement by the League as a community organisation in the support of the schools.

W.E. Gaynor
Bellevue

BELMONT

The last few months of 1986 were quite busy at the Belmont R.S.L. A fete, held in November, raised $1,000 which will be donated to the War Veterans’ Home in Mt Lawley. The amount was a little disappointing, and it is hoped that this year’s fete will be more successful.

The annual pensioners’ and widows’ luncheon was held in December. The Women’s Auxiliary catered for the function and served a beautiful meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by our senior members and widows; once again the male members of the Branch did the “dixie bashing”.

An essay competition was held in the latter part of the year for children in education years 7 to 10, who reside in the Belmont area. The theme this year was “What Anzac Day Means to Me”. The winning entry was submitted by Jody Manwaring, a Year 10 student at the Kewdale High School, who was presented with a cheque for $400 towards the purchasing of her books and school equipment for 1987. This competition was organised as part of our involvement in youth affairs in the City of Belmont and will be held again this year.

The extensions and improvements to the hall have now been completed. The BBQ area is proving quite popular with members bringing their meat, salads, etc and having a BBQ tea during the Club’s sessions.

Grass has been planted on the bowling green and, hopefully, the greens will be ready for the first roll-up by the commencement of the next bowling season. In the near future the kitchen will be updated which will make it a much more pleasant area in which to work.

Belmont members extend season’s greetings to all members throughout the State and hope that 1987 will be a healthy and prosperous year.

Dot Balcombe

“What Anzac Day means to me”

I could, however untruthfully, write in this essay how much I know about Australia’s past military history and enthral my extensive knowledge of ANZAC Day and the reasons for its existence.

However, if I did this I would be lying. I know very little about the details of the wars Australia and the A.N.Z.A.C.s have been involved in and, even if I did, I would choose not to write about it in this essay.

ANZAC Day represents, to me, a series of emotions caused by many things. Obviously, I have no idea of what war is really like, though I have experienced some of the strong, powerful feelings of a person who went through the Second World War. That person is my grandfather.

I still vividly remember the pain in his eyes as he held a photograph, yellowing and torn, of himself and two close friends taken during World War II, and the emotional cracks in...
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WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED

Page 50 — Listening Post — Autumn, 1987
his voice as he explained to me how those two friends had been killed in front of his eyes the day after. The pain and hurt he felt had been undimmed by years following and I felt, just for a moment, the enormity of the horror the soldiers must have been through in the years of conflict. As soon as ANZAC Day is mentioned to me many differing images come to my mind—the sight of many old soldiers marching proudly through the streets of Perth, their heads held high and many eyes filled with tears. The lump in my throat as I realise that, each year, their number grows less, with fewer people to relive their past glories and revive old friendships.

The images of the ANZAC Day dawn ceremonies and the wreaths placed on the feet of the war memorials at Kings Park, as the first sunlight filters through the night sky. The medals, polished and taken out of their cases, to be proudly pinned on best suits in preparation for the marches, to be shown once more to the public—perhaps for the last time.

The bugle calls, loud and strong, which sound all through Australia and New Zealand once a year, on the day reserved especially for such ceremonies.

Red Poppies, which are sold throughout the streets of Perth to remind us that, if it were not for the courage and strength of our men and women, throughout each war, we would not have the freem safe Australia that we have today. The red Poppies which signify the blood spilt by the ANZACs on the battlefields, in places which they had never seen before and would never wish to see again.

It brings to my mind the image of dusty trenches, of dying and wounded men and the sounds of bombs and guns taking lives and futures, irrespective of age, beliefs and race.

Thus, ANZAC Day means to me a day to thank the brave men and women who risked everything they had to give future generations of Australians and New Zealanders the right to security and peace.

It is not, in my view, a day to celebrate the actual battles and wars, but a day to celebrate and appreciate our country’s freedom and our country’s state of, and hopefully lasting, peace.

Jody Manwaring
Year 10
Kewdale Senior High School
EDITOR’S NOTE: Mr R.A. Green, Superintendent of Education judged the entries to the competition.

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a pleasant break over Xmas and New Year and are ready to start another year for the RSL. Packing and unpacking seem to take up most of my days as I have moved from my old home to a nice little villa in Armadale.

The Armadale Sub-Branch and Auxiliary held their Annual Dinner on November 1st, when I was pleased to be asked to unveil the Auxiliary Honour Board. On November 8th I attended the Kojonup Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Annual Dinner with Mr and Mrs Turner.

Mrs Taylor attended the Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial to lay the official Auxiliary wreath, and Mrs Rolfe placed the Remembrance Cross at the service at War Veterans’ Home on behalf of the Auxiliaries. Poppy Day was a success financially so our sorting, counting and packing of the Poppies was worthwhile.

The Murray Districts Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Dinner on November 22 was a happy night, and I thank Rita and Bill for their hospitality. The Millen girls again held their Xmas Tea for the War Veterans’ residents with the girls, dressing as always, in costume.

I was State President for a while to present Life membership to Mrs Turner and a Certificate of Service to Mrs Cowie. Mrs Jolley and I were guests at the Ex-Service women’s Sub-Branch Xmas Luncheon and Sully and I attended the Returned Sisters Sub-Branch Xmas Luncheon.

On December 6, Mrs Rolfe and I attended the Bedford-Morley Sub-branch and Auxiliary Dinner when Mrs Ruth Moyle received her Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge, (a well deserved honour as Ruth has worked hard for the Sub-Branch and Auxiliary over many years) and Mrs Carlson was presented with a Certificate of Service.

I attended the City of Perth Auxiliary Meeting after which members of the Sub-Branch and their wives joined us for supper. During the evening Mrs Williams received Life Membership and a Certificate of Service was presented to Mrs Minson.

Everyone who attended the War Veterans’ Home Xmas Dinner enjoyed the evening. On December 14 Bassendean-Guildford Sub-Branch held their Xmas Tea when I was proud and pleased to give our dear Sully her Life Membership; her long service to her Auxiliary and to Executive is most deserving of the award.

Mrs Cayley attended the Nollamara-North Perth Auxiliary Xmas Party and presented Mrs Hardie with Life Membership and Certificates of Service to Mrs Mouchemore and Mrs Davies.

Xmas Cheer parcels have been packed and delivered to our Hospitals and Homes, thanks to donations from our Auxiliaries. The parcels are always gratefully received.

Our 60th Conference will soon be here. I hope you have sent in some interesting items for the Agenda as we want to make this a special Conference. My new address is Unit 15, 99 Otwtram Road, Armadale 6112. Phone 399 6965.

Joy Ford
State President.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 51
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Those Air Force Days

By GORDON WALLACE

The book starts as an autobiography when the author describes, with a delightful touch of Australian humour, where he was born and the years until 1940. We read how he saved every penny he could scrounge with extra work and trapping of rabbits (sixpence a pelt if in good condition) so he could go to Holland in 1937 for the World Scout Jamboree in Vogelenzang, near Bloemendaal.

When, at the outbreak of the war he joins the air force, the book becomes a documentary. A unique section of the RAAF is revealed. This section was Dutch and became known as “the 18 Squadron N.E.I.-R.A.A.F.” (Netherlands East Indies).

The author unfolds a part of history that many of us are not aware of: how a group of Dutch airforce personnel escaped from the the East Indies. Some were Javanese, others Chinese, Amboinese and there were others, but they were all Dutch, anxious to free their loved ones from the Japanese oppression. There were not enough of them to form a squadron of their own and so the vacancies were filled by members of the RAAF. A unique situation in the one outfit had two commanding officers: one Dutch, the other Australian. But it worked, although the Dutch CO on the occasion of the birthday of Queen Wilhelmina had to address his personnel in Dutch, English and Malay. Gordon Wallace takes us through the good times of the squadron as well as the bad — and sad times.

This is not a story about heroes, but an account of men who fought hard, under very primitive conditions. If, when turning in at night, someone left his boots on the ground, chances were that in the morning he would discover that the white ants had come through the soil and eaten their way through the soles; or how would you feel to notice that wasps had made a nest in the barrel of your rifle. And then those mosquitoes!

There are extracts of some 56 letters the author wrote his mother and which she had kept. We read about the finer details of the Japanese attack on Darwin which was executed by the same commander, Mitsuo Fuchida, who had lead the infamous attack on Pearl Harbour. But did you know that Darwin was bombed 63 times? The Federal Government in power at that time thought it better not to tell anybody. Broome, too, is not very often mentioned and it was there that the Dutch Airforce lost 11 aircraft and personnel in two days.

However unorthodox the formation of 18 Squadron was, it worked well and it was the last Dutch Squadron to be handed over to the Indonesians after they obtained their independence. On June 25, 1950 it was finally disbanded.

This well presented book with 150 pages has a hard cover; is printed on gloss paper and is a documentary with 100 illustrations. I sincerely recommend it as an addition on your bookshelf.

review by J.H. van Geelen.
(Netherlands ex-Service Men & Women’s Assoc.)

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In a correspondence course programme the YWCA of Australia invited women, aged over seventy, to write about their lives. "Yesterday's Daughters" tells the stories of nineteen women who lived in various parts of Australia or migrated here. The major events of the two world wars and the Great Depression affected all their lives, physically and emotionally.

They spent childhoods in circumstances where life was not meant to be easy — and never was. Most lived on small farms in houses where only the "front" room had linoleum on the floor; home-made soap and beeswax for polishing; washing-day with kerosene tins and much starch; father shooting a rabbit for dinner; house cleaning on Saturdays ready for Sunday School and Church on the following day; corporal punishment for stealing a cake and a camphor bag around the neck to ward off germs — such was life.

When yesterday's daughters were in their teens they waved away the menfolk to World War 1 and helped their mothers with the whole burden. After that war, the daughters married and did all the same things again for their children during the depression of the 1930s. There were the evictions from homes, the humpies at Happy Valley on Botany Bay and elsewhere, and then the 1939-45 war.

Such nostalgia by the writers is not as depressing as it might sound. They look back with a light touch and talk of great fortune when obtaining a job as a live-in domestic servant or in a factory. A few lucky ones escaped to become nurses or teachers and were paid a pittance even for those times.

**ANGELS ABODE —**

Above the echo of our prayers ... "At the War Memorial" ... (Canberra)

The soft echo of voices above the dome, still linger in my ears... There must be a heavenly home for angels, that have been here for countless years... they abide here, to allay our fears, and tears.

"We will guard them," I heard them say... "We were here before the dome, waiting, to make a perpetual home for soldiers lost at such priceless cost. Fear not... mothers, fathers, sweethearts, friends... We will guard them until life's journey ends"...

Mrs Ethel Brennan
EX AAMWS

Poets Please Note: 'Listening Post' now has an adequate supply of poems in hand.

However, in view of the widespread ignorance of the requirement to lodge travelling expense claims quickly, DVA will ensure that the requirement will be given prominence on the travel allowance claim forms when they are re-printed.

**Service Pension Anomalies**

At the December 1986 meeting of the RSL National Veterans' Affairs Committee, it was agreed to seek details of specific cases from state branches of the League, of anomalies in service pension determinations. This decision was made in the context of the discussion of hazardous service definition on which advice had been sought from the Minister for Defence.

Would members please advise this office in writing the details of any anomalies found in service pension determination if and as they occur.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 55
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Vietnam Veterans

Senator CHILDS — Is the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs aware of recent reports which reveal an inclination in the media to depict Vietnam veterans as unstable individuals who habitually commit serious crimes? What action can the Government take to ensure that the good name of Australian Vietnam veterans as a group is not unfairly damaged?

Senator GIETZELT — There is a tendency on the part of the media in court cases relating to persons who are Vietnam veterans to use rather extravagant terms drawing on the person’s alleged experience in Vietnam as the reason for the action which has caused the case to come before the court. I have no wish, of course, to become involved in a debate about whether the experience in Vietnam is a factor in a particular case because that is a matter for the court to determine. However, some recent media reports that have come to my attention irresponsibly suggest that Vietnam veterans, as a group, are prone to act lawlessly without regard to the safety of others. I am concerned because a number of Vietnam veterans have drawn my attention to this.

The Government takes the view, I think correctly, that the great majority of Vietnam veterans are law-abiding citizens and lead their lives selflessly, in the same way as any other citizen in this country. In fact a prison census that was carried out in Victoria in 1983 shows that the number of Vietnam veterans in Victorian prisons is only one-third of the number that would have been expected if Vietnam veterans had the same imprisonment rates as all Victorian males of comparable age. The evidence relates to the number of people serving prison sentences. There has been a tendency, therefore, to concentrate on the violent nature of crimes allegedly committed by Vietnam veterans. Two particular cases have been specifically drawn to my attention. In the two cases I am referring to, neither of the persons concerned was a Vietnam veteran.

I intend, as a result of the matter that has been drawn to my attention by Senator Childs, to take this matter up with the Attorney-General to find out what action might be available to the Government to discourage misinformation of this kind. I believe that this is important because spurious claims in Australian courts concerning the status of Vietnam veterans and the irresponsible reporting that flows from that can be detrimental to the good name and peace of mind of those who served in Vietnam. To that extent, the Government deprecates the irresponsibility that flows from some of the exaggerated claims.

War Widows’ Pension: Mrs Elma Doyle

Senator ZAKHAROV — I refer the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs to my question of 7 October regarding $20,000 in back pay of a repatriation pension owed to a war widow, Mrs Elma Doyle of Sydney. The Minister will be aware of references in Press reports on this matter to Mr Peter Thompson of Pension Advisory Services, who supposedly is acting on Mrs Doyle’s behalf. Does the Minister know whether Mr Thompson is charging Mrs Doyle a fee for his services? If so, is she getting value for money?

Senator GIETZELT — I recall Senator Zakharov raising the question of the back payment to Mrs Doyle which had been stalled as a result of some weaknesses in the legislation. I reiterate what I said on that occasion: The Government has to have a legislative basis for the payment of taxpayers’ funds to recipients. Unfortunately, there has been a defect in the legislation which will be rectified as a result of legislation introduced in the House of Representatives.

A Mr Peter Thompson of Pension Advisory Services is claiming to represent Mrs Doyle in this matter. Unfortunately, Pension Advisory Services is not a voluntary organisation. It is a pity that Mrs Doyle has been caught up in the arrangements that gentleman is making on her behalf when veterans organisations, in particular the Returned Services League and Legacy, could quite conceivably have made representations on her behalf, as her local member has made to me, for an expedition of this matter.

I have learnt that Mr Thompson charges his clients 10 per cent of any entitlement they will eventually obtain. If that information is correct, it means that Mrs Doyle will pay Mr Thompson something like $2000 in regard to a
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War Widows: Nursing Homes

Senator COLEMAN — My question is directed to the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs. I refer to letters from the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association of Australia which are being circulated to war widows who are residents of nursing homes and which are causing considerable concern. I draw the attention of the Minister to words used in those letters, such as that nursing home patients ‘should not necessarily expect that there will soon be a benefits increase’ from the Commonwealth to cover those fee increases. The letters urge them to write to their local member of parliament or to the Minister for Community Services. I ask the Minister: Do those war widows have cause for concern in this regard, or are they being used in a scare campaign by the owners of private nursing homes?

Senator GIETZEL — I recall Senator Childs asking Senator Grimes a somewhat similar question relating to aged citizens in nursing homes. I have received a number of complaints from members of parliament and through my constituency office regarding the extension of the issue previously raised to war widows. Largely, the letters have come from the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association of Australia. They have caused a great deal of distress. In respect to the specific question that Senator Coleman raises, war widows in nursing homes have been caused totally unnecessary distress by these letters. My Department guarantees to meet all approved increases in fees for war widows who are resident in nursing homes at the time of the increases as well as for a number of other categories of repatriation beneficiaries. I have no doubt, therefore, that, having been given that commitment by the Department, the private nursing homes are using war widows in a very cynical campaign to try to put pressure on the Federal Government to approve further nursing home fee increases.

My view is reinforced by the fact that for the first time some nursing homes — they should be indicted for it — have started to bill war widows directly for their fees rather than billing my Department, the latter being a practice that has been in operation for many years, even though the nursing homes know perfectly well that the Department will meet their account. Persons associated with these dealings are unscrupulous. They are clearly attempting to manipulate a vulnerable group for political purposes.

Construction of Working Accommodation and Warehousing for 51st Supply Battalion, Guildford, Western Australia

Approval of Work: Public Works Committee Act

Mr WEST (Cunningham — Minister for Housing and Construction) (5.15) — I move:

That, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Committee Act 1969, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of working accommodation and warehousing for 51st Supply Battalion, Guildford, Western Australia.

The proposed work before the House is for the construction of this facility for the Army’s 51st Supply Battalion. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Works in May 1986. The 51st Supply Battalion is currently dispersed at six separate locations in and around Perth. The proposed work will enable the battalion to be concentrated at Guildford, and existing inadequate facilities, some of which were constructed in 1916, to be replaced and expanded. This battalion provides supply support not only to the Army but also the Royal Australian Navy and to the Royal Australian Air Force. The battalion’s tasks include the receipt, storage, maintenance and issue of stores, including medical and dental supplies, to naval and Air Force units in Western Australia. Other tasks include the operation of an explosive ordnance disposal control centre and the operation of a central store for the Perth area. The work would construct a bulk storage warehouse, associated stores buildings and workshops, a single storey headquarters, an amenities building, a control post, and associated engineering services and site works.

The estimated cost of this work is $8.6m at October 1986 prices. It is intended to call tenders in March next year for the construction to commence in July and the works to be completed 12 months later in July 1988. Private consultants will be used for the design process, and the bulk of the construction will be, as usual, undertaken by private enterprise. The work will employ an average work force of 55, peaking at about 100.

In conclusion, I thank the Public Works Committee for the very prompt effort it has made to conclude this examination and for the support it has given already to this proposal. I commend the motion to the House.

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Gietzelt welcomes Tanzer appointment

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator Arthur Gietzelt, said today that he welcomed the appointment of Mr Noel Tanzer as Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

“I welcome the Prime Minister’s announcement of Mr Tanzer’s appointment,” Senator Gietzelt said.

“Mr Tanzer brings with him thirty-seven years of experience with the public service. For the past five years he has been a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Social Security where he was most recently involved in the development, approval and control of the world-recognised Stratplan project — the largest single computing acquisition programme undertaken to date by the Australian Public Service.

“Previously Mr Tanzer occupied senior positions in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Defence and the Public Service Board.

“He has also served on the CSIRONET Board of Management and the Australian Archives Advisory Council.”

Senator Gietzelt said that the skills Mr Tanzer brought with him were ideal to the tasks facing the Department of Veterans’ Affairs which would be required to care for an increasing number of veterans and war widows well into the 21st century.

Mr Tanzer’s experience in policy and administrative areas, such as the development of health schemes, welfare and social security, defence force proposals, management improvement and strategic planning processes for departmental data processing, will be invaluable in the busy Veterans’ Affairs portfolio.

“It is this Government’s view that pensions, treatment and other services needed by veterans and war widows should continue to be provided through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs as long as there is a need to have a separate organisation for this purpose.

“There will be no merger of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs with other departments.”

Mr Tanzer succeeds Mr Derek Volker who was appointed recently as Secretary of the Department of Social Security.

Mr Tanzer is an arts graduate of the University of Queensland and is married with four sons.
Dept. of Veterans’ Affairs.

Vale

Vale — Phyllis Noelle Pigott (Perry)

Noelle Pigott was a foundation member of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch and, throughout her long membership, was a very loyal and dedicated supporter of the RSL. During the early days of the Sub-Branch, Noelle, with her sister, Sylvia Perry, was among a small group who worked tirelessly to organise fetes and other functions to raise funds to establish the Sub-Branch.

When World War II commenced, Noelle was a member of City of Perth Voluntary Aid Detachment 517, and gave voluntary service at Lucknow and Davies Road Military Hospitals. In June 1941, when VADs were called up, Noelle volunteered for overseas service and left Australia in November 1941, sailing on the “Queen Mary” with the first contingent of Australian VADs detailed for duty in the Middle East. On arrival in the Middle East she was posted to 2/7th AGH at Rehoveth, Palestine, and remained with that hospital when it was transferred to Lebanon for a brief period and later to Egypt. The contingent of VADs returned to Australia in March 1943 by which time all enlisted VADs had been absorbed into the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service. After a short time at Hollywood Hospital, Noelle was posted to 2/6th AGH in New Guinea, returning in 1944 to Hollywood Hospital, and remained there until her marriage to Richard Piggot in 1946.

Noelle’s voluntary work was not confined to ex-service organisations. She gave a lot of her time to Church work and was very involved as a member of the “Friends of the Cathedral” in Perth. She became associated with the Dutch Club and gave considerable help to evacuees from Java. Noelle was also a member of the inaugural Women’s Committee of the National Trust, and was a member of the Girl Guide State Council of Western Australia.

It was a great joy to her friends that, despite failing health, Noelle, with the support of her family, was able to join in some of the functions during the Middle East VAD Reunion in Perth in September last year.

A burial service was held at Karrakatta on December 15, and on December 16, a Thanksgiving Service at St George’s Cathedral, conducted by the Dean of Perth, was attended by many friends, including a large representation from the Sub-Branch.

Noelle will be greatly missed by all who knew her and we extend sincere sympathy to her husband Dick, and sister Sylvia.

L. Fealy.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 61
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ANDREWS F.H. 83338, Rockingham Districts, RAAF.
BREARLEY W.W. WX17541, Nollamara-Nth Perth, 17
BDE Sigs.
BRYSON G. 147601, Narooring, RASC.
BUSSANICH J.B. WX34111, Cental, 12 Div. AASC.
CHAPPLE H.M. 415464, Riverton, RAAF.
CHIPPING C.W. WX38047, Albany, 2/2.
CHOUPLANTON A.H. 14532390, Bassedean-Guildford, REME.
CRAIG G.L. WX3271, Wembley-Floreat, 7 Div Sigs.
DALE L.W. 84454, Northam, RAAF.
EAGLE S.G. **P3 78787, City of Perth, RN.
EASTON M.A.G. 45971, Riverton, W.A.
FINDLAY W.D. WX678, Geraldton, 2/11 Bn.
GROVER E.O.D. VX38715, Katanning, 2/32 Bn.
HARRIS A.E. WX39922, Armadale, 16 Bn.
HARRIS E.J. WX128456, Highgate, HQ 2 Aust Div.
HARVEY C.L. 196, Cottesloe, 11 Bn.
HAY D. WX8560, Bellevue, 2/6 CMDO Snq.
HERBERT O.G. WX1428, Cottesloe, RAN.
HOOKER J.G. WX1309, City of Perth, 6 Div Sigs.
JOICE J.M. 298531, Central, RAAF.
LEWIS A.J. WX21633, Nollamara-Nth Perth, 16 AIB.
MacLIVER A. WX33457, Subiaco, 2/43 Bn.
MARRIOTT F.G. WX3276, City of Perth, 2/7 FD Regt.
MCLENNAN M.J. WX27912, Claremont, 11 Bn.
MILES L.E. WX91871, Maylands-Railways, 8 MW W/S.
MILLER F.A. 1388842, Esperance, RAF.
MIZEN G.A. 4415570, Wembley-Floreat, RAAF.
MOILER F.J. WX40360, Darling Range, 2/13 & 66 Bn.
MONK L. 2355944, York, 4 Arm Bde Sig BAOR.
MONKS P.G. F4991, Morawa-Gutha, RAN.
PARKIN W.A. WX5020, Albany, 8 Div Sigs.
RIGBY G.E. 41244, City of Perth RAN.
STREETER T.C. 5947660, Armadale.
THOMAS J. WX25742, Nollamara-Nth Perth, 2/27 TPT.
THOMPSON T.H. WX5614, Ravensthorpe, 2/11 Bn.
TRANTER F.J. 38533, South Perth, RAAF.
ISANGOS H. WX 18820, City of Perth, 2/32 Bn.
TURNER J. B3256, Geraldton, RAN.
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NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL
State President: Mr T. Bushe-Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Beckenham, 6107. State Secretary: Mr D.W.G. (George) Payne, 45 Foss Street, Bickton, 6157. Tel: 339 3461. All correspondence to: Hon. State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling Street, Perth, 6000.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
Meets fourth Tuesday of each month, at 71 West Parade, East Perth. President: Keith Nordahl. Tel: 367 3102. Secretary: Bob Hobbs. Tel: 279 7387. Treasurer: Stan Barnes. Tel: 446 3306.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President: Arthur Hewitt, J.P. Tel: 330 3600. Secretary: Bob Bett, 8 The Pinnacle, Willetton, 6155. Tel: 457 5691. Sub-Section meets 8pm, last Monday each month at the Navy Club, Marine Terrace, Fremantle. Tel: 335 3015.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: A. Hole, 79 Hale Road, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341 2648. Secretary: M.E. Pearson, Unit 9, 4 Manning Terrace, South Perth, 6151. Tel: 367 6016. Meets in ANZAC House third Thursday of every month, 8pm, (December excepted).

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: T.F. Bushe-Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Beckenham. Tel: 451 9327. Secretary: G.H. Smith, 1/5 Haigh Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 344 4416. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (WA)
State President: J. Appleby, 143 McDonald Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 3598. State Secretary: Mrs L. Edmondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley. Tel: 457 5620. State Treasurer: B. Edmondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley. Tel: 457 5620.

EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Meets the third Monday of each month, ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Suzanne James, 78 Fortescue St, East Fremantle, 6158. Tel: 339 4359. Secretary: Mrs Glory Loughton, 3A Nola Avenue, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 5532. Treasurer: Mrs Freda Andrews, 23 Wilcock St, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2269.

ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH
Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 7pm, ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Doreen O’Grady, 122 Duke Street, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 5640. Honorary Secretary: Mrs Mary Wyse, 2 Glenbawn Drive, South Lakes, 6164. Tel: 417 9877.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
President: John Hobbs, 11 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant, 6153. Tel: 364 3568. Secretary: Mr G.J. Cox, 81 Todd Avenue, Como, 6152. Tel: 367 3790. Meets first Monday each month (except January) ANZAC Club, 4pm. When Monday is a Public Holiday, first Tuesday.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION
President: P.J. Hackett, 11 Orizaba Place, Rockingham, 6168. Tel: (095) 276689. Secretary: L. de Grussa, 43 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: (09) 276 7253. Social meetings held quarterly at ANZAC House. Ladies welcome. Further information contact Secretary.

2/3RD FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Meets ANZAC House second Wednesday every month at 12 noon. President: Mr H.W. (Bill) Jones. Tel: 299 6470. Secretary: M. Davison, 1 Kitchener Road, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 3033. Treasurer: Fred Self, 24 Clovely Crescent, Lynwood, 6155. Tel: 458 6514.

2/7 AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Keith Allen, 15 Marlow Street, Wembley, 6014. Tel: 387 1039. Secretary: Mr Bill Woods, 5 The Crows Nest, Willetton, 6155. Tel: 457 4685. Meets first Monday each month, except January, at The Black Stump Tavern, Claisebrook Road, East Perth at 11am. When Monday is a Public Holiday, first Tuesday.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF
Meets socially first and third Friday each month, ANZAC Club, 12pm. AGM: Last Friday in August. President: Roy Caporn, 51 Alexander Drive, Mount Lawley. Tel: 271 8412. Secretary and Treasurer: R. Byrne, 2 Laughton Way, Leeming. Tel: 332 8004.

THIRTY NINERS’ ASSOCIATION
Meets ANZAC House, 12 noon, 4th Wednesday each month. State President: J.P. Hall, Unit A/3 Hellem Grove, Booragoon. Tel: 364 7776. State Secretary: Mrs F.E. Johnson, 38 Renwick Street, South Perth. Tel: 367 5949. For further information contact either of the above.

11TH & 2/11TH AIF BATTALIONS’ ASSOCIATION
President: L. Sullivan, Unit 189 Mustang House, A.F.M. Estate, Bullcreek, 6153. Tel: 332 8692. Secretary/Treasurer: J.C. Watson, 686 Canning Highway, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2126. Committee meets third Tuesday each month, 2.15pm, 605 Wellington Street, Perth, 1st Floor.

16TH BATTALION (THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION OF WA)
President: R. (Bob) Mercer, AM, RFD, ED, 7 Dunkley Avenue, Applecross, 6153. Secretary: H. Glyn Mawson, 9 Jenkins Place, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341 3926. Annual Dinner and three socials as advised.

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 65
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2/28TH BATTALION — 24TH ANTI-TANK COY
President: Mr C.J. D’Arcy, 12 Kirwan Street, Floreat Park, 6014. Tel: 387 1846. Secretary: Mr W.A. Carlton, 190 Coode Street, Como, 6152. Tel: 367 4016. Annual Reunion: To be advised.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)

2/44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when called. Annual reunion on advice. President: R. Collins, 134 Rosebery Street, Bedford. Tel: 271 4448.

2/48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: D. McLean, Unit 2/50 Endeavour Avenue, Bullcreek, 6155. Secretary: T.H. Eason, Cl/5 Lanark Street, Mt Lawley, 6050. Meetings and luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East at 11.30am on the first Monday of each month.

2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
President: D. Fullarton, 13 Riverview Road, East Victoria Park. Tel: 361 6064. Secretary: J.W. Carey, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman. Tel: 332 7050. Meetings held on second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am at ANZAC Club.

2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
President: A. Jamieson, 53 Valencia Avenue, Churchlands. Tel: 446 4591. Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Marradong Street, Coolbinia. Tel: 444 1927. Details of meetings — contact Secretary.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION WA
President: Mrs Rita Kneebone, 100 Reynolds Road, Mt Pleasant. Tel: 364 3311. Secretary: Mrs P. Payne, 11 Hurlingham Road, South Perth, 6151. Meetings as called. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
President: Lt Col K.T. Graham, RL, 27 Riley Road, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 386 3619. Secretary: Major G.T. Mellor, 177 Westview Street, Scarborough, 6019.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mrs Jean Hanley, 16 Miller Avenue, Redcliffe, 6104. Tel: 277 3007. Secretary: Mr D. Mettam, 10 James Road, Swanbourne, 6010. Tel: 384 7938. Treasurer: Mr Bruce Jellis, Carine Gardens Caravan Park, 234 Balcatta Road, Gwelup, 6021. Tel: 447 6270. Meetings ANZAC House, First Thursday each month except January, June, July and August at 7pm.

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
For enquiries contact: President: Lt Col O.R. Videan, 23 Halley Street, Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 6304. Secretary: Ron Hutchings, 21 Melbourne Way, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 3158. Regular meetings held at 150 Harborne Street, Wembley.

RAE EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION WA

2/3RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when necessary. President: K.E. Eckermann, 31 Tranquil Road, Kelmscott, 6111. Tel: 390 6072. Secretary: F.J. (Banjo) Binstead, 101 Star Street, Carlisle, 6101. Tel: 361 8762.

2/4TH MG BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: P.R. Tomkins, 2 Devling Place, Morley. Tel: 276 8514. Secretary: C.J. McPherson, 34 Harold Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 276 2313. Meetings ANZAC House, third Tuesday each month, 10am.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6101. Tel: 361 2824. Secretary: Mrs N. Angwin, Unit 7/6 St Henry Road, Como, 6152. Tel: 450 1833. Treasurer: Mrs P. Gilchrist. Tel: 3615254. Friendship meetings 1st Floor, ANZAC House on the 1st Thursday of the even months. 10am-12 noon.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)
President: Mrs T. Ieedham, Lot 169 Steven Street, Mundingaring. Tel: 295 2145. Secretary: Mrs M. Archer, 64 Empire Avenue, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341 5627. PO Box 6149, Hay Street East, 6000.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH
President: Mrs S. Mooney, 30 Arthur Street, West Swan, 6005. Tel: 274 1323. Secretary: Mrs Margaret Gorringe, 160 High Road, Riverton, 6155. Tel: 457 3526.

‘Z’ SPECIAL UNIT (AUST.) INC.

‘Z’ SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA
Meetings as arranged by Committee. Liaison Officer/Secretary: Lt Col E.W. Dubberlin, ED, RL, 17 Hotham Street, Meltham, WA, 6053. Tel: 271 1406.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
Eight branches and seven affiliated groups meet monthly at the Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek, where a fully licensed club is open to members daily. Further information from State Secretary. Telephone 332 4444.

AIR FORCES CLUB (INC)
Meets at RSL, Hall, Kintail Road, Applecross. Fridays, 4.30-11pm. Sundays 4.30-7.30pm. President: Mr T. Darcey, 29 Wellington Parade, Yokine, WA, 6060. Tel: 444 9158. Secretary: Mrs Lake. Tel: 332 1342. All correspondence to PO Box 153, Applecross, 6153.

460 SQUADRON RAF ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: W.E.M. (Gerry) Bateman, DFC, 221 South Terrace, Como, 6152. Tel: 367 3063. Secretary: N.B. Johnson, 63 Kirwan St, Floreat Park, 6014. Tel: 387 4229. Treasurer: A.F. Hogan, 19 Westborough Street, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 3014. Meetings are held four times a year.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: N. Jarrett, 22 Donna Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 275 4929. Secretary: Mrs A. Oldham, Unit 6/4 Pearson Place, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 6241. Meetings are held monthly. Please phone 276 3564 for details.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 67
Do you suffer from sleepless nights? How many mornings do you awake feeling tired and listless? Could you do without the discomfort of morning musculature aches and pains? A yes to all of these questions may point to one simple problem. Like many people, you could be sleeping on a mattress that doesn’t give your back the support it deserves. However, the solution can be just as simple too.

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A sagging, soft mattress and base causes your whole body to suffer. Your spine, and its associated muscles and fibres, has to curve to the un-natural shape of a bed that is unable to support your weight. Too firm a bed is just as uncomfortable. A mattress with no give will not allow your shoulder, hip or leg area to assume their natural alignment. SleepRite’s revolutionary Hip Bed is a perfect balance between firm support and maximum comfort. More than this, SleepRite’s Hip Bed has been given the prestigious Australian Design Award for product innovation.

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This special hip cradle allows the pelvic region, the heaviest and widest part of the body, to assume its natural level in relation to the rest of the body. This encourages correct spinal alignment together with providing the necessary support to the shoulders, torso, thighs and calves.

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<th>Queen $698</th>
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<tr>
<td>32mm Deluxe (9&quot;)</td>
<td>138mm Queen (9&quot;)</td>
<td>Support Zone 15 YEAR GUARANTEE</td>
<td>Base</td>
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AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC) WA BRANCH
State President: Mr L.C.W. Hutchings, 66 Kinsella Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4268. Honorary State Secretary: Mrs D.M. Smith, 4/46 East Street, East Fremantle. Tel: 339 7741. Details of Sub-Branch meetings, please phone 339 7741.

TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF W.A. (INC)
"Wingies and Stumpies". President: P.R. Collins. Secretary: C.C. Brown, C/- TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth, WA 6005. Tel: 321 5888. (Postal address PO Box 829, West Perth, WA 6005). Meeting first Wednesday each month except January, 1.30pm.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA *WA BRANCH INC.*
General meeting held at ANZAC House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth at 2pm, first Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: D.J. Symes, 15 Siddeley Place, Dianella. Tel: 276 9950.

FEDERATED TB SAILORS' SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Second Floor, Wellington Buildings, 158 William Street, Perth, last Monday. President: Ian Fraser. Tel: 271 4703. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer. Tel: 417 9598.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF W.A.
President: Jim Duncan, 40 Kennedy Street, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 2174. Secretary: Arthur Robinson, 19/26 Pinaster Street, Menora, 6050. Tel: 271 4733. Assistant Secretary: Fred Skeels, 33 Drummond Street, Bedford, 6052. Tel: 271 1553. Treasurer: Dan London, 278a Drake Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 8923. Meetings: First Tuesday each month, at new time of 1.15pm. (except January when in Recess) at ANZAC Club, Perth.

LADIES AUXILIARY EX-POW OF WA
President: Mrs G.M. Brown, 24 Milroy Street, Willagee, 6156. Tel: 337 5195. Secretary: Mrs F. Duncan, 40 Kennedy Street, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 2174. Meetings: Same time and place as men.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meets Second Monday in June, September and December at Belmont RSL, 22 Leake Street, Belmont. Members will be notified by mail of March AGM. State President: Mr Noel Conigrave, Tel: 339 1553. State Secretary: Mr M. Cadden, Tel: 277 3681, 53 Wicca Street, Kewdale, 6105.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Secretary: Lt. E.C. Lunn-Garner, RL, 9 Davies Crescent, Kalamunda, 6076. Tel: 293 1409.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Meets second Wednesday every month (except January), Cameron Barracks, Canning Highway, Victoria Park, 6100. President: Capt W.R. Hunt-Smith. Tel: 407 5430. Secretary: K.R. Trent. Tel: 367 7794. All correspondence to Cameron Barracks, Canning Highway, Victoria Park.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mick Ruffin, 50 Myrtle Avenue, Sorrento, 6020. Tel: 448 1683. Secretary: Ron Anderson, 29 Hillsborough Drive, Nollamara, 6061. Tel: 349 4759. Treasurer: Terry Barrett, 145 Main Street, Osborne Park, 6017. Tel: 444 0157. Committee meets South Mess, Campbell Barracks, 1st Wednesday each month, 1730 hours — Fellowship last Friday of each month at 1700 hours, same location — Welcome.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA) AATTJV (WA)
President: Mr B.A. Lawrence, 21 Tidefall Street, Safety Bay, 6169. Tel: (295) 273957. Secretary: Mr F. Sykes, 20 Kirwan Street, Floreat, 6014. Tel: 387 6251. Welfare Officer: Mr R. Smith, 16 Santa Way, Wanneroo Hts, 6065. Tel: 405 3781. Meetings: Swan Barracks Sergeants Mess, after ANZAC Day March. Kings Park Memorial, 4.30pm, every July 31 — Birthday re-union.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: C. Evans. Tel: 447 5585. Vice President: R. Cox. Tel: 332 4964. Secretary: J. Evans. Tel: 447 5585. Treasurer: V. Wragg. Tel: 276 7665. Meetings every other month, interested persons, please contact any of the above.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS ASSOCIATION
Chairman: Mr P. Norris, 72 James Street, Gosnells, 6010. Tel: 398 4508. Secretary: Mr S. Kent, Unit 21/99 Owtram Road, Armadale, 6112. Tel: 399 7375. meets second Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm at ANZAC House.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)
General President: J.G. (Jack) Bowdell, MBE. Honorary General Secretary: Mary Woollacott, Tranby House, Maylands, 6051. Tel: 272 2630. BESA office, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands, 6051. All correspondence to PO Box 66, Maylands, 6051. General Council meets second Tuesday each month, in the Board Room of The Old Peninsula, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands. Annual General Meeting 4th Tuesday in August in the Board Room, address as above.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: C.W. Agate, 5 Millgate Road, Balga, 6061. Tel: 342 1383. Secretary: J.G. Buxton, BEM, 2 Nangett Street, Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 4320. Committee meets Seaview Tavern, South Terrace, Fremantle, at 20.00 hrs, second Monday each month. General meeting same hour and place, last Monday each month.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 69
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Desecration of Australian War Graves

Senator ROBERTSON — My question, which is directed to the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, relates to the alleged desecration of Australian war graves in the Kanchanaburi war cemetery in Thailand recently. It was reported on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation news that human remains were exposed during some work in the vicinity of the cemetery. If this is a fact, what steps are being taken to rectify the situation and to ensure that this unfortunate incident does not occur again?

Senator GIETZELT — It is true that in the Asian-Pacific region there are war graves in a number of countries, some of which come under the jurisdiction of the Australian War Graves Commission and others which come under the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, of which we are a part, but for which the responsibility lies principally with the organisation in London. I am specifically aware of the desecration of war graves that took place recently in Kanchanaburi in Thailand. The Government views this very seriously. Consequently Mr Clarke of the Australian War Graves Commission immediately contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in London, which is responsible for the maintenance of the war graves in that country, and it was notified of Australia’s very genuine concern about what was taking place.

We have been advised that the remains that were disturbed have now been replaced and the area has been completely refurbished. I am assured that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission war cemeteries throughout the world — I had the opportunity to look at them last year in the European scene — are meticulously cared for, with appropriate reverence for those who lie in them. It is a matter of regret that the remains were treated as they were in Thailand in recent times. This particular incident was very unfortunate. It occurred during the upgrading of the cemetery without sufficient care being given to the fact that it was a very important and sacred piece of ground. Our concern has been expressed to the authorities in Thailand. I assure those Australians who have expressed their considerable disquiet with what has taken place that it will not happen again and that the maintenance of those war graves is being constantly kept under review by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Listening Post — Autumn, 1987 — Page 71
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