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R.S.L. Members Are Convinced... The Cash Accident Programme Provides the Protection We All Need

Our members tell us it's security, low price and the money-back guarantee that convinced them to enrol in this exclusive R.S.L. programme:

"It is essential that returned service men and women have another as best we can... The benefits are essential for a comfortable old age - security is created as well."

Mr. V.A. Prentice
Coombe, Victoria.

I enrolled in the R.S.L. Cash Accident Programme because "of all the new cash accident policies on offer, the R.S.L. seems to be the best."

Mr. William Anderson
Launceston, Tasmania.

"After due consideration of the pros and cons of the programme it would appear to be one of the least complicated accident protection one could subscribe to. I would give it a two-car garage of a premium at ten years... and also the guarantee of no further increase within the next ten years."

Edward Gough
Queensland.

"My wife is an ex-service woman and she thought I had better take some form of insurance." Mr. Charles L. Mifflin
Oslohra, S.A.

"It supports the R.S.L. Maximilian idea and at the same time gives the security that I need," he explained.

Mr. R. Hadparch
Coburg, NSW.

I enrolled in the R.S.L. Cash Accident Programme because of its affordable coverage, the low price and the guarantee of no further increases within the next ten years."

Mr. Harold Parker
Chapman, A.C.T.

"My wife and I wanted the policy and thought it was good value because of the volume of work in the insurance field today. I would say anyone thinking of placing a policy with the R.S.L. is doing themselves a big service."

Mr. Smith
St. Marios, Queensland.

"The free period of cover without cost helped us to decide to enrol plus the fact that after a two-year period of cover we have a nice little nest egg built up." Ms. Mills
Pallarg, A.C.T.

The features that more appealed to us were: 1) very reasonable cost; 2) payable convenience. The house where most accidents occur is our home and it is more prone to slips and falls in those rooms you.

Mr. Edwoc W. West
North Beach, WA.

"I consider it to be an excellent programme, because it covers all eventualities for an extremely low price. I know of no other insurance policy which covers so much." Mr. Roger J. Wren
Norton Park, WA.

The R.S.L. Cash Accident Programme has proven so popular with our members that we have arranged for another offer to be made - to give those who missed out an opportunity to enrol for this essential cover now:

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Hollywood Hospital

At the time of writing this report, we have received approximately 4,000 signatures for the retention of the Repatriation General Hospital at Hollywood. It would seem to me that the present Government has not taken into consideration the veteran community's wishes and is still doing its utmost to get the WA branch of the RSL to change its mind and allow the Commonwealth Government to negotiate with the State Government. This is not on at this time. No doubt the Commonwealth will keep up the pressure by writing to all Unit and Kindred Associations seeking support by the back door method. If Unit and Kindred Associations and all their members remain firm, I am quite sure that the veteran community will win in the end. I thank all veterans for their support and urge all members to write to the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Ben Humphreys, MP, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600, voicing their disapproval of any suggestion of handing Repatriation hospitals over to the State hospital system.

RSL and Legacy

On Thursday, 10 August, 1989, the Vice President, State Secretary and I met with our counterparts in Legacy at lunch to discuss the problems that have been experienced by both organisations. The aim is to have a better mutual understanding of our problems so we can build a closer working relationship between our two organisations. I can only hope that these future quarterly meetings between Legacy and the RSL will be in the best interests of both organisations and, thus, with Veterans and their dependants.

RSL Raffle

Further on in this magazine you will see a photo of the presentation of the car that was won in the recent raffle conducted for the RSL. I would like to thank all members, their families and friends for the support given to these raffles and, in particular, a special mention should be made of the support that the RSL has been given by John Hughes, of Titan Ford, over the past years. He has not only been most generous and co-operative with discounts but has paid for the printing of the tickets. I ask all members to support Titan Ford and, if you care to deal through Greg Bennett, he will make sure that RSL members get the best of discounts.

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...The Basic Principles

INTRODUCTION

National political leaders during, and immediately after, World War II (Curtin, Chifley and Menzies) recognised the need for generosity in providing an enduring scheme for healing the physical and mental wounds of war.

The ex-service community is concerned that, as Australia's involvement in armed conflict has receded into the past, political leaders who have had no personal experiences of war are forgetting the need for generosity. Our present leaders appear to be ignoring the Parliament's commitment to 'do the right thing' for those Australians who are classified as veterans, for their widows and their dependants. Members of the ex-service community are also concerned for the continued maintenance of satisfactory conditions of service for members of the Defence Force.

As the years go by, the number of World War II veterans (who comprise the majority of the veteran community) will decrease but those who remain will require increased care as they grow old. All Australians dearly hope that there will be no more 'war' veterans to follow those of the Vietnam conflict. However, the requirement to provide compensation for 'war' disability can be expected to continue, albeit for smaller numbers, as a result of Australia's commitment to peace-keeping forces such as those for Sinai and Namibia. The need to honour the community's commitment to those who have served Australia will continue well into the 21st century.

The ex-service community reminds parliamentarians from all parties of the following, long-standing Principles of Repatriation:

a. The nation is specially indebted to those who have given service to it in time of war, thereby endangering their lives and health and probably suffering economic loss, by enlisting voluntarily or compulsorily in the Armed Forces.

b. The nation, therefore, has a duty to ensure that those who have thus served, together with their dependants, are properly cared for to the extent that they should never have to beg or rely on charity.

c. Governments accordingly have an obligation to make arrangements for our claims as follows:

   (1) Those who have served should be suitably rehabilitated and re-established back into civilian life.

   (2) Those who have suffered incapacity which could be reasonably related to their service should be appropriately and adequately compensated on a long term basis both financially and by the provision of high quality medical and hospital treatment.

   (3) Some financial provision of compensation payment should be made towards the care of their dependants during rehabilitation and re-establishment and also during any continuing incapacity.

   (4) In cases where death has resulted from service, adequate provision should be made for widows and other dependants, including educating the children of deceased veterans.

   (5) Those who have served overseas or in a proclaimed theatre of war are likely to have encountered greater danger and/or more arduous service than those who have had home service and, accordingly, they should receive more extensive cover.

   (6) Compensation and other benefits should be available as a matter of right and not as a welfare hand-out, and, in cases of doubt, the repatriation determining system should resolve in favour of those claiming to be entitled.

   (7) Compensation should be assessed according to the degree of actual incapacity, and regardless of the economic situation of those entitled, this incapacity should be assessed on equal terms for those disabled in like degree.

   (8) Such benefits should be provided whether or not similar arrangements are made available to civilians in respect of accident or illness arising in civil life.

   (9) All benefits should be constantly re-examined to ensure that they are appropriate and to consider if any adjustments or additional provisions are needed to meet new situations as they become apparent: eg CPI increases.

   (10) Cover should be extended to defined peacetime situations for which there is inadequate provision to meet new situations under existing civil arrangements.

   (11) To ensure these principles are constantly and efficiently maintained, the administration thereof should be in the hands of one single-purpose department.
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The Victoria Cross
The Highest Honour

The fascinating story of the Victoria Cross, in its many aspects, has already been well documented. From the date of its institution, 29 January, 1856, at the close of the Crimean War, to the last awards made in the Falklands Campaign in 1982, a total of 1351 awards have been made. They are as follows:

- 1854-1856 Crimean War 62
- 1857-1858 Indian Mutiny 14
- 1865-1881 South Africa 6
- 1879 Zulu War 40
- 1899-1902 Boer War 66
- 1914-1918 Great War 637
- 1939-1945 World War 181
- 1950-1953 Korean War 4
- 1965-1969 Vietnam War 4
- 1983 Falklands Islands 2

Other Wars and Campaigns e.g. Maori 1864 1; Afghan 2; Sudan 1893 3.

The total is 1350 plus 1 to the Tomb of the U.S.A. Unknown Warrior in 1921.

From time to time such questions are raised; for instance, who was the youngest recipient? Who was the oldest? Who was the first? Who was the last? Who the most decorated? etc. etc.

There is a great number of 'firsts', in deciding which a careful analysis has to be made as to dates, places, circumstances, and of course names. Due to considerations of space, only a few instances can be given here. Let us, therefore, confine our consideration of the V.C. story to that which concerns Australia. The total awards to Australians is 96, comprising Boer War 5; Great War 67; World War 20; Vietnam War 4. Of these awards 16 came to Western Australia. The first award was to Neville House. The first West Australian was Fred Bell, both in the Boer War. In the Great War, Albert Jacka, 14th Bn., Victoria was the first Australian to win the V.C. The first West Australian was Hugo Throssell, 10th Light Horse, Gallipoli.

In the World War the first Australian winner was Jack Edmondson (posthumous), 2/17 Battalion at Tobruk. The first West Australian was Hughie Edwards, R.A.F. Germany.

It is estimated that one in three V.C. winners paid the supreme price. At the inauguration of the decoration, Queen Victoria expressed the hope that the Cross would be "highly prized and keenly sought after". West Australians who won the award, but never knew, were Alf Gaby, 28th Bn., Charles Pope, 11th Bn., Stan Gurney and Percy Gratwick, both of 2/48 Bn.

West Australians who have won the V.C. are:

**Boer War:**
Fred Bell, W.A. Mounted Inf.

**Great War:**
Charles Pope, 11 Bn.
Jack Axford, 16 Bn.
Harry Murray, 16 Bn.
Lawrence McCarthy, 16 Bn.
Martin O'Meara, 16 Bn.

**World War:**
Hughie Edwards R.A.F.
Arthur Gurney, 2/48 Bn.
Percy Gratwick, 2/48 Bn.

**Vietnam:**
K.A. Wheatley, AATTV
P.J. Badcoe, AATTV
R.S. Simpson, DCM AATTV
K. Payne, AATTV

Eight Australians won the V.C. at Gallipoli and six of them were awarded in the Lone Pine action. The Citations were published in the London Gazette dated 15 October, 1915. The first V.C. was awarded on 9th May, 1915 to L/Cpl Albert Jacka, 14 Bn., AIF (Victoria) for bravery at Courtney's Post. 2/Lt. Hugo Throssell's V.C. was awarded on 29th August, 1915 at Hill 60.

The first V.C. awarded was to Charles Davies Lucas for bravery on 21st June, 1854 on board H.M.S. Hecla during the Crimean War. A Russian fort in the Baltic was being bombarded when a live shell fell on board the Hecla. Midshipman Lucas picked it up and threw it overboard. The shell exploded before touching the water.

Although the first award went to Lucas, the first presentation was to Commander Henry James Raby of the Royal Naval Brigade at Crimea. The investiture was held in Hyde Park on 26th June, 1857 when Queen Victoria decorated 62 officers and men of the fighting forces.

At the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, 433 Victoria Crosses had been awarded.

**THE WINDS OF CHANGE**

The Victoria Cross will be replaced in Australia by a new honour for valour to be known as the Cross of Valour. Instituted in 1975, it is a gold cross containing two other cross forms to suggest the theme of a "cross of crosses".

The Victoria Cross is made of gun metal from Russian guns taken at Crimea. For over a century it has been regarded as "the most precious piece of metal in the world". Its metal value is about ten cents! The symbolism is apparent. There are signs that the new cross will be joined by a new flag. History stands by and weeps.

JOHN CHAPPELL
The most valued symbol of Australia is now the world's.

The Australian Kangaroo is arguably this country's best-known and most enduring national symbol. It is fitting therefore that this internationally recognised image should be associated with that quintessentially Australian product, pure gold, to create the new issue of Australia's most prestigious gold proof coins.

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The golden gold proof coins on earth. The 1989 Proof Issue, the first to combine this uniquely Australian symbol with the timeless allure and value of gold, is certain to excite considerable global interest. Particularly given the phenomenal success of the 'Nugget' series, since its introduction in 1986, which has positioned Australia as one of the world's leading gold producers.

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Mintage of full sets of the 1 oz., 1/2 oz., 1/4 oz. and the new 1/10 oz. coins is strictly limited. Due to the time and difficulty involved in their production, a mere 8,000 full sets will be issued for distribution internationally. The Very Fine, Fine and Uncirculated coins, which would make superb gift items, are also available individually.

Works of art. From a master designer.

There are in fact forty-two species contributing to the single Kangaroo family image which most Australians and the rest of the world share. But for this particularly significant first issue in a new design series which will feature different Kangaroo designs each year, Stuart Devlin, jeweller and goldsmith to Her Majesty the Queen, was commissioned to depict just one.

The activity red Kangaroo, the species which is instantly recognisable throughout the world as the symbol of its kind.

What price perfection?

The 1989 Proof Issue is not merely a precious asset with considerable sentimental worth. Those superbly finished and preserved collector's items are a shining example of Australia's ability to achieve without compromise. Each of these proof coins is individually minted to the most exacting standards.

How to order your 1989 Proof Issue coins.

To reserve your coins from the 1989 Proof Issue of The Australian Nugget, you are advised to place your order promptly by completing and returning the coupon below.

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Perth Mint Notice of International Release.
"They Also..."

W.L. Tate's article in the Autumn issue of "The Listening Post", with particular reference to equipment, revived memories of that black year, 1942.

Singapore had just fallen when, with hundreds of other men I received my call-up notice and, the day before Darwin was bombed, entered the Army via Melville camp. We had been requested to bring certain articles with us — underwear, eating utensils, etc. as these were unobtainable through the Q stores. (Something familiar about this to present-day service people?). Our rifles were all overdue for retirement —'stared' rifles as old as 1908. Webbing was, for a time, unavailable. We queued up for 2/6” lengths of binder-twine to use as a belt for our bayonet frogs. Blue pullovers were de rigueur.

Melville camp was quite large, housing three infantry battalions the 11th, 16th and 28th and an artillery unit, the 3rd Field Regt, together with support units and 13th Brigade HQ. The orderly rooms, messes, ablution blocks, camp hospital, canteen etc. were permanent buildings. The troops lived under canvas. Brigade HQ and the canteen were on the left-hand side of the road coming from Fremantle, about half a mile past the Carrington Street/South Street intersections and the tram terminus, with the main camp opposite. Perhaps it was only a third of a mile? It felt like a mile with a full kit bag, and 47 years plays tricks with the memory.

The terrain was very sandy; grey sand and scattered coastal timber. All has now been built on, and there appears to be no reminder of the old camp’s existence.

The infantry battalions of those days consisted of BHQ, HQ Coy of six platoons; Signals, Intelligence, Mortars, Pioneers, Bren Carriers and Transport: A, B, C and D rifle companies and E Coy, the Vickers machine guns. The considerable influx of conscripts from city and country went into a temporary recruit training wing known as F Coy.

The hard core of these AMF units were men who had trained in peacetime and others in the camps of longer duration prior to conscription in 1941. Numbers of each unit were brought up to war establishment figures by conscripts. These were largely younger men, many only 18 or 19 years of age. It was the hard stand by some of the ‘old timers’ and conscripts against volunteering for overseas service that produced, sadly, the very bitter feelings between the wholly volunteer AIF and members of the AMF at that time, with the notorious sobriquet of ‘chocco’ (chocolate soldier) being tagged on the AMF men or militia as they were more familiarly known.

In April 1942 the 13th Aust Inf Brigade left Melville for the last time. "Stunts" had been in favour for weeks. Up the coast, down the coast and into the hills. Now we were to form part of the 4th Div., Third Corps. The GOC was Lt Gen H. Gordon Bennett.

Very shortly after the first big air raid on Darwin, 19 February, 1942, rumour had it that Fremantle had been buzzed by a plane from a Japanese carrier. Another rumour hinted that an enemy landing was possible south of the Moore River. In mid-year an alarm was raised by our coast watchers in the vicinity of Jurien Bay, when they thought they heard a surfaced submarine running its engines. Planes were sent from Pearce. Later in the year our intelligence reported a large enemy convoy on a southerly route from Java. This information led to conjecture that a landing might be expected south of Carnarvon, or so it was said. The convoy, however, turned east toward New Guinea, but the intelligence prompted a very large ‘stunt’ by elements of Third Corps.

Looking back, it seems that all these fears and apprehensions, the movements of large numbers of men, vehicles and assorted material, and the human effort, anticipation and frustration have been very largely expunged from the collective memory of today’s West Australians.

In 1942 the South West Lands Division (in particular) of W.A. bore many marks of military activity: the RAAF at Pearce, Maylands, Geraldton, Cunderdin and Clontarf; various navies, RN, RAN, USN and Netherlands at Fremantle; the army at Northam (AIF training camp); Melville (AMF training camp), Nungarin, Spencer’s Brook, Claremont Showgrounds, Karrakatta, Leighton and Rottnest, to name but a few of the established centres and depots, and with thousands of men scattered from north of Geraldton to south of Perth, especially in the Moonyoonooka, Mingenew and Moora areas.

No enemy was faced, no casualties suffered (with the exception of broken bones) and there were the usual diseases expected under the circumstances. The troops lived like pigs most of the time, on the ground whether in a tent or in the open. The food was consistently appalling and there was a lack of sufficient water both for washing and laundry purposes. From this grubby, grumbling and bored body of men, rather poorly equipped and continuously employed in exercises which almost always seemed to be minor catastrophes, emanated a feeling of frustration. They were unloved and, to a degree, unloving. There were altercations between sandgropers and members of Victorian units when face to face under certain conditions. There was an abortive ‘mutiny’ when many members of an infantry unit refused to fall in for parade one morning. Later a mass AWL effort by virtually an entire company. This type of activity was interspersed by compass marches and longer defined route marches. Ten and twenty milers were ‘pipe openers’, seventy and eighty mile marches indulged in and, on one occasion, a round hundred miler.

Continued page 11
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Page 10 — Listening Post — Spring, 1989
RSL Insurance

New Offer for Official RSL Insurance Programme Now Available

Thousands of RSL members have taken out Cash Accident Cover. It's no wonder. More and more members are becoming aware of the increasing costs of accidental injury and are looking for the best way to protect themselves and their families from this potential burden.

With this in mind, we are delighted to announce that you now have a new opportunity to enrol in the RSL Cash Accident Programme. The Programme provides extra cash for accidental injury resulting in hospitalisation, extra benefits for serious injury requiring intensive care unit treatment, plus a substantial insurance benefit for fatal and permanently disabling accidents.

The Programme's popularity among members is not only due to the secure benefits it provides, but also because of its unique money-back feature. This guarantees a 100% return of all premiums paid if, after 10 years of continuous cover, you haven't made a claim. That way, if you have not used the benefits of the Programme, you get all your money back.

In addition to the original RSL Cash Accident Programme offered to members aged 50 to 75, a new Programme has been developed for younger members — aged 21 to 49. Both Programmes are guaranteed to RSL members and their spouses. No medical examination or health questionnaire of any kind is required. And, if both husband and wife apply, they both earn a substantial premium discount.

For full details, look for your personal invitation in the post.

Of the many members who have taken advantage of this protection, those who have needed to claim benefits will attest to the easy and efficient claims service. You will find some of their comments on Page 2 of this issue.

Please note that enrolment is available for a limited time only. To apply, members need only complete the enrolment form which they will receive in the post. And there is no need to send money with your enrolment form. The RSL has arranged for a period of free cover to allow members to examine their policies carefully before any payment is due.

This service has been of enormous value for RSL members and we urge you to consider it carefully.

If you have any further questions regarding this Official RSL Insurance Programme, please call, toll-free, (008) 022 566 for more information.

Memorial service for war hero

On Thursday, June 29, 1989, 30 members of HMAS Hobart Association (W.A. Division) and their families took part in a ceremony to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the death of Singapore's anti-Japanese war hero, Lim Bo Seng, who died in the Batu Gajah prison, after being tortured by the Japanese. Thursday was 45 years to the day that Gen Lim died after being captured and tortured by the Japanese in Ipoh.

Among those who were at the service were eight of his old comrades, who had served with him in the anti-Japanese resistance unit, Force 136. Others included retired soldiers and their families.

During the service, members of the group placed wreaths and bowed three times in front of the tablet, observed a few moments' silence and delivered a memorial speech in his honour.

Mr Li Jinquan, organiser of the memorial service which is held every year to commemorate Gen Lim's death, said this was the first time that soldiers who fought the Japanese were able to take part in the service.

After Singapore surrendered to the Japanese in 1942, Gen Lim first fled to China and then joined the British-led Force 136 and returned to Peninsular Malaysia in a submarine.

He joined the anti-Japanese Forces in the jungle but later went to work in Ipoh where his main task was to gather information.

But he was betrayed by a fellow underground agent, arrested by the Japanese military police and tortured to death. — Straits Times, Malaysia and Sin Min Chinese Newspapers.

"They Also ..." cont.

The countryside was strewn (discreetly) with unit identification signs. Units and sub-units were everywhere. Apart from our local 13th Brigade lads, the Victorian 2nd Brigade was a neighbour, being part of the 4th Division. Elements of the Armoured Division were scattered in the Mingenew-Morawa-Mullewa area. These highly trained men were later packed off piecemeal to various fighting units in the islands and elsewhere.

Could Third Corps have repulsed or delayed a Japanese landing in 1942? Could they have been as heroic as the young militiamen at Milne Bay? Or would the shattered fragments have become fleeting guerillas? We shall never know. But should we forget that Third Corps did once exist? "Choccos" they were dubbed, but many of the men volunteered in the AIF when offered the opportunity in mid 1942, and most of the Corps served later at the "Top End" and in the islands.

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Credit Cards accepted by phone
An exclusive new credit card for RSL members is now available through the RSL and National Australia Bank. All RSL members and their spouses are eligible to apply for the new RSL/National Australia Bank MasterCard.

Brigadier Alf Garland explains how the scheme will augment the League's funds and assist in providing welfare and other services to serving and ex-servicemen and women and their families:

"By obtaining and using the Card, members will be benefitting the League, because National Australia Bank will make a cash contribution to the RSL for each approved card application and for each purchase a member makes using the RSL Card.

"Each time they use their Cards, our members will demonstrate their commitment to the RSL's principles and activities.

"I am confident our members will support this initiative, both for their own benefit and as a means of strengthening the League's finances."

National Australia Bank's Chief Manager Card Services, Mr John Hadfield, expects that the RSL/National Australia Bank MasterCard will become one of the most popular credit cards in Australia.

"As an organisation, the RSL has a particularly strong bond with its members who are most supportive of its extensive welfare work and its role in promoting the interests of the nation."

In addition to the benefits to the RSL, this Card offers members the full benefits of the worldwide MasterCard facility.

"MasterCard credit cards are accepted in approximately 220,000 business establishments throughout Australia, and can also be used to access automatic teller machines and EFTPOS terminals.

"Moreover, as a MasterCard product, the RSL Card is a truly international card. It is accepted at 6 million business outlets in 170 countries." Mr Hadfield said.

Q: What credit privileges does the RSL/National Australia Bank MasterCard provide?

A: Members can choose from two types of accounts:

1. A TwoWay Account, carrying a lower rate of interest than the Bank's standard credit cards, with interest chargeable from the date a transaction places the account in debit. This account also incorporates a savings facility by which interest is payable on credit balances.

2. A Convenience Account, offering 25 to 55 days interest-free credit for purchases. Interest on outstanding balances is charged at the Bank's normal rate for credit cards.

Q: What other benefits does the Card offer?

A: Both the TwoWay and Convenience Accounts enable RSL members to obtain up to $100,000 of free travel accident insurance. Members may pick up their Insurance Certificates at any National Australia Bank Branch.

In addition, RSL Cardholders can purchase travellers cheques from the National Australia Bank for up to $2,000 with no bank service charge.

Q: What amount of credit will be available?

A: Cards will offer a minimum credit limit of $2,000 and will be issued subject to standard credit assessment by the National Australia Bank. Higher limits will be considered upon application.

Q: Is there a yearly fee for the RSL Card?

A: No! The RSL Card will be issued to members free.

Q: Can my spouse have a Card?

A: Yes, an additional Card can be issued for a member's spouse or children over 16 years of age —again free of charge.

Q: Can I get cash from my Card?

A: Yes. When applying for the RSL Card, members can apply to use the Card in the Bank's electronic banking facilities, which give you access to over 500 National Australia Bank FlexiTeller machines throughout Australia.

You can then obtain cash advances up to $500 per day or $1,000 per week, charged to your RSL Card account. Interest on cash advances is charged from the date the advance places the account in debit until it is repaid in full.

Members wishing to apply for an RSL Card will find an application and further details enclosed with this issue of Listening Post. Additional applications will also be available at your RSL Sub-branch.

For more information, members are invited to call the National Australia Bank toll free on (008) 036 138.
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In 1944, while RSL member Frank Harders was stationed at Lae, he made a set of four pencil drawings of some of the local scenes. He sent these to his wife in Perth and they were subsequently included in an exhibition entitled “Artists in Uniform”.

Forgotten until recently, the drawings are now arousing interest among those who served in Papua New Guinea. Black and white photocopies, suitable for framing (12 1/8 inches wide by 11 inches) are available at $5.00 each plus $2.50 postage for one or more copies. Mr Harders will donate the proceeds to RSL and Legacy.

Sketch A is of the Lutheran Church shown on the front cover of this issue. The church was built in 1886 by German missionaries. While the Japanese occupied Lae they used the Church as a hospital. It remained standing during the recapture of Lae by the Allies, even though the Church is near the Voca Point wharf.

Sketch B is of a copra plantation at Lae showing the palm trees after a barrage of 25 pounder shells by the 9th Division.

Sketch C is of the Japanese ship “Makyo Maru” lying shelled and beached on the Lae foreshore.

Sketch D shows the Australian Army tent line beside the jungle at Lae.

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RSL CAR RAFFLE RESULT

John Hughes, of Titan Ford (left), and Jim Hall, the State President, present the keys to a Ford Laser to Norm and Cecilia Elder who won the first of two RSL raffles run annually by the State Branch.
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Commodore Stubington takes command of WA Naval area

Commodore Graham Stubington was born in Canberra on 18 April 1941 and joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1957. He attended the Royal Australian Naval College and the Britannia Royal Naval College in the United Kingdom before being posted to sea as a Sub-Lieutenant in 1961.

During the period 1961-1974 he served at sea as Navigation and Operations Officer in nine ships ranging from minesweepers, frigates and destroyers to supply ships and the aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne. During this period at sea he served on the Far East Station during the Borneo confrontation and made several visits to Vietnam escorting HMAS Sydney. In 1967 he undertook the long navigation specialist course at HMS Dryad in England and served in an exchange billet at sea with the Royal Navy in 1968/69.

After a brief period ashore from 1975-1977 Lieut Commander Stubington returned to sea as Executive Officer of HMAS Hobart and was promoted to Commander in 1978. During the period 1979-1982 Commander Stubington served as the Fleet Exercise and Tactics Officer for twelve months and then was posted to Canberra where he attended the Joint Services Staff College and was posted as the Director of Naval Officers Postings.

In 1982 Commander Stubington was posted in command of HMAS Brisbane. During his two years in command he conducted a deployment to the Indian Ocean and operated with the USS America Battle Group. He was promoted to Captain in 1984 at which time he was posted to the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

Golden day for home again Geordie couple

GOLDEN wedding couple John and Eugenia Noble will celebrate their special anniversary on their beloved Tyneside after a 20-year exile on the other side of the world.

The pair are naturalised Australian citizens but when they retired in 1984 the lure of the Tyne was too strong and they returned to their native Geordieland.

"We now enjoy our favourite Tyneside brew and read our favourite newspaper The Evening Chronicle," said John, 68, of Anson Place, Newbiggin Hall Estate, Newcastle.

He met Eugenia, also 68, at a dance when he was a young Northumberland Fusilier in 1938.

They were married at St Joseph's RC Church, Dunston, and began their married life in Gateshead, later moving to Blakelaw in Newcastle.

John is a veteran of the Burma Campaign during the Second World War when he served with the Chindits.

The couple emigrated in the 1960s and stayed for 20 years during which John was a crane supervisor on opencast mining sites and Eugenia was a hotel worker.

"Australia is a beautiful place but it is beautiful here too," said John.

The couple, whose golden wedding is on Monday, have two daughters and seven grandchildren in Australia and one daughter and three grandchildren living in Wallsend.

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Origin and Tradition of "Gunners" day at Guildford

BANNER

About September 1914, Mr James Fredericks presented to Military Headquarters a silk Australian Ensign with a request that it should be handed to one of the Commanding Officers proceeding overseas.

The Commandant of the day, Colonel Kyngdon, presented the Banner to the Commanding Officer of the 8th Battery AIF, Major A.J. Bessell-Browne, DSO. It was gratefully accepted and became the Battery Banner.

The Banner was first flown at Blackboy Camp during preliminary training, then at Mena Camp, Egypt, during intensive training, in the field at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, and later taken to France where it was flown on the Somme in 1916 and early 1917 in Ypres Salient. It was then put away until the end of the war.

After demobilisation, it was decided to deposit the Banner in St Mathews Church, Guildford, for safekeeping. The sentiment behind placing the Banner in the church was to follow the custom in Garrison churches in England.

Artillery Headquarters, both prior to and after the Great War 1914-1918, were at Guildford, and the Banner was installed in the church on Sunday, 21 September 1919, by the 8th Battery's first Commanding Officer, Brigadier-General A.J. Bessell-Browne, CB, CMG, DSO, VD.

"GUNNERS' DAY"

In 1928 the Artillery Comrades' Association decided, with the co-operation of the church and the Municipality of Guildford, to hold the first ceremony of "GUNNERS' DAY" on the nearest Sunday to the 8th of August. The factor in arriving at this date was that it was considered that the Artillery Units in France had reached the zenith of their training when the Australian Forces broke the line at Villers Brettonneux on 8 August 1918.

On the day of the first ceremony, about 60 ex-Gunners marched from the railway station, headed by the RSL Band, to the church where a short service was held, at the termination of which the men formed up around the Guildford War Memorial. Wreaths were placed, the "Last Post" sounded, and the column marched back to the Guildford railway station and were dismissed.

This procedure has been carried out every year since, except for alterations to the starting and finishing points due to increased traffic problems.

NOTE: Gunners' Day is now held each year on the first Sunday in November.

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SET A TREND — BRING A FRIEND
Rare award ranked equal in status to Victoria Cross

The forgotten honour: The Queen's Scarf

Of the relatively few awards for gallantry which are no longer in existence, no doubt the "Queen's Scarf" numbers among the rarest of them all. The honour dates back to the South African War.

The Scareves:

Lord Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief, stated that the late Queen Victoria had sent him four woollen scarves worked by herself for distribution to the four most distinguished private soldiers serving in the Colonial Forces of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, then serving under his command.

The selection of those chosen to receive these "Gifts of Honour" was made by officers commanding the respective units, based on recommendations by fellow soldiers, it being clearly understood that gallant conduct in the field was to be considered the primary qualification.

The names of those selected, to whom scarves were awarded were: New South Wales Mtd Rifles, Pte A.H. du Frayer; New Zealand Mtd Rifles, Pte H.D. Coutts; Royal Canadian Mounted Rifles, Pte (later Lieutenant) R.R. Thompson, Roberts Horse, Trpr L. Chadwick.

Victoria Cross level:

By the order of King Edward VII the holders of the award were to be distinguished by the "Q.S." after their names. Guards and sentries were required to present arms and unarmed troops were to salute the wearer.

A gold star medal was later sent to each by the King. The holder of the Queen's Scarf was expected to wear it at military functions when uniform was worn.

The Australian Trooper (later Lieutenant) A.H. du Frayer, was awarded the Queen's Scarf for bringing in a wounded comrade on his horse, under fire. He was invalided back to Australia and heard of the award on arrival. On demobilisation he returned to South Africa and served on Lord Milner's staff. He married the daughter of the owner of Heath's Hotel in Johannesburg. He served as a Captain in South West Africa and on General Smuts' staff in German East and was mentioned in despatches four times and awarded the O.B.E.

After the war he went to Nyasaland, where he had interests in tobacco. He died at Old Shinyanga in Tanganyika, now Tanzania, in 1940. His tombstone is inscribed "Major A.H. du Frayer Q.S., O.B.E."

The writer conducted a lengthy correspondence with Major du Frayer's son. He provided a great deal of information about the Queen's Scarves and stated that he had presented his father's scarf to the Australian National War Memorial. He also wrote about the strange goings-on at the War office.

Officials at the War Office in London were in no way prepared to accept that the Queen's Scarf should rank equally with the Victoria Cross, and insisted that it was a gift from the Queen and not a decoration. I traced two letters written by Lord Roberts to the Queen shortly before her death, in which the scarves were mentioned.

All reference to the Queen's Scarves was removed from War office files and, had it not been for Major du Frayer's son who wrote the story of the Queen's Scarves, little would have been known about this curious award for bravery.

Had you been in the position of the four Colonials and the offer of the Victoria Cross or the Queen's Scarf was made, which would you have taken?

J. ORFORD
(reprinted from Home Front, Durban).

Listening Post — Spring, 1989 — Page 21
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The RSL has granted its highest award for services to the League — the Meritorious Medal — to two of its members, Mike Hall and Mervyn Williams, who were presented with their medals and certificates by the National President, Brigadier Alf Garland, at the opening of 1989 Congress.

M.C. (MIKE) HALL, JP

Mike joined the League in 1944 while still serving in the AIF. When he was discharged, he became a tireless worker for the City of Perth Sub Branch and has been its President for the past 11 years.

Elected to the State Executive in 1960, Mike has served at various times on every committee of the Executive and became Junior Vice President in 1987. He was awarded his life membership in 1978.

Well known for his assistance in forming the Bowls section in 1961, Mike acts as Master of Ceremony for the Anzac House dances, promotes the League within the community, visits the sick in hospitals, serves on the Blackboy Hill Commemorative Committee and Anzac Day Transport and is always willing to extend a hand to a mate in need.

MERVYN WILLIAMS

Mervyn — now of the Wanneroo Sub Branch — has been a member of the League since 1943 and was awarded his life membership in 1972. A founding member of the Coorow-Waddi Forest Sub Branch in 1947, he has served as Treasurer, Secretary and President within sub-branches and as a country Vice President.

In 1977 Mervyn was awarded the BEM for his services to ex-service personnel and their dependents.

By his leadership and example, Mervyn Williams has earned the respect and admiration of all League members and is a worthy recipient of the League's highest award.

DAVID McCLELLAND and DOUG BRUCE.

Those of you who served in Milne Bay, soon after its acceptance as a theatre of war, will be interested to learn that two men, based in Loftus in Sydney, have been researching all aspects of the events in Milne Bay. Their research ended on 31 May, and they are now in the process of compiling a definitive book, to be called “Milne Bay Force.” They have sought photos and personal accounts from any members of the RAN, Australian Army or RAAF who spent any time at all in Milne Bay.

As the ship in which I was serving in 1942, HMAS Warrego, was selected to convoy the first two freighters, SS Bontokoe and SS Japara, to carry the equipment, bulldozers, graders, backhoes, lorries, cement and reinforcing etc. with which to build the airfield at Gilli-Gilli, I felt I had a tale to tell.

It started in Cairns soon after we'd returned from Port Moresby after convoying several ships with troops and supplies for the Kokoda Trail. The Old Man cleared lower decks to tell us that we were about to start on a secret mission, one that could be fraught with danger. It wasn't until after we'd sailed that we were told that Milne Bay was our destination. We didn't even know where Milne Bay was, nor its significance, but we soon found out.

When we arrived in the Bay it was just as it had been for centuries.

Soon after we dropped anchor, we received on strength a Sub Lieutenant Ivor Champion. Because he had spent a lifetime in New Guinea, he was the logical choice to recruit the local Bay natives to build two rough-and-ready piers, the distance between them being that between the fore and after holds on cargo ships. The piers were fashioned from coconut palms interlaced in the form of a square, then filled with pulverised coral which settled into a surface like concrete. Here the gear for the airfield was unloaded, together with the Seabees who were to build it. The first squadron to use it was led by the legendary Bluey Truscott.

While one ship was unloaded, the other waited in the bay, with Warrego on the move doing asdic sweeps for Jap subs and keeping a sharp lookout for enemy planes. We were very fortunate as neither of these hazards eventuated although, soon after we left on one occasion, a Jap cruiser came into the Bay. Eventually we convoyed the Duntroon and Taroona, loaded with the much maligned “Choccos”, who won immortal glory by becoming the first troops to inflict a defeat on the up-to-then all-conquering Japanese army.

In subsequent visits we often had visits from some of the army units who were finding that the tropical weather was playing hell with their equipment, like the batteries for their field telephones, their food

Continued page 29
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Employment of Defence Force Personnel on return to Civilian Life

Of interest to ex-service people will be an educational research project being conducted in conjunction with the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association and volunteer elements of the regular forces. It has been endorsed by the RSL National Defence Force Commission of Service Committee. The Project has a two pronged focus: one being to determine the expectation of service people as to how they might see themselves being re-established in the civilian environment with particular emphasis on education and what career opportunities it offers them. The other focus examines the recognition of trade and para-professional qualifications of service people when they re-establish themselves in civilian life.

In a very recent study, (late 1988) the trauma experienced by service people on leaving the Services was found to be a significant factor in the re-establishment process. Stress, anxiety, and adjustment factors to less authority and control were seen as but two areas that were of major concern. The research about to be conducted will focus particularly on the strategies already existing in our educational system to reduce the anxieties of this transition as well as to research what realistic educational measures may be necessary in the future if the transition is to be made easier.

The program will canvass "all ranks" of the ADF and will endeavour to establish a more rational and realistic approach to the re-establishment question.

The services take great pains to condition its members to a way of life alien to most of us in the community. This way of life is not only conditioned into the individual concerned but, in the case of a married enlisted, into his or her family. The conditioning demands the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary to perform tasks under a strict code of procedures, deadlines, attitudes and exacting standards. These criteria, while necessary for any military environment, and for very good reasons, do not make for an easy transition to a life where other criteria of different dimensions apply. The acquisition of these military orientated skills are usually undertaken, in the case of "other ranks", at a military school designed specifically for this purpose. The "officer" ranks within the Services may be a little better off, whereby degrees are awarded at universities, CAEs and the like, making these people much more "saleable items" in civilian terms. Thus, it follows that transition for officer ranks may be easier. The early retirement age of Service people and the need for skills adaption, both in the professions, trades and management fields, should morally demand a provisional scheme designed to assist Service people who decide to enter a corresponding or near corresponding career in a civilian capacity. The research that is about to be conducted will focus on these major issues of concern.

If a program of this nature is to be valid and reliable, the openness and objectivity of members of the RSL are essential. This "half" of the research will survey as many as possible, hopefully in the order of 3-400 ex-Service persons, for their met or unmet expectations in relation to seeking suitable employment as a result of education. The other "half" of the research will survey attendees at resettlement seminars prior to discharge to ascertain their expectations of employment and how they see their experience and education meeting their future career needs.

To conclude, I would like to quote a short passage from a study carried out by an acquaintance of mine, Dr Nick Jans of the Canberra College of Advanced Education. Nick's work "Careers in Conflict" focuses on the careers of service officers and their families in peacetime. On Page 72 it is quoted:

"A Service officer's occupational identity has been built up over a period of years, based in part on regular confirmation that his Service agrees that he is a competent professional with a promising career, so a disruption to this part of his self-image can be intensely stressful. He may begin to question the whole basis of who he is and what he can do."

In the interests of finding better methods to the transition process, and at the same time staying within the guide lines of realism, I ask RSL members to give of their views so that, all in all, an easier passage through transition can be found.

The research is designed to canvass discharges since the 1st of January 1980 to the present date; however comments from any members who were discharged prior to this date will be welcomed. This information will form the central feature in the presentation of case studies.

Members of the RSL who have served in the armed services and who have been discharged since the 1st of January 1980 can significantly contribute to the research. They will also be assisting currently serving members by completing a short questionnaire (A4 size sheet, 20 questions) designed to establish educational needs, career expectations being met, and recognition of service skills. These questionnaires can be obtained by contacting the National Headquarters of the RSL, GPO Box 303, Canberra ACT 2601. The greater the number of questionnaires, all of which are anonymous, the greater will be the usefulness of the research to service people in general.

IAN GOLLINGS,
National Secretary, RSL.
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Anniversary of Spanish Armada
Report of the speech given by Mr Lionel Phillips at the Annual Dinner of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia (Inc.) W.A. Division on Saturday, November 12, 1988.

Mr President, distinguished guests, shipmates. I am sure you all know the purpose of this dinner is not only as our Association's get together, but also to celebrate the Fleet Air Arm's most famous Taranto victory on the night of November 11/12 1940 — exactly 48 years ago today.

I have related some of the highlights of that epic on previous occasions so, this being our bicentennial year, I would like to take you back another 200 years to a still more important naval victory, one without which it is unlikely that any of us would be here tonight to celebrate anything! There would have been no Captain Cook in 1768 and no British colonisation of Australia, which most probably would be inhabited today by Spanish-speaking descendants of Iberian pirates.

This victory became known as The Defeat of the Spanish Armada.

A fortnight ago your Association entertained members of the Carrier Air Group of HMS 'Ark Royal'. That name was as well known in the England of Queen Elizabeth I as it is today by subjects of Queen Elizabeth II.

In July 1588, the English fleet was anchored in Plymouth Sound under its C in C the Lord High Admiral, Lord Howard of Effingham, in his flagship, HMS "Ark Royal". With him was his second in command, 'The Scourge of the Spanish Main', Vice Admiral Sir Francis Drake, in his flagship 'Revenge'. At 3pm on July 29 there came scudding up the Sound (Capt.) Thomas Fleming in his pinnace 'Golden Hind' with news of a vast concourse of ships off the Lizard. Legend has it that Howard and Drake continued to finish their game of bowls but, whatever the truth of that story, the fact is that the English fleet was trapped until nightfall by a combination of southwest wind and the incoming tide.

Had the Spanish Admiral, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, swept up the Sound, spearheaded by his four galleasses, which alone of the fighting ships could fire their heavy guns forward, perhaps sending fireships ahead, the history of Europe might have been very different indeed. For the Armada could have at least prevented the English fleet from putting to sea, and sailed on to the planned rendezvous with the invasion army assembled in the Spanish Netherlands under the Duke of Parma, which the Armada was to cover on its landing on the Kent coast on its way to storm London and take the Queen prisoner.

But King Philip's orders to Medina Sidonia were not to try to enter any port until the Armada had met Parma's army, so the Armada made no attempt on Plymouth, letting the English fleet escape and, by so doing, put itself at a disadvantage from which it never recovered.

During the night of July 29 the English fleet, by superhuman efforts, warped 54 of their ships out to sea, and by the afternoon of the 30th. Howard and Drake had achieved what they had long planned, established the fleet up-wind of the enemy and won the weather gauge. The importance of this cannot be over emphasised for in the nine day battle that followed, they never lost it, and their up-wind position enabled them to dictate the course of events.

Tactically the aim of the English Admirals was to keep away from the enemy and bombard them at a distance. The Spanish, by contrast, sought to close, grapple and board, and fight a land battle at sea. Had they managed to do this, they must have inflicted heavy losses for the Armada, as its name suggests, was in effect a floating army, more than two thirds of its 26,000 men were soldiers.

For Howard and Drake, everything depended on keeping at arm's length, and they succeeded mainly through the speed and manoeuvrability of their best ships, aided by their up-wind position. The racebuilt galleons, of which Ark Royal was one, (designed by Henry VIII), were slimmer and lower in the water than their predecessors; the fine lines of their hulls aft created a good flow of water past the rudder, making them answer the helm better and quicker, so they could sail closer to the wind than the lumbering Spanish Galleons.

This difference became apparent at the first battle which started at 9am on Sunday, July 31. Howard led his squadron in line ahead straight down wind to the southern horn of the Armada crescent formation. When Ark Royal came on range, she turned across the wind, fired her port broadside at the Rata Encoronada and made off, followed in succession by each of the following ships.

For the Spanish it was an alarming foretaste of what to expect. Far from being able to grapple and board the enemy, they could not get near them. Medina Sidonia wrote to Parma on August 4 — "The enemy has avoided coming to close quarters, I have given him every opportunity to induce one of his ships to grapple and begin the fight, but to no purpose, for his ships are very light, and mine are very heavy". So a pattern was set, the Armada sailing steadily eastwards towards the rendezvous with Parma, the English following, keeping the weather gauge, sniping at its rear-guards, but allowing no all-out engagement.

On shore, excitement was intense. Fire beacons had sent news of the Armada's arrival throughout the country, but much of the time both fleets were in sight of the south coast, and the thunder of the guns rolled far inland.

Aboard the ships, life was exceedingly crowded and malodorous. Ark Royal, for example, was about 140 feet overall by 36ft beam, with a crew of

Continued page 29
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Spanish Armada cont.

430 men, most of whom lived where they fought, on the poorly lighted and ventilated gun deck. Once aboard they were not allowed to undress, wash or shave, and soon became infested with lice. The seat for the relief of nature was a plank with holes, built out over the water from the beakhead. The main fire fighting equipment was tubs of urine, kept filled by order. The kitchen, not yet called the galley, was on top of the ballast in the hold, and it was here that the surgeons attended to the wounded.

By August 4, both fleets were becalmed off the Isle of Wight, and Howard was convinced the Spaniards intended to seize the island as their invasion base. In a desperate attempt to disrupt their plans, Howard had the Ark Royal towed into action by row boats, with no decisive result, after what he later described as "a terrible waste of great shot", and with the morning wind the Armada continued on its way.

By now Medina Sidonia was greatly worried. Not only could he not force a close fight, but no news had come from Parma. Every day he sent off a fast boat with increasingly urgent requests to Parma to embark his army ready to meet the Armada.

It was this uncertainty about Parma's state of readiness that was the Armada's undoing, for it drove him to anchor in Calais Roads on the evening of August 6. His pilots had warned him: that if a storm blew up from the southwest, the fleet might be blown past the rendezvous position and not be able to return. For the whole of August 7, the Armada lay at anchor off Calais, with the English anchored upwind just out of gun range.

Now Howard and Drake hatched their master plan, an attack with fireships, and at midnight sent eight of them into the Spanish midst. In panic many cut their cables and fled into the dark. By dawn the fleet had been scattered far to the east, its defensive crescent formation broken at last, and the English went for the kill. The foretold storm did blow up, and in the battle that raged all day off the Dutch coast, the English ships wrought serious damage with their guns; by evening the Armada was in ruins. A satisfied Howard reported to his queen "Though they were three great ships to one of us, yet we have shortened them sixteen or seventeen, whereof there is three of them a-fishing in the bottom of the seas".

When at 2am on August 10 the wind increased to gale force, the survivors were in dire peril of being blown onto the Seeland sandbanks ahead, but were saved at the last moment by a shift of wind to the south. But not for long; driven up into the North Sea, they had no choice but to face the 2,000 mile journey around the north of Scotland and Ireland. So terrible were their losses off the coast of Ireland that only 54 ships out of the original 130 reached Spain and about 6,000 men were lost. The total casualties were about 9,000 out of the original 26,000.

It has been fashionable to blame Medina Sidonia for the fiasco, but it seems clear the poor man did his best.
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WHALING COMPLEX

After the settlement of the Swan River Colony in 1829, sightings of whales off the coast were common and whaling was soon envisaged as a possible industry. It was not until 1837, however, that the whaling industry was organised in the young colony. In that year two whaling companies were formed: the Northern (or Perth) Fishing Company, whose shareholders were chiefly Perth residents and agriculturalists on the Swan and which operated mainly from its depot at Carnac Island, and the Fremantle Whaling Company, which had its station at Bather's Bay, behind the cliff to the south-west of the Round House.

The Fremantle Whaling Company operated from a portion of land leased from the Government described as extending 'from Point Marquis to a Bluff Head on the north-west corner of Anglesea Point'. The lease was initially for five years, after which all buildings and improvements were to revert to the Crown free of charge. During 1837 and 1838 the Company made a number of improvements to their portion of land in order to make it suitable for whaling. The whaling complex comprised of the whaler's jetty, breakwater and tunnel, station house, tryworks and whalers' cave.

WHALERS' JETTY

In April 1837 the Company began erecting a substantial jetty near the northern end of Bather's Bay. Some of the labourers were prisoners from the Round House. The jetty was about twenty-five yards (22.86 metres) in length and the Perth Gazette reported that 'The work is done in a substantial and masterly style; the breadth of the jetty at the extremity seaward is about twenty feet (6.1 metres).'. The jetty is first shown on a plan surveyed by A. Hillman in 1838.

BREAKWATER AND TUNNEL

The Company then constructed a breakwater out from Bather's Bay to provide a sheltered anchorage so that ships up to 150 tons could safely discharge their cargo. Remains of the breakwater can be seen at the northern end of the beach.

The idea of cutting a tunnel through to connect the jetty with High Street is credited to Henry Willey Reveley, the colony's civil engineer, who wrote of the plan to Governor Stirling in April 1837.

The advantages of being able to transfer oil and other goods so easily between the beach and the main street were obvious to all. The work began in August 1837, directed by Reveley with prisoners from the Round House providing much of the labour. It was completed in January 1838.

STATION HOUSE

Tenders were called on 3 February 1838 to erect this building for the Company: 'fifty feet (4.57 metres) in length, 16 (4.88 metres) wide, and 16 (4.88 metres) in height. The Contractors to find all Materials, except the Stone'. The Station House, or warehouse, stood just north of the western entrance of the tunnel. Early drawings show it as a two-storey rectangular building. A hoist beam attached to the apex of the gable on the southern wall suggests that casks of oil were hoisted from the ground, through this upper opening, and then stored.

TRYWORKS

Once a whale had been successfully captured and brought back to the whaling station, it was flensed and the pieces of blubber were boiled down into oil. At the Bather's Bay whaling station the tryworks and shed (sometimes called the blubber house and try works) were in the north-west corner of the bay, near the cliff. Horace Samson's early pen and ink drawing (c1840) shows a simple timber shed, open on two sides, containing a small boat and several casks. Beside it, near the cliff, is a large trypot and several more casks. The archaeological expedition mounted in 1984 by the WA Museum unearthed the brick bases of three hearths once used for melting down the whale blubber.

WHALERS' CAVE

A 'cave' or store room excavated out of limestone cliff was located between the Station House and the Tryworks. It is not known exactly how this was used by the whaling Company.

After some years of watching whales off the coast being caught by whaling crews from other countries, notably from the United States and France, the colonists were eager to be participants rather than mere observers. Interest in the new venture spread throughout the settlement, the Perth Gazette ran a series of articles about whales and the crews of the two rival whaling companies challenged each other to a boat race.

The first whale was caught on 9 June, 1837 and it was a joint effort by both companies. A man from the Perth party threw the first harpoon but the whale was moving at such a speed that the prow of the boat was dragged under water and the men were forced to cut the line. The Fremantle men then were able to spear it and drag it back to the bay, where it was flensed and the blubber rendered down in trypots. The two companies shared in the profits.

At the end of the first whaling season the books of the two companies showed that 71 tons of oil, valued at £1410 ($2820) and 4½ tons of whalebone worth £360 ($720) were exported from Fremantle. However, the rival companies had found it necessary to co-operate in many of their catches and they both started the 1838 season encumbered with excessive overheads. By May 1838 the Perth Company had wound up its affairs. The Fremantle Whaling Company operated at a loss in both 1838 and 1839, when it was made over to Lionel Samson and Sons, merchants, to whom it was heavily indebted. Samson in turn leased the boats, try works, jetty and station house to Captain Daniel Scott and Anthony Curtis, two notable Fremantle merchants. The plant and equipment

Continued page 33
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continued to be leased to various persons over the years, and the export value of whale products fluctuated: £2700 ($5400) in 1839, £4377 ($8754) in 1848, £1486 ($2972) in 1849 and £2305 ($4610) in 1850. In the meantime the export value of wool steadily increased.

The Fremantle Whaling Company continued to struggle throughout the 1840s. Its position was not unique, for the number of whales throughout the world was declining due to many years of overfishing. Equally significant was the discovery of kerosene in the United States in 1850, which brought about the further decline of the whaling industry and altered lighting habits around the world. By the end of 1850 the Fremantle Whaling Company, after 13 years' operation, was to be dissolved. The treasurer placed a notice in the "Inquirer" of 4 December announcing that try pots, copper coolers and timber and fittings would be sold for cash, "the Company being about to be dissolved".

The whaling industry was global in its scope and it enticed adventurers, skilled seamen and merchants from around the world. Whale oil and other products of the industry were important to the economies of many nations and affected the lives of people from all walks of life. The whaling station at Bather's Bay brought all these facets of the industry to the people of Fremantle and Western Australia.


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Page 34 — Listening Post — Spring, 1989
The Wearing of the Poppy — it all began with a Poem

Poppy Day has become one of the recognised days throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations when the general public lends a hand in helping the victims of war.

Though Poppy Day did not originate in the British Commonwealth, it is more firmly established in the Commonwealth than anywhere else.

How and why did the day originate? To find the answer we must go back to 1918.

During a lull in the second battle of Ypres in 1916, Colonel John McCrae, a well-known professor of medicine at the Canadian University of McGill, wrote in pencil on a page torn from his despatch book, these verses:

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing in the sky.
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

The verses were sent anonymously to London Punch and were published in its next issue under the title, In Flanders' Fields.

In May, 1918, Colonel McCrae was brought as a stretcher case to one of the hospitals on the coast of France. On the third evening he was wheeled to the balcony of his room to look over the sea towards the cliffs of Dover.

The verses he had written two years earlier were obviously in his mind, for he said to the doctor who was in charge of his case:

"Tell them this: If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep."

That night Colonel McCrae died, and each Remembrance Day the British Legion lays a wreath on his grave — a tribute to a great man whose thoughts were always for others.

The wearing of a poppy to keep the faith began with an American, Miss Molina Michael, who had read Colonel McCrae's poem and was so greatly impressed that she decided always to wear a poppy to keep the faith.

During World War I she worked in America for the YMCA in New York City. On Saturday morning, November 9, 1918, a meeting of overseas YMCA war secretaries was held in the house of which Miss Michael was the hostess.

During the morning, three of the secretaries went to Miss Michael's room and made her a gift of 10 dollars as an appreciation of her efforts to make a "home-like hostess house" of their headquarters. She was touched by the gift and surprised the secretaries by saying: "I shall buy 25 red poppies with this."

She then showed them Colonel McCrae's poem and told them that she intended to wear a poppy.

After the conference, the secretaries asked Miss Michael for 25 separate poppies. She claimed later, probably rightly, that this was the first group-selling of poppies.

The French secretary, Madame Guerin, conceived the idea of turning poppies into practical use and visited various parts of the world to suggest that poppies should be sold to help ex-servicemen and their dependants in need.

For the first years the poppies were made by French women and profits were devoted to helping women and children who were returning to the devastated areas of France.

When the British Legion was formed in 1921 Madame Guerin went to England and proposed that the sale of poppies should be extended to England. The Legion was sceptical, but ordered 1,000,000. Results exceeded all expectations.

On the first Poppy Day collection, hurriedly organised by Captain W.G. Willcox, more than £106,000 was raised.

Poppy Day was there to stay and the making of poppies was transplanted to England in 1922.

The poppies were made by the Disabled Men's Society in a formerly disused workroom on the Old Kent Road.

By 1923, employees numbered 50, while today their big factory at Richmond employs up to 400 men. A disability pension is an essential qualification for admission to the factory.

The factory has made about 900,000,000 poppies which have raised more than £22,000,000 for British ex-service men or their families.

Every year at the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall, London, a million poppy petals fall gently from the great dome after the mustering of the standards of the British Legion.

The poppy is something that is out of the ordinary. Organisations for the mitigation of war's aftermath existed before the poppy was thought of. They still do, but none can claim so widespread an allegiance as the poppy, or has touched the heart and the pocket with such remarkable success.

It has clothed and fed the widow and the orphan of the man who did not come back, comforted the sick and lonely, provided work for the disabled and given them new limbs for those they lost; found homes for thousands of veterans.

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Page 36 — Listening Post — Spring, 1989
THE PLOVER FORCE

Following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour on 6 December, 1941, the Japanese forces swept all before them in their advance through South East Asia, and in a few short weeks were poised looking southward at Australia in the scattered islands of the former Dutch East Indies.

Following the European colonisation of much of the 'Third World' countries north and south of the Equator in the early 1800s — the Dutch traders and Government officials now occupied many of the old native kingdoms and sultanates along the island chain from Sumatra and Java to Timor, and much of the inland sea between Borneo and West New Guinea. There was a great chain of government stations and trading posts, which handled the raw materials produced by the native inhabitants, which were then exported to Europe. The colonies produced oil, copra, rice, rubber, timber and spices and imported trading goods for the native population and food and luxuries for the scattered Dutch population.

The key to the whole central area was the island of Ambon, with a good anchorage and airfield facilities. The Australian Government attempted to boost its defences only a few days after the initial landings in Malaya with the 2/21st Battalion, a unit that was part of the 8th Division but had never been sent to join the main force in Malaya. 'Guil Force,' as it was known, also consisted of some 2,600 Dutch troops already at Ambon.

The Japanese invasion forces, a regiment from the 38th Infantry Division that had helped to recently conquer Hong Kong, virtually overwhelmed the small allied force, which was forced to surrender after only a few days in action.

In the confusion that followed, a small group of Australian and Dutch soldiers escaped from Ambon and reached Darwin in a lugger, early in May. From their knowledge of the lightly guarded prisoner of war camp in Ambon, with a good anchorage and airfield facilities, a scheme was proposed to stage a commando raid from Darwin to attempt to recover a thousand Australian and Dutch soldiers from the camp. This scheme was not proceeded with due to the risk of losing the Australian destroyer 'Arunta' and the Dutch cruiser 'Tromp' in the confines of the island groups, even if they did reach their destination.

However, the value of this officer, then Lieut. Jinkins, was soon recognised and Inter-allied groups moved in and out of the islands north of Darwin, the Tanimbar, Kai and Aru groups. Using old pre-war luggers they moved through the islands, as they had in peace time, their skippers so conversant with local conditions that they needed no charts or sailing instructions. They established small groups who were literally the 'eyes and ears' of the Allied forces on the Australian mainland.

Like many of the other Allied Intelligence groups in the area of General MacArthur's command, they operated under code names and often comprised men of many nationalities and allied services.

One such organisation was 'PLOVER FORCE' — which is still almost unknown after forty years. Among its members was a young Queenslander, Jack Maguire, a Corporal Wireless Telegraphy operator.

When 'Plover' sailed from Darwin on 28 July, 1942, its task was to occupy the small port of Saumlaki, in the Tanimbar Islands, some 300 miles away. The former Dutch government post was garrisoned by a sergeant and twelve other ranks of the Netherlands Army who were entrenched in a position covering the small jetty. They knew of the expected arrival of the Australian group of 'Plover', which was to reinforce them.

However, before dawn on the morning of 29 July, two vessels came into the harbour, and were thought to be the two Australian craft then due. When the arrivals were found to be Japanese, the small Dutch force, only equipped with a Lewis gun, some tommy guns and grenades, opened fire, but lost half their number in the face of about 300 of the enemy. The Dutch survivors then withdrew to safety.

The two Japanese vessels, probably destroyers, then left their landing parties to secure the port, and sailed about 6 a.m.

At about 9.30 a.m., the two small vessels carrying the 'Plover' party came into the harbour, completely unaware of the current situation.

One of the two small vessels, the 'Southern Cross', developed engine trouble and did not enter harbour. The second vessel, the 50 ton 'Chinampa' with Jack Maguire on board, anchored some distance from the shore, and the commanding officer, Commissioned Warrant Officer Henderson, went ashore to locate the troops who were expecting his party. He was fired on, but rejoined his ship, and decided to await the arrival of the 'Southern Cross'.

Next morning the two little ships moved into the jetty to make fast and disembark troops, but were fired on and they then withdrew and went back to Darwin.

Continued page 39
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That is the official story, but we have a survivor of that morning in Saumlaki harbour in the person of well-known Echuca resident, Jack Maguire.

Jack was on deck when the two little vessels were ambushed. They were saved by a trigger happy member of the enemy force firing one shot at them, and thus giving them time to return fire and withdraw. A burst of machine gun fire swept the deck, fatally wounding the skipper who was trapped in the wheelhouse. He could not be given medical attention. The second in command, Lieut. Anderson, himself wounded, lay on the floor of the wheelhouse unable to stand because of his injuries and the continuous raking fire, steered the little ship away from danger with his feet on the wheel.

This saved the rest of the crew, including Jack Maguire, who had received a bullet wound in the lower back and was temporarily paralysed.

Then came an epic withdrawal to Darwin, island hopping, and using cloud cover to avoid the search enemy planes.

‘Plover’ in various forms continued to the end of the war, but Jack Maguire’s injury gave him long spells in hospital and an eventual discharge.

Were operations such as this of any value to the Allied cause?

The answer may not have come until three years later, when two American destroyers came in to the great allied base of Morotai, in the last week of September, 1945.

Picking up two linguists from a special intelligence unit, they slipped out at night under conditions of great secrecy.

A few days later, somewhere in the Japanese occupied islands, they intercepted the Hospital Ship, ‘Tachibana Maru’, of 1772 tons, fully illuminated and carrying the international Red Cross emblems.

She was signalled to heave to for inspection, and the two linguists went on board to interview her captain and the medical officers. She claimed to be legally evacuating 1500 sick and wounded soldiers but medical examination showed that the bandages were dummies, and that the men sleeping in the hold had their bedding on Red Cross baskets that contained rifles and machine guns.

She came into Morotai on 2nd of August, and the so-called wounded were stripped on the quayside, and sprayed with DDT against typhus before being taken to the POW compound.

The ship was held as a war prize, just four days before the first atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

The men of excellent physique and in good condition despite their three years in the Aru islands north of Darwin, were members of the most experienced combat Division in the Malayan campaign — the 5th.

Why had they spent those three years poised in the islands north of Darwin? They could have been employed elsewhere, but of course once the Allied air forces built up in Darwin and the Northern Territory this Division was virtually cut off from active service. They could not mount a large convoy of vessels to bring them back and into combat in another area.

Were they actually sent to the islands for an eventual seaborne attack on Port Moresby in 1942, when the Japanese were determined to secure that base for the invasion of Australia?

After the battle of the Coral Sea and the land defeats at Milne Bay, and eventually at Buna, the Port Moresby attacks could not be mounted. So was the Japanese 5th Division the spearhead of an invasion that never came?

The seizure of the ‘Tachibana Maru’ was never explained.

Was there a radio intercept that gave the mission away (it was rumoured to be the second evacuation in this manner), or were there men still in the islands, successors to ‘Plover Force’ — or its successors?

The story of ‘Plover Force’ is a tribute to the men of great courage who manned and operated the small ships that were their lifeline.


REUNIONS

Third Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment

April 24, 1991 is the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong and the 20th year since 3RAR was deployed on active service.

To celebrate this occasion there will be a reunion of all ex-3RAR members, regardless of year of service, in Sydney over the period 22-26 April, 1991.

For further information contact: Kevin Trent (ex-3RAR Mortar Platoon SVN 1968), 3 Broad Street, Kensington, W.A. 6151. Phone: 367 7794 (H).

HMAS Australia Veterans’ Association

National Reunion

HMAS Australia Veterans’ Association is holding a national reunion in Melbourne from 18 to 20 March, 1990. It is hoped that veterans from all over Australia and beyond will be attending.

Anyone interested in attending is invited to contact Hon. Sec. Jack Henley, 62 Mt Pleasant Road, Nunawading, 3131 or telephone: (03) 878 2559 for full details.
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Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the article on wearing rosemary in remembrance of former comrades, a custom said to be based on words spoken by Ophelia in Shakespeare’s “Hamlet”. However, in Shakespeare’s day rosemary was regarded as an aid to the memory; it was believed that use of it increased the ability to remember.

Nicolas Culpeper, the famous English herbalist, was born in 1616, the year in which Shakespeare died. He became a physician in 1640 and wrote books on the use of herbs, particularly as medicines. In “Culpeper’s Complete Herbal” he gives very detailed information on more than 350 herbs, including their uses, medicinal and otherwise. He states that rosemary-tea cures or eases many ailments, which he lists, and says that rosemary “quicken s a weak memory, and the senses”. There is no mention of wearing rosemary.

The meanings of many words in the English language have changed since “Hamlet” was written, just as the mode of speech has changed, and it has become necessary to add a glossary to Shakespeare’s plays, giving the modern meanings of many words because they are now so different.

Rosemary has been grown and used in England for centuries but I had not read or heard of it being worn “in remembrance” until I came to Australia. Rosemary has come to be associated with remembrance in a way which was not intended in Ophelia’s speech. The wearing of it appears to be an Australian custom, which could explain why its origin cannot be traced elsewhere.

Win Upperton,
30 Lyndhurst Road, Kalamunda WA 6076.

Memorial Services

Dear Editor,

At the April State Council meeting of the Naval Association of Australia, WA Section, a motion was passed that, owing to the high cost of wreaths and the number of memorial services attended by each Kindred Association, the following suggestion be canvassed:

1) That each Association supply a wooden cross at Memorial Services for the other Associations to lay — something like the Memorial Service held by the Air Force Association for their 1989 Service.

2) That each Association supply its own wooden cross to be laid at each service. The only foreseen disadvantage with this idea is the recovery after the service.

Of course, this does not apply to any service conducted at the War Memorial at Kings Park, where floral wreaths should always be laid to commemorate the fallen.

We would appreciate your thoughts on this.

Yours faithfully,

G.H.B. (George) Smith, State Secretary, Naval Association of Australia. (WA Section) Inc. State Council.

Dear Editor,

I submit the following letter for publication. Unfortunately it was not received in time for the winter issue when many Anzac Day reports were given.

It is very encouraging to the Sub-Branch to get a response such as this from a schoolchild and while this may not be the only letter we have received, it is certainly a rare event.

We have five local schools attending our Anzac Day Services, laying wreaths provided by the Sub-Branch. This has been the normal pattern for at least (30) years to my knowledge, and it was an established practice before then, so you will understand why our members were thrilled to receive Lisa’s letter. Lisa’s mother has given her consent to its publication.

Yours sincerely,

W. Duncan, Hon. Sec. Mt Lawley-Ingleswood Sub-Branch.

Lisa’s Letter

Dear Sir,

My name is Lisa Oates, Head Girl of Mt. Lawley Senior High School. Along with Geoffrey Leggatt, I participated in the ANZAC Day Service on Tuesday, April 25.

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for inviting me to participate in the service. In honesty, I did not really understand much about the ANZACs in Gallipoli during World War I or during any of the battles, such as World War II, so I did not think of ANZAC Day in a truly patriotic manner.

After learning about Australia’s history during the wars, as well as additional reading of my own, I became intrigued and very much interested in the battle of Gallipoli, especially.

Also, after reading what I had, I became disgusted with what the ANZACs went through but proud also. Proud because the ANZACs fought not only for the British Empire, but for Australia. They gave Australia honour and prestige which nowadays is sometimes forgotten.

In essence, this letter is not only a thank you, but to tell you that people my age who have had the chance to learn of our history do think about what those brave and courageous men did for us; it gives us something to look up to and be proud of.

These are my thoughts and feeling and again I thank you, for giving me something to be proud of, for my country Australia.

Thank you.

With sincerest sentiments,

Lisa Oates, Head Girl Mt. Lawley Senior High School,
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Beaufighters Remembered

Dear Editor,

I noticed, with some interest, an item in your winter issue of a reunion of 31 Squadron Beaufighter Association by J. Brassil of NSW. Although I was not a member of this Squadron, I had pleasant memories of a short interlude with them at Coomalie Creek, out of Darwin.

When the Japs were being repulsed after Coral Sea Battle etc, it was decided the Beaufighters were needed further afield, and their base was to be Noemfoor Island in the Dutch Indies. At the time I was a member of No. 35 (Transport) Squadron stationed at Dunreath, Guildford. We had the job of serving all north-west ports and service installations up to Darwin. So we were given the job of assisting in the removal of 31 Squadron from Coomalie Creek to Noemfoor. Our Squadron sent two DC3 (Dakotas) up for the job and I was on the detachment.

Although I cannot remember any members of the Beaufighter Squadron, I have happy memories of my short stay with them when I made quite a few friends and was well looked after considering the conditions. I don't know where the Squadron eventually finished up.

Soon after my return to my Squadron at Dunreath, we, too, had to move closer to the theatre of war, and were transferred en-masse to Garbut, Townsville. From there we had detachments to Morotai, with TAF, RAAF, first tactical Air Force, controlled by the Americans. Morotai was a pretty large air base in those days. From Morotai we operated our Daks over a large area of the Pacific and South China sea areas. I was still on Morotai when peace was finally declared, and in fact still have the document of surrender for South East Asia signed on behalf of the Allies by General Blamey on Morotai Island.

Tom Bomford, 101 McKenzie Street, Wembley W.A. 6014.

Family Service achievement

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the Listening Post, I read with interest the letter from M.A. Clarke of Gosnells about her 11 brothers who all served in World War II.

I would like to add that members of my family and friends have often discussed whether my father's family service record in World War I was a record or not.

My father served in the Boer War in 1900 and he had three brothers. After his father (my grandfather) died, his mother married again to a man named Joseph Thomas Richmond. They had 10 more children, 7 boys and 3 girls; a family of 14 in all and all 11 sons joined the Army. My father served in the Boer War, with the 4th Bushman's Contingent, and his 3 brothers and 7 step-brothers, served in World War I — as confirmed by Central Army Records Office. 366 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria.

My grandmother would proudly remind us that she had 11 sons who were all soldiers; 10 in World War I and one in the Boer War.

Yours sincerely,

F.G. Morgan — WX21118, 19 Quarry Street, Geraldton W.A. 6530.

A plea from a Sub-Branch Secretary

Dear Editor,

In a lot of cases unless we are advised that you are ill or hospitalised we have no way of knowing, so please tell your Sub-Branch Secretary. This is important.

Jack Wagland, Hor.orary Secretary, Bayswater/Meltham.

Ed: Not only to your Sub-Branch Jack, but all members should so advise.

A story worth telling

Dear Editor,

My son and daughter-in-law have just come back from a trip to the River Kwai. Pam kept a diary of the events and put them in writing when she returned to the farm at Dandaragan.

I was more than impressed with her account and thought that a lot of young people should read it and that the “Listening Post” could do it for me!

Yours faithfully,

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Letters cont.

'An Awakening'

I've always tried to get to Anzac Day Services, or at least watch them on TV. It has always meant a lot to me, for many reasons, so when I had the chance to visit the River Kwai last year, I was ignorant about what to expect, except that I had seen the famous film.

The bus left Bangkok (Thailand) early in the morning and headed for the large provincial town of Kanchanaburi, 130 kms to the north west. Gradually the flat plains became undulating until the foothills became visible, rising sharply towards the mountains beyond. Nestled in these foothills, Kanchanaburi is a busy town and gateway to a fertile river valley. The first stop was the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

I stepped from the bus into a shaded avenue of trees outside the impressive whitewashed entrance. 'Australian section to the left, Ma'am', I heard the guide say, as I walked through the gates. I stopped. Almost 7,000 young men lie buried here.

I looked down. The grass was different to that at home. It looked like a kind of fern. I walked down a row of small, neat headstones, treading on the soft damp grass. It was very still and humid. On past more headstones as I read inscription after inscription I stopped to read another one. Name - Hong Kong Engineering Coy. Ltd. 1938. Died 6th June, 1943. Greater Love Hath No Man... It became blurred, but I knew the words.

I thought I'd take a photo of this plaque. I raised the camera. So quiet. A beautiful place. The camera wouldn't focus. This young man, just 23, was buried here. He will never come home. He never heard the joyous crowds and bands playing a welcome home. Never saw his family again. He will always lie there. My tears fell on the fern-like grass.

I looked about me. Many others too. were standing still. Many had handkerchiefs to their faces as I did. I walked past row after row of small, neatly inscribed stones. A Thai gardener was raking up fallen leaves. Fallen men.

I looked at the other sections on my way back to the gate. British, New Zealanders. Hundreds more. Dutch and American. Hundreds more. They lie buried here, but not in vain. For there are hundreds of people who come each day, like me, and remember. At last I understand the real gift these young men had given. These young men I leave here, buried forever in a foreign land. AGE DOES NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEM... No, I will not forget.

We went on to the famous bridge. A warm beautiful day. People everywhere. Milling happily. Selling and buying. Thai people. Beautiful people. Tourists buying. I walked onto the bridge. The river below was brown and beautiful. Huge groves of bamboos grew and leaned right over the rivers banks which fell sharply away. Pleasure rafts and thatched houses were moored. Happy people everywhere. A laughing, happy, jostling throng.

The original Bridge over the River Kwai. Built of weathered teak and steel. Solid and strong. Built to last. The rails were hot in the midday sun. Hot to touch. I tried to picture tortured men being forced to labour here. How hot and heavy those rails must have been to lift into place.

We waited for the train that was to take us along the Death Railway. While we waited the guide showed us the bullet holes in the rails from Allied bombing raids. The rails still bore the maker's name - Hong Kong Engineering Coy. Ltd. 1938. Then the train came and stopped. Everyone got on. Slowly it moved off. I looked down as we passed over the railway sleepers. As the train picked up speed they became a blur.

Our guide said that over 472 kms of track, every sleeper represented one death. He gave us more figures.

Commencing in June 1942 and completed in October 1943, more than 60,000 prisoners of war worked on the Burma-Thailand (Death) Railway. Some 16,000 of these perished during construction. Although no precise figures are available, perhaps as many as 200,000 Asian labourers were also forced to work on the railway and of these about 90,000 died. Almost 300 kms of the railway are in Thailand.

I leaned out of the door taking photos of the River Kwai far below. Then suddenly the train slowed as we entered the Wampo Viaduct, where the railway is built on a high wooden trestle a hundred feet or more directly above the river with huge cliffs towering above the railway. An awesome sight.

How did these sick and suffering men build this incredible monument of man's inhumanity to man? What suffering must they have endured? Always, in taking in the beauty of the wild jungle and brown river, were these haunting thoughts.

I was stunned at the number of Japanese tourists on the train. Young and old. I wondered what it could mean to them. I still don't know.

We went further into the mountains through jungle and cleared areas where tapioca and sugar cane grew. We passed villages built where once POW camps had been. We stopped at stations filled with happy people and bursting with brilliantly coloured bougainvillias. The hills and mountains were beautiful. Now and again we passed unspoilt jungle, just as their eyes must have seen it all. But, to them, no beauty, they would have seen the mountains as hopeless barriers barring escape.

The next day we went down the river on one of the 'long-tailed' boats. It was a noisy, exhilarating experience as we passed through untouched jungle, with a small clearing now and then where...
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Lost Trails

War Graves, Tarakan

Our publication of the poem "War Graves, Tarakan" caused much interest and correspondence:

Mr E.S. Cole rang to say that the author of the poem was a Flying Officer Latham, who was stationed at Tarakan.

J.A. Wilson, of 10 Blackwood Parade, Mandurah wrote "My appreciation for publishing the poem I sent in. I was pleased to receive a phone call from Arthur Mills (who incidentally lives only a couple of kms from me) who was with the author of the poem, and a friend of his, when the poem was written in Tarakan. The author's name was Flying Officer Latham."

"More surprising is that Arthur Mills was adjutant to 25 Squadron when it was at Cunderdin with the Liberators, at the same time as I was there as a radio operator in Air Crew."

"It's a small world."

Another contribution came from E.D. Tink, of Geelgup: "In your current issue, you published a poem and asked if anyone knew who the author was. The poem was published in "Mud and Blood", which was the official paper of the 2/23rd Battalion, about the time the war ended. It was titled "War Graves Tarakan" and was written by F/O A.T. Latham."

C.P. Hall, of Mosman Park sent us a photocopy of the poem he was given in 1945. "This may be the answer to your query to find out the writer of the enclosed poem, as was published in "Winter Listening Post". It was used as a "skit" in the Tarakan Concert, and a copy was given to each member of the concert party."

Finally, Norm Evans of Tuart Hill wrote: "I am writing about a letter from J.A. Wilson of Mandurah who sent in a poem written about the Tarakan Borneo campaign."

"This poem has been in my possession since it appeared in a Services pamphlet printed on Tarakan in September 1945. Over the years, I have intended to send it to you, but never got around to it. I also have a photograph taken of the cemetery mentioned in the poem."

"The Tarakan campaign was where a Victoria Cross winner from a previous campaign, Lt. Derrick, died, and some said at the time he deserved another one for his bravery here."

"I was on Tarakan, and the poem (with the correct name "War Graves Tarakan") was written by Flying Officer A.T. Latham, 8 A.C.S. RAAF. I have always thought it to be a well written verse, but it was a shame that some words were wrongly printed — no doubt through reproduction. In verse 5, 'tracks' should read 'tracts' and in verse 7 'heart' should be 'hearth.'"

"I also have a programme of the concert party led by Gracie Fields when she performed there in September 1945."

Thanks readers.

Patricia Balle, Editor.

Any memories of Ray and 'Bouff' Ryan?

Has anyone any memoirs, photos or writings of Staff Sergeant Raymond Ernest Ryan and/or his brother Pte. Laurence Desmond (Bouff) Ryan, both of 2/11th Bn. 6th Div? Both brothers were POWs in Germany from 1941-1945 after leaving Perth together on the first embarkation. I would be grateful for any relevant information so I can include it in a book I am writing.

Ray and Laurie were my brothers.

Sister M. Imelda Ryan,

Ursula House, 18 Barrett Street,

Wembley W.A. 6014. Phone: 382 3854.

Mt Lawley—Inglewood Sub-Branch

Does anyone know when Mt Lawley-Inglewood Sub-Branch was first formed? It is known that, as early as January, 1920, Mt Lawley-North Perth Sub-Branch held monthly meetings at the Lyceum Theatre but a Mr Neville Heenan was Sub-Branch President a year earlier in 1919. However, no other information is available. Can you help? Please contact Sub-Branch Secretary Bill Duncan on 448 8814 or write to P.O. Box 5, Mt Lawley, W.A. 6050.

197 Typhoon Squadron

Would any Australian pilots who flew with 197 Squadron in England and Europe please contact Allan Smith, 331A West Tamaki Road, Auckland 6, New Zealand, who can advise details of recent reunions by 197 Squadron in Normandy and England.

2nd INF Workshop, Taiping

Would N. Boast, K. Freeman, J. Sheppard and J. Penn, or anyone knowing their whereabouts, or anyone who served in the 2nd INF Workshop, Taiping, Malaya, between November 1955 and November 1957, please contact:

Mr H. Ames,

57 Burrell Parade, Blacktown NSW 2148.

Listening Post—Spring, 1989—Page 47
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Lost Trails cont.

Calling Stalag POWs

Researcher wishes to contact any ex-POWs who were in Stalag 383, Honenfels, in 1943.
Jim Grant, 9 Blackman Road, Mt. Pleasant, W.A. 6153, Phone: (09) 364 6668.

Reminiscences required

Dear Editor,

I am trying to collect documentary reminiscences or oral history on behalf of an American writer who specialises in the history of Rommel and the African campaign of World War II.

In particular I hope to find Australian ex-servicemen willing to discuss their experiences (both light and serious) in this area. I would like to record them on tape.

If anyone can help, I'd be grateful if they would write to me.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Craig Hillier,
24 Essington Street, Huntingdale W.A. 6110.

Thanks for the help

Dear Editor,

This correspondent has been just a little amazed at the number of ex-service people who have telephoned or written in response to my letter published in the Autumn 1989 copy of the Listening Post, and I would like to thank them very sincerely.

From information given we can now state, with a high degree of certainty, that a landing of military forces on the coastline somewhere between Hamelin Pool and Northampton was prevented on 19 November 1941.

No doubt alerted by code-breaking, Intelligence was able to give ample warning, and the RAAF Military personnel were in position in strength by 19 November 1941. RAAF activities (and probably military activities) were co-ordinated over a long communication channel from RAAF Intelligence at Pearce and personnel at Hamelin Pool. It was over this same channel that RAAF Pearce learnt, in the early hours of 20 November 1941, of the loss of HMAS Sydney.

By daybreak on 20 November 1941, civilians apparently advised to leave the battle area had arrived in Geraldton.

Any other RAAF or Army personnel or, of course, civilians who were involved in any aspect of the activities on 19 and 20 November 1941 are invited to contact: The HMAS Sydney Research Group, c/-34 Johnson Street, Peppermint Grove, 6011. Telephone: 384 8640.
Dr Edward Strahan.

Horace Rumble — Ex 16th Battalion, AIF

Dear Editor,

Heartiest congratulations to our member, Horace Rumble, of 3 Stevens Street, Daglish, who celebrated his 100th birthday on June 18, 1989. Earlier in the year, Horace and his wife Vera had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

We all wish Mr and Mrs Rumble continued good health and happiness.

C.C. Brown, Secretary,
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BELMONT

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the formation of this Sub-Branch and, to celebrate, the annual dinner was held as a 60th birthday dinner, complete with a cake. Nearly 200 members and friends attended and enjoyed an excellent meal and afterwards danced to the music of DJ John Mitchell.

At the Annual State Congress, our President Len Keynes was elected Junior Vice President of the State League. This is an honour for the Branch and our congratulations are extended to Len.

Our monthly cabaret attendances have improved and, with the warmer months coming, we hope that many more will be joining us on these popular nights. "The Playbacks" will be playing for the September cabaret and the New Year's Eve Cabaret.

Club bowls have gone into recession during the winter months while the greens are being rejuvenated. Bowls have become very popular since the opening of the greens with players going out two or three times a week to play. Come September all those keen players will be back on the greens trying to get closest to the 'kitty'.

We have a very enthusiastic Women's Auxiliary and our thanks go to all those ladies who put in a lot of time and effort raising money and holding functions. Congratulations ladies for a job well done.

DOT BALCOMBE.

BUNBURY

Membership is increasing slowly with current figures indicating 420 paid-up members with a further 50 who have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 1989. The latter figure is most disturbing, and we hope many will have "come good" by the time this edition is posted.

I still believe that we will achieve our target of 450 paid-up members and collect yet another pennant.

The questionnaire sent to members provided valuable feedback on issues such as moving the War Memorial, as well as signifying an overwhelming vote of confidence in the present administration.

Now is the time to start thinking about 1990, and there are always positions available on the executive for those who would like to assist in the running of the Sub-Branch. The AGM provides the opportunity to recruit fresh members with fresh ideas as well as giving would-be critics the opportunity to stand up and be counted by doing something constructive for their fellow members.

It is extremely pleasing to see a 50/50 ratio of young and "more senior" new members coming into our Sub-Branch. We still need World War II veterans to provide stability and we are finding that, even in their late seventies, many are joining the RSL for the first time.

It has been decided to try and provide transport for older members who can't get to meetings but would like to (especially during the warmer months). If you fit into this category, then give the office a ring (21 3596) and we'll see what can be organised. This applies to Burekup, Brunswick and Darcunup as well as Bunbury.

Don't forget those meetings on the third Wednesday of every month.

ALF MAINSTONE, Membership Officer.

BUSSELTON

The enthusiasm of branch members was evidenced by the large number who attended this year's AGM and the willingness of all executive and committee members to continue in their respective positions for the next 12 months.

In his annual report, President Roy Young said that the sub branch had completed another very successful year, with several new members and a very good average attendance of well over 30 at our monthly meetings. All social functions (including the annual dinner and Christmas Party), other branch functions and hosting Belmont Sub branch had been well supported. Some members had given their services to Torchbearers for Legacy at various functions, and our Poppy Day appeal was the most successful yet.

The hall grounds have been improved by an automatic sprinkler system installed during a well-attended working bee. The task of keeping the leaves in good condition has now been made easier for hall committee members, two of whom (Eddie Hay and Fred Smith) were rewarded recently for their enthusiastic work by being presented with service certificates.

Sub branch finances are sound, and President Roy concluded his address by sincerely thanking Secretary Fay Pike and Treasurer Bert Rogers, as well as all committee members for their unswavering loyalty and support throughout the year.

A bigger crowd than previously attended this year's Anzac service. Some 80 veterans marched and there was good support from various organisations and associations. Because of the school holidays the High School band could not participate, but some of the young musicians commendably joined the town band to swell its numbers.

Unfortunately for us, the Bowling Club this year won back the bowls' trophy which we have held for the past two years, but the annual bowls match was no less enjoyable and we are grateful to the Bowling Club for its continued support on Anzac Day.

We look forward to the next twelve months of sub branch activities with confidence and enthusiasm.

JOHN JOYCE (Publicity Officer).
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CANNING DISTRICTS

The attendance at monthly meetings has nearly doubled during 1989 with more and more members becoming involved in our activities. Welcome to new members Dennis Nelli, Kevin Bryant, Ian Smith and David Peggs.

Members of our Women's Auxiliary are to be congratulated on the running of two functions recently. The first, a "back to the sixties" night, saw a large crowd dressed for the occasion and shedding a few kilos under compere Arthur Nichols' direction. The second, a wine and cheese tasting night, was very well attended and members enjoyed the expert talk and the large range of wines provided. Our ladies are also providing dinner at a very reasonable price on Friday nights.

Some of our lady members have not enjoyed the best of health lately. We hope that Peg Semmens, Shirley Neil, Joan Binstead and Marilyn Mayo are feeling a lot better.

We received increases in bar trading hours which includes later closing on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, Monday trading and all afternoon trading on Wednesdays. The President recently paid a glowing tribute to George Galdies who retired as Bar Manager due to ill health. George has done a wonderful job under difficult circumstances. Hard working member Graham Chadwick has now taken over as Bar Manager.

Stage one of renovations is now complete, and it is hoped that stage two will commence shortly. Members have been enthusiastic in their efforts to help. Special mention must be given to Hugh Sorley, Doug Proctor, Bert Neil, Peter Eales, Norm Semmens, Graham Chadwick, Neil Wright, Alan Smart and, of course, our hardworking President Bob Hill.

At our July meeting Mr J. Gilmore presented our Sub-branch with a 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion Plaque. Many members of the Battalion have been members of our Sub-Branch.

D. SMITH, HONORARY SECRETARY.

DARLING RANGE

It is sad to have to report the deaths of three former sub-branch Presidents. First, Geoff Newton, who was President in 1958 and between 1979-82, succumbed after a long and brave fight against cancer. Then Jack Redmond, (1982-86) having seemingly survived a serious illness, died from unforeseen complications, and finally Len Rahaley, who was not only President in 1978-79 but Secretary in 68, 69 and 72, was taken suddenly and unexpectedly. All three had given long and unstinting service to the sub-branch over many years. They are sincerely missed and we record our sympathy and extend condolences to their widows and families.

On a more cheerful note, we were visited by Jim Wilson, son of a former President, W.E. Wilson (1938-39), who gave the sub-branch a framed photograph of the Kalamunda Memorial Gardens which had been presented to his father in 1939 by the Darling Range Road Board in appreciation of his services. The Wilson family lived for many years in Wheelwright Road, and the photograph makes a welcome addition to our collection of memorabilia.

A fund-raising quiz-night organised by our excellent Women's Auxiliary added some $400 to our air-conditioner fund; another function will be held soon to try to make air-conditioning a reality before the next round of hot weather hits us.

JOHN HARPER-NELSON, PRESIDENT.

Until 1940 the Darling Range Sub-Branch held its meetings in this Kalamunda home belonging to Mr & Mrs Ken Lowden. The Lowdens gave the home and land to the Sub-Branch and the present hall was added some years later. This photo was taken at the handing over ceremony.

Listening Post — Spring, 1989 — Page 53
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GREETINGS FROM DENMARK

Greetings from down south once more. We have just enjoyed our annual luncheon when 38 members sat down to an excellent meal.

We are maintaining good numbers at our monthly meetings and are progressing smoothly. Considering the fact that a number of our members are up north for the winter hibernation, our strength in caring members is high.

In September we will hold our annual fund-raising day.

Weather here this year has been more like the old winters we were accustomed to—cold and wet—but we keep going along quite well and our yearly pattern of activities and events is established. I am happy to report that we are increasing our membership gradually which is much better than going too fast and then suffering drop-backs which can be frustrating.

Our best wishes to all sick members wherever they may be. We look forward to your speedy recovery and return to the active fold.

MARK SCAMMELL, PR OFFICER.

GERALDTON

SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

In keeping with its policy of service to the community generally, our Sub-Branch has agreed to make Birdwood House lawns available for an exhibition of sculptures. The exhibition by the Sculpture Sub-Group of the Geraldton Art Society will take place from September 29 to October 31.

At our June meeting we decided to use the $2,355 received from the estate of the late Hendrikus Steenis to make improvements to the kitchen at Birdwood House. The Red Cross and the Blind Association, as well as a couple who extended friendship to the late “Hank” Steenis when he was Birdwood House caretaker, were also among the beneficiaries.

A former Secretary of this Sub-Branch, Mrs Pam Burgess, was welcomed by President Tom Cream after she returned from Perth to live again at Geraldton.

Women’s Auxiliary Secretary Edie Rogers presented Mr Cream with a cheque for $400 towards renewal of floor covering at the Regional War Veterans’ Home.

Auxiliary and Laurel Club members agreed to be at Birdwood House on the first Thursday and Friday of July, from 10am to 1pm, when a Drop-In Centre would operate for a “cuppa,” a chat, and fellowship.

MERITORIOUS MEDALS

A highlight of the recent State Congress was the presentation of two Meritorious Medals by the National President, Brigadier Alf Garland.

They were received by Mr Mike Hall, City of Perth Sub-Branch, and Mr Merv Williams, Wanneroo Sub-Branch.

The selection of Mr Williams for this high honour was of special interest to members of our Sub-Branch because he spoke at many of our annual reunions when State Country Vice-President.

Merv Williams was a member of the Coorow-Waddi Forest Sub-Branch in those days.

RSL VISITORS

At its July meeting, arrangements were made for Geraldton to entertain two visiting groups.

It was agreed to hold two social evenings at Birdwood House—the first on July 27 for our tourists from Bedford-Morley Sub-Branch, and the second on August 21 for bus tourists from Mandurah Sub-Branch.

The President has advised that Rob Hoffman will be continuing as Membership Officer instead of moving to Perth.

PETER BARDEN.

MANDURAH

At the 73rd Annual State Congress our president, Keith Ross, was presented with a cheque for $14,872 by Brand MHR Wendy Fatin on behalf of the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Ben Humphreys. The money was granted under the department’s Joint Venture Scheme to help buy tables and chairs, kitchen equipment, a pool table, dart boards, indoor bowling equipment and other items for the recently opened social centre.

Mandurah now has a membership in excess of 650 and, judging by the steady stream of new faces we see each month, we could have 700 members by 1990.

It has been estimated that Mandurah has a veteran and war widow population of about 2,000 and 900 veteran dependants. Many of these veterans are expected to take part in the centre’s activities once a social club has been established.

Earlier this year, the Minister presented a $960 cheque to Keith Ross, Treasurer Peter Nilson, and Publicity Officer Bill Tate at a function in the Veterans’ Affairs Perth office. This earlier Joint Ventures Scheme grant was to start and fund a newsletter for the local veterans and residents of the Mandurah War Veterans’ Village.

The Mandurah RSL Newsletter is now “up and running” and is printed by the sub-branch members at the social centre at the beginning of every month. Issued free of charge, it started with a distribution of 250 copies, but the figure is increasing monthly.

APPRECIATION AWARDS

Appreciation Shields were presented to Dudley Tuckey and Neil Davidson at the June meeting and to Danny Rees at the July meeting for their untiring efforts as members of the committee which planned, and saw through to completion, the Mandurah RSL War Veterans’ Village and Social
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Sub-Branch News cont.

Centre. All three supported and backed Keith Ross throughout all those difficult months (when the old RSL Memorial Hall on Pinjarra Road was put up for sale and finally disposed of and the site for the complex in Third Avenue was acquired) before the official opening last January.

In presenting the awards, Keith spoke of the wonderful support he had received from his committee and thanked them sincerely on behalf of the sub-branch and residents of the units. He also paid tribute to the backing of State President Jim Hall and his executive who were of great assistance in getting the new complex completed.

BUS TRIPS

The monthly coach trips continue to be popular and outings to Hillary's Boat Harbour and Underwater World, Araluen (which included a "Christmas in July" dinner) and an excursion to Geraldton and Kalbarri have been enjoyed by members in recent months.

Our grateful thanks go to Senior Vice-President Wally Holding and his fellow social committee member and "better half" Wyn, both of whom work very hard to make the trips so successful.

They, and their committee, also toil before, during and after the monthly socials to make them so enjoyable.

WELFARE

Our welfare officers, Neil Davidson, Kevin Riley and John Ralph, are kept busy at the Social Centre every Tuesday morning helping our members and other veterans with their problems, while Joy Tate continues to visit ex-service personnel in the local nursing homes.

THE CITY OF MANDURAH

Yes, Mandurah will become a city next April and, to celebrate the town's elevation to city status, the local Council has decided to allow our sub-branch to assist, along with other organisations and clubs, with arranging functions, parades, etc. A sub-committee has been appointed to decide what our involvement will entail and how we will carry it through. More details in the next issue.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE

Under the chairmanship of Peter Nilson, a Defence Committee was formed to discuss the proposed re-introduction of National Military Service.

The committee, consisting of the Chairman, Peter Nilson, Wally Holding, Tom Mills, Andy Korbosky, Ian Galloway and Bill Tate, concluded that the introduction of National Military Service be recommended on the grounds that it would be in the best interests of Australia and the youth of our country. Further, it felt that funds presently spent on non-productive fields would be better invested in a National Service scheme.

WORKS AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

A large and energetic band of workers has volunteered to clean and maintain the Social Centre and grounds guided and directed by their new foreman Eric Bury. His team is made up of George Brooks, Alan Cook, Bert Ferguson, Joe Fisher, lan Galloway, George Jamieson, Alwyn Leggett, L. Leverington, George Lloyd, Tom Lovegrove, Hilda Myles, Syd Ruck, Jack Sharp, and Norm Williams.

Other workers who are getting the new lawns and gardens established and who perform many of the tasks around the centre are; Ron Coffey, Mal Hamilton, Arthur Harper, Wally & Wyn Holding, Frank Holland and Ted Turner, plus, of course, President Keith, Keith Dhu and Peter Nilson.

SUB-BRANCH LADIES

Our sub-branch now boasts a membership of over 40 ladies, although very few attend meetings: perhaps they feel outnumbered by the males. To help the girls get together and meet one another a tea party was arranged. Despite many being "up north," thawing out during July's cold weather, there was a good attendance; it must also have been a success as members have decided to meet regularly on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm at the RSL Social Centre, 22 Third Avenue, Mandurah.

All ex-servicewomen, including visitors to our town/city are invited to attend. Please take a plate. W.L. TATE, PUBLICITY OFFICER.

OSBORNE PARK

It is very pleasing to report that our membership has again increased slightly. We have now reached the 150 mark although, unfortunately, we never get high numbers at our monthly meetings.

Reading through the last issue of Listening Post, it was most interesting to learn that Cockburn Sub-Branch is celebrating 70 years of continuous activity. Sincere congratulations from all members at Osborne Park which also is celebrating its 70th year as an active and continuous Sub-Branch. To mark our 70th year we are arranging to hold a social occasion late October or early November and it would be greatly appreciated if members could let us know if they wish to take part. It will be a daytime event and, in all probability, on a Sunday commencing around 11:00 am. The venue, of course, will be our Memorial Hall and naturally, we would like to see many members and their partners attend this important event.

Once again I had the privilege of being one of the delegates at the recent Annual Congress which I found to be full of interest with some very good debates resulting from some of the agenda items. It was indeed an honour to be able to represent the Sub-Branch.

On Friday, 6th October, members and their partners will be attending the Tivoli Club's live variety show at the Applecross Hall. These shows are top-class entertainment, performed by local artists, with a low admission price. The sub-branch receives a refund on tickets sold, so virtually we are paid to go along and enjoy a first class show.
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This year Mrs. Ashplant of the Geraldton Auxiliary was hospitalised and unable to attend Conference; it was the first one she had missed for many years and we wish her well.

STATE EXECUTIVE FOR 1989-90:

On 2 May Mrs. Cooke and I attended the Kojonup Auxiliary’s luncheon with Mr. Doug Bruce, Senior Vice President of the League, as our chauffeur. Our thanks to the League for supplying transport. During the luncheon Mr. Bruce presented a Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge to Mrs. Kath Crook, of the Kojonup Auxiliary.

My thanks go to the Executive members who helped with the teas and luncheons for Congress, and I would also like to thank my two Vice-Presidents for representing me at the many functions I was unable to attend.

In June I attended a concert at the Salvation Army Fortress and, with Executive members, was a guest at the Waroona-Hamel Auxiliary’s 52nd birthday when the cake was cut by foundation member Mrs. Brown. On 1 July I attended a dinner dance to celebrate the Mandurah Auxiliary’s 50th birthday. It is very pleasing that more Auxiliaries are now inviting representatives from State Executive to their functions.

I take this opportunity of thanking all Auxiliaries and Sub-branches for their co-operation and help over the last year.

Mrs. Sullivan has been busy organising the items for our Christmas Cheer parcels. Could I appeal to members to donate a little more to this worthy cause? All Auxiliary Secretaries are requested to address all correspondence and make out cheques to the Hon. State Secretary.

The cold weather has put many of our members on the sick list and we wish them a speedy recovery.

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Women's Auxiliary cont.

BUNBURY

Our Auxiliary has been honoured once again with several awards. Mrs Joyce Board was presented with her Life Membership certificate and badge, and Mrs Jeanie McGlashen was presented at State Conference with the highest award ever given to an Auxiliary member: the Merit Award and Gold badge. Well done ladies.

Our Auxiliary received second place in the Conference Cup, and we congratulate all other winners.

The annual dinner at the Lord Forrest Hotel was a great success with about 100 attending. This year we didn't have to cater or clean up. "Thank you guys".

Our Auxiliary has adopted another resident at the War Veterans’ Home, and we have already received a lovely letter from him thanking us.

A few of us were able to attend the men's Annual State Congress in Perth this year, and it was most rewarding to see exactly what happens and to hear what our men are fighting for. Keep up the good work.

JUDY PAULETTE, SECRETARY,
Box 615, G.P.O. Bunbury, W.A. 6230.

Sub-Branch News cont.

Osborne Park cont.

I appeal to members to support the Sub-Branch by attending monthly meetings; if you cannot get along a telephone call would be greatly appreciated. Meetings are every second Wednesday of the month commencing at 2000 hours.

BILL SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT 349 2797.

SCARBOROUGH

Despite the cold weather, attendances at the Sub-Branch have been good and the conditions at the Doubleview Bowling Club are very comfortable for our members.

Arrangements for the forthcoming bowls section of the club are well in hand. Last year's event was quite a success.

A talk was given recently by Captain Arch Foxley, BEM, of the SAS Regiment, a soldier with 25 years' experience. Together with the use of a projector showing SAS scenes, the talk was very enlightening about what happens in the SAS. Undoubtedly, the training is tough and very varied and only the best survive. The Regiment is very versatile, mobile and compact. Our northern areas would need such men, and such people deserve the best of equipment and weaponry.

Mrs Joy Reed, in her Welfare Report, complained of the difficulty of getting veterans into "C" class hospitals, which makes the closing years of some elderly people difficult.

Alf Denny, who attended Congress for the first time, gave quite a comprehensive report on what he had observed and heard. It is good that younger members are taking an interest in the running of the State branch of the RSL.

We have also heard a talk by Tom Garrick on Vietnam. An ex-regular soldier located with Signals, Tom told of the uncertainties of distinguishing between friend and foe, which added to the stress amongst the troops, caused by the use of Agent Orange and its action and aftermath. Worst of all was the Australian public's attitude to our soldiers who went to Vietnam. This was eventually set right by the huge, official "Welcome Home" parade in Sydney in October 1987, which was brought about by the persistent efforts of a few veterans who formed a committee in 1982; they saw the parade as a vindication for all their efforts in the Vietnam War.

Another bus trip to Araluen has been arranged, as the previous one was enjoyed so much.

George Halnan is still in hospital.

A welcome trickle of new members still comes in at our monthly meetings held on the second Monday in each month.

JIM HUGILL.

SOUTH PERTH

At our last meeting, members confirmed the starting time as 11.30 a.m. for future meetings. This time had been on trial for six months, and members agreed that it was much better than the 8.00 p.m. meetings. The midday meetings are followed by a light luncheon with a little fellowship beforehand. The new time has meant more members attending which has resulted in new faces and better discussion, and the meetings seem more worthwhile. Our future looks good!

Friends of Mr Jim Walmsley will be pleased to know he still enjoys a very active role in our Sub-Branch although both Jim and his wife Jess are down with the flu at the moment.

Recently we acquired some old Sub-Branch journals. Those from South Perth Sub-Branch, called "The Barrage", were printed in 1936; others, from Mt Lawley Sub-Branch, called "The Sniper", were printed in 1947. Anyone interested in these should contact the Secretary on 367 2609.

In recent months, we have had a record Poppy Day and, with the co-operation of the City of South Perth and the bi-centennial committee, built a new War Memorial at the corner of South Terrace and Sandgate Street, South Perth. This memorial was built in conjunction with the Como, Manning and Kensington Sub-Branches.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Operation Semut 1
Z Special Unit's Secret War

Edited by Bob Long, 632 pages, illustrated, $20 hard cover (plus $2.50) postage.

This incredible book tells the individual stories of 17 Z Force operators who worked behind the lines in Borneo's secret war. At the height of the operation's success, Semut 1 operators and local guerilla forces controlled an area of 16,000 square miles of raging river torrents and precipitous mountain regions wherein lived 125,000 people including Borneo head hunters.

Each chapter is an operator's personal account of how he carried out his mission. As an example, WOII J. Tredrea MM AIF writes: "We travelled down river to Malinau which was occupied by approximately two hundred Japanese Marines and after some enquiries I managed to make contact with a Chinese doctor; I met him in the jungle and got all the information needed and then decided that no way could I attack two hundred Nip Marines with my force of thirty guerillas. I sent a runner back to Harrison at Belait requesting an airstrike on a certain date..."

And so it goes for 632 exciting pages. Bob Long (himself a Z Force Operator) has done an excellent research and editing task to bring to fruition this important piece of World War II history. The book is available directly from Bob Long at a considerable saving and is well recommended for your bookshelf or as a Christmas gift to a member of the younger generation.

PATRICIA BALFE.

OPERATION SEMUT 1
This hard cover book of 632 pages is now available. Written by "Z Special Unit" operatives, it covers Semut 1 personnel operating in Sarawak, British North Borneo and Dutch Borneo and includes 18 maps and 67 photographs. The cost is $20.00 plus $2.50 postage.

Write to: B. Long, 16 Beechboro Road, Bayswater W.A. 6053.

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John Harper-Nelson has written this intriguing book on the historical, first, single-engine aircraft flight from England to Australia, flown closely upon the tail of Sir Ross and Keith Smith's classic first flight of any aircraft to Australia in 1919.

Harper-Nelson is a member of RSL WA State Executive Committee and well known to Western Australians in several fields of endeavour, particularly ABC Radio and TV.

Some of RSL vintage would remember and still admire the heroism of WW1 Lieutenants Ray Parer and John McIntosh in making that 24,000 km first single-engine flight. Few of us know any detail of its almost unbelievable repetition of fortunes and misfortunes. They were so many that, apart from the flight's achievement in history, its miracle was that it reached Australia at all.

Harper-Nelson, greatly helped by his wife Barbara, has researched deeply behind the saga of Parer and McIntosh and the book reveals a total story of their flight that very few of us have been told. All that most had heard was that their decrepit, derelict World War De Havilland Nine bomber finally reached Darwin "tied together with fencing wire" after a seven month ordeal. There was far, far more to it than that and "A Need For Glory" tells it all most graphically.

The book shows that Parer and McIntosh were temperamental opposites but, in a mateship that grew from the rigours of WW1, they completely offset each other, so making a team that brought success to their daring and dogged determination.

This is a book for mature nostalgia, valuable equally to schools, libraries and the Australian heritage. Harper Nelson has achieved much with it and written it excellently in direct language that commands attention.

Today that battered old crate would never be allowed off the ground, nor should it have been even then. Neither would McIntosh perhaps, for he was not a qualified aviator, had never even been solo. But he was the right man for the task, a mainstay to the reserved, introspective but highly skilled and determined Parer to whom no obstacle was too high. McIntosh was the "wheeler and dealer", Parer the achiever. The McIntosh Mississippi hustler character was to live again, about a decade later, in the man who conquered the Pacific with Smithy.

Read this book — it's well worth its price. As a youth I made my second flight, a joyride with Parer. I remember how small he was, how withdrawn but how lightly he touched us down on Mother Earth again. It made me wag school and work awhile for a Brisbane aviation firm. Cleaning Parer's aircraft one day, I lifted the cushion of the pilot's seat. There was a rosary there.

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New book preserves World War II soldiers’ poetry

Some of the more memorable poetry contributed by servicemen and women to the World War II Australian Army Education Service Journal ‘SALT’ has been published in a book of lasting quality entitled ‘Poets in Uniform’.

The book consists of a selection of 99 poems taken from issues of ‘SALT’ between 1941 and 1946, when the journal ceased publication with demobilisation.

The poems represent writers enlisted in all mainland States — all active service personnel, mainly AIF. Many of the poems were written at forward stations overseas.

They are published in chronological order, thus presenting (apart from their often high literary value) a reflection of the historical progress of the war and the thinking of those engaged in it.

Many of the poems were first published only under Army enlistment numbers or pen names; the book, therefore, simply records authorship exactly as it appeared in ‘SALT’. An example of the shorter contributions is the terse ‘New Death’ by Cpl. G. Hervey-Tennyson, VX60555, published in 1944:

Who says Death is old
And carries scythe?
We know he is bold,
And young and lithe;
He carries a gun
And rides in a plane;
He moves at a run,
His laugh is insane;
His kiss isn’t cold
It’s swift and it’s hot
Steel from the mould
And fire and shot.

The poems in ‘Poets in Uniform’ have an appeal that transcends only those who lived in the World War II years; they have earned a lasting place in Australia’s historical and social literature. However, they will have a special place in the nostalgic memory of service survivors of World War II and their relatives and friends.

‘Poets in Uniform’ will make an excellent gift at any time and particularly when ex-service thoughts are stimulated by wartime anniversaries.

The publisher of the book is donating all profits from its sale to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Information about sales and cost of copies of ‘Poets in Uniform’ may be obtained from Footprint Publishing, C/- Humanities Department, Footscray Institute of Technology, Ballarat Road, Footscray, Victoria 3011. Tel: (03) 888 4166.

Operation Grapple
Testing Britain’s First H-Bomb
by Group Captain Kenneth Hubbard and Michael Simmonds

On 15 May, 1957 a Royal Air Force Valiant from No. 49 Squadron dropped Britain’s first live thermonuclear (H-bomb) weapon off Malden Island in the South Pacific Ocean.

All previous British atomic tests had taken place in Australia, either at Maralinga in the South Australian desert or in the small group of uninhabited Monte Bello Islands off the north-west coast.

There was no question from the safety point of view of using the Australian proving grounds because of the yield involved in “Operation Grapple” — some 70 times more powerful than that exploded over Hiroshima in 1945.

This meant locating a completely new base, remote from any inhabited area, which had favourable weather conditions, a suitable harbour for landing supplies and, finally, would be suitable for the construction of an airstrip that could be used by the Valiant bomber.

After a careful series of surveys by the Royal New Zealand Navy (a far cry from today!) and by a joint service reconnaissance from a RAF Shackleton in 1955, Christmas Island in the South Pacific (not to be confused with Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean) was chosen as the main base island, and Malden Island, some 4000 nautical miles distant, as the instrumentation island for the weapon drop.

Every service of the British armed forces was involved. The Royal Navy shipped personnel, equipment, provisions, provided the monitoring vessels and patrolled the vast area of ocean. The Army constructed base and airfield facilities on the two islands, whilst the Royal Air Force dropped the weapons, assisted with maritime surveillance and gathered meteorological and scientific data.

The authors, Group Captain Kenneth Hubbard OBE, DFC, AFC, RAF (Ret’d), who actually dropped the bomb, and Michael Simmonds have gone to great lengths to tell the story of this huge and complex undertaking which involved thousands of men and women.

Spanning 128 pages the book is divided into eleven chapters (and an epilogue) which are ably supported by 50 black and white photographs along with 12 line drawings and plans.

Today, some 29 years later, the story of “Operation Grapple” still draws tremendous interest. Released in March, the book is published by Ian Allan of London and available in Australia from Thomas C. Lothian Pty. Ltd. of 11 Munro Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria. RRP $45.

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JACK HEPPLE

I was with Sergeant Hepple and seven men when we were left behind enemy lines at Mubo garrison from 11 January to 18 January, 1943. There were no compasses but he got us back. For 16 months he did special reconnaissance work in the Markham Bena-Ramu Hagan Valleys. He served on “Op” work at Salamaua, Lae and Madang.

After a short return to Australia he went back with the 2/7 (Ind.) Commando Squadron, MZ Forces, and served a further 10 months in the islands. After the Japanese surrender he was in the Sepik and Wewak areas.

Jack Hepple was respected as a soldier and a man by all who served with him. He died last May.

BRUCE CALE, C. Platoon, 2/7 Ind. Commando Squadron.

MILLCENT CHRISTINA HATCH (NEE BORWICK)

‘Mim’ Hatch died at Parry House on 9 June, 1989 after a protracted illness.

Soon after completing her nursing training at Fremantle Hospital in 1941, ‘Mim’ Borwick joined the AANS and served in Northam and Merredin until 1943, when she married Captain Ron Hatch and was retained for Home Service.

Sister Hatch had a distinguished Army background. Her father, an uncle and an aunt served with the AIF in World War 1. Her aunt, Miss I.T. Borwick ARRC, was a foundation member of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-Branch of the RSL and appointed its first President.

‘Mim’, as she was known generally to her colleagues, was a very caring person who liked young people and, in the post war years, was on the staff of Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School. She has three married sons with families.

A book has been placed in the library of the War Veterans’ Home in her honour.

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<td>LUSBY, L.H.</td>
<td>M1 0001</td>
<td>Mandurah, Navy</td>
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<td>MARTIN, P.A.</td>
<td>408441</td>
<td>Bicton-Palmyra, RAAF</td>
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<td>MEDWIN, L.R.</td>
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<td>O'MARA, D.P.</td>
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<td>POLDEN, R.L.</td>
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<td>City of Perth, 1st Volunteer Defece Corp</td>
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<td>ROBB, G.K.</td>
<td>WX601465</td>
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<td>ROCHFORD, K.</td>
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<td>Bicton-Palmyra, RAAF</td>
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<td>Bruce Rock, RANVR</td>
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<td>SOULIS, D.</td>
<td>M70019</td>
<td>Kwinana, Greek Army</td>
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<td>5332307</td>
<td>Mandurah, Royal Berks.</td>
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<td>TREDREA, D.S.</td>
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<td>Bellevue, RAAF</td>
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<td>144278</td>
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<td>WX6058</td>
<td>Mt Lawley-Inglewood, 17th AIF BN</td>
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AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr W.B. Plewright, 23 Kenwick Way, Balga, 6061. Tel: 342 6718. Secretary: Mrs D. Jackson, PO Box 411, Midland, 6056. Tel: 294 1054, Treasurer, W.F. Sullivan, 74 Federal Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 349-2797. Meets every second Monday of each month. January in recess, in Red Cross Hall at rear of Hollywood Repat Hospital (Verdon Street). Meetings commence at 7.30pm.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mick Ruffin, 50 Myrtle Avenue, Sorrento, 6020. Tel: 448 1683. Secretary: Rod Anderson, 29 Hillsborough Drive, Nollamara, 6061. Tel: 349 4759. Treasurer: John Griffiths, 15 Madrona Crescent, Greenwood, 6024. Tel: 448 5497. Committee meets South Mess, Campbell Barracks, 1st Tuesday each month, 1730 hours - Fellowship last Friday of each month at 1700 hours, same location — Welcome.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, OAM, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6156. Tel: 330 5458. Secretary: Mrs P. Gilchrist. Tel: 272 8662. Treasurer: C.G. Frost, 101 Meehan Street, Como, 6152. Tel: 272 8662. Meetings: 1st Floor, Anzac House on the 1st Thursday of the even months. 10am - 12 noon.

BCOF ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Meets Anzac House. 11.00am, fourth Mondays (if a holiday, the next day). President: Lt Col Nyman, JP, 42 Kingsland Road, Attadale, 6156. Tel: 330 5458. Secretary: L. J. Alborn, MM, 112 Edward Street, Perth 6024. Treasurer: E. H. Martyn, JP. All correspondence to PO Box 66, Maylands 6051. Council meets second Tuesday of each month at Anzac Club, commencing at 2.00pm. Annual General Meeting on second Tuesday of November each year at above address.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Jim Duncan, 40 Kennedy Street, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 2174. Secretary: Arthur Robinson, 19/26 Pinatar Street, Menora, 6050. Tel: 271 4733. Assistant Secretary: Fred Skeels, 33 Drummond Street, Bedford, 6052. Tel: 271 1553. Treasurer: Dan London, 25 Glencoe Parade, Halls Head, 6210. Tel: 581 2869. Meetings: First Tuesday each month, at the time of 1.30pm (except January when in recess) at Anzac Club, Perth.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA)

AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES CLUB (INC)
Meets at RSL Hall, Kintail Road, Applecross. Fridays 4.30 - 5.00pm. Sundays 4.30 - 7.30pm. President: Mr P. McGrath, 41 Reynolds Road, Mt. Pleasant, 6153. Tel: 364 2339. Secretary: Mr W.C. West, c/- PO Box 153, Applecross, 6153 Tel: 399 7727. All correspondence to be sent to the Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC) BRANCH
State President: Mr L.C.W. Hutchings, 66 Kinsella Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4288. Honorary State Secretary: Mrs R. Lanigan, 60 Kinsella Street, Joondanna, 6060. Tel: 443 1360. Details of sub-branch meetings, please phone 443 1360.

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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.

EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Meets the second Monday of each month at Anzac House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth (unless otherwise advised). President: Mrs Dorothy Needham, 16 Warragooloan Crescent, Attadale, 6156. Tel: 330 3411. Secretary: Mrs Marjorie Dowel, 22 Cyril Street, Bassendean, 6054. Tel: 378 1305. Treasurer: Miss Amelia Travers, 8/23 Calais Road, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 1856.

FEDERATED TB SAILORS' SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

GPO Box T1729, Perth, 6001. Hon. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer. 16 Dowell Place, Bibra Lake, 6163. Tel: 417 9498. President: Mr I. Fraser, 53 Pearson Village, 26 Pinaster Street. Mt. Lawley, 6050. Tel: 277 4703.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)

President: Mr R. Pattenden, 13 Hawkesbury Drive, Willetton, 6155. Tel: 457 1798. Secretary: G.H. Smith, Road 1/7, Haig Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 344 4416. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth. All correspondence to PO Box 3886, Stirling Street, Perth, WA, 6000.

HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

President: Mr F. Foxon, 19 Stone Court, Kardinya, 6163. Tel: 337 1153. Secretary: L. De Grussa. 43 Pilt Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: (09) 276 7253. Social meetings held quarterly at Anzac House. Ladies welcome. Further information contact Secretary.

HMAS WARRAMUNGA VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

President: L.J. Lawrence, 250 Jersey Street, Wembley, WA 6014. Tel: 387 2099. Secretary: T.E. Oakley, 43 Strickland Street, Mt. Claremont, WA 6010. Tel: 384 3042. Treasurer: Mrs F.O. Ingham, 13/55 Second Avenue, Mt. Lawley, WA 6050. Tel: 271 9288. For further information please contact any of the above.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)

Meets second Sunday in June, September and December at the Belmont Sub-Branch of the RSL, 22 Leake Street, Belmont. Time, 1000 hrs. Members will be notified by Newsletter of the AGM held in March of each year. State President: Mr H.D. Whitehurst. Tel: 361 9062. State Secretary: Mr M.L. (Mitch) Cadden, 53 Wicca Street, Kewdale 6105. Tel: 277 3681. State Treasurer: Mr H.W. Busby, 31 Wicks Street, Eden Hill, 6054. Tel: 279 6753.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC) ("Wingies and Stumpies")

President: P.R. Collins. Secretary: C.C. Brown. 80-82 Henley Street, Como, WA 6152. Tel: 450 6428 (Postal Address): Bag Lot No. 2, Post office, Como, WA 6152. Meeting first Wednesday each month except January, 1.00pm.

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.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION

President: Mr A.D. Needham, Tel: 330 3411. Secretary: Not Appointed. Sub-section meets 8pm, last Monday each month at the Navy Club, Marine Terrace, Fremantle. Tel: 335 3015.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION

Meets fourth Tuesday each month at 71 West Parade, East Perth. President: Mr Jack Appleby, 143 McDonald Street, Joondanna 6060. Tel: 444 3596. Secretary: R.E. Hobbs, 32 Purley Street, Bayswater, 6053. Tel: 279 7387.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL

State President: Mr V. Gibson, 33 Monaco Avenue, North Lake, 6163. Tel: 337 1469. State Secretary: Mr G.H.B. Smith, 1/5 Haig Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 344 4416. All correspondence to Hon. State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling Street, Perth 6000.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

President: Mr H. Westhof, 56 Weston Drive, Swanview. Tel: 294 1575. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer: Mr L. de Loo, 11 David Street, Mullaloo. Meets last Wednesday each month at Association Headquarters, 8pm, 8 Hehir Street, Belmont. All correspondence to Secretary, NESAA, PO Box 99, Belmont, 6104.

NORMANDY VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

President: Mr J.E. Mayers, 15 Finlay Court, Rivervale, WA 6103. Tel: 478 2071. Secretary: Mr F. Heath, 26B Hood Terrace, Sorrento, 6020. Tel: 447 3995. Meetings to be held on 1st Tuesday each month at Anzac House at 11.00am.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 'WA BRANCH INC.

General meeting held at Anzac House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth at 1.30pm first Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: D.J. Symes, 15 Finlay Court, Rivervale, WA 6103. Tel: 478 2071. Treasurer: Mrs P. Payne, 11 Purley Street, Bayswater, 6053. Tel: 279 8626. Secretary: Mr A. Harris, 54 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale, WA 6103. Tel: 458 9111. Any ex Airborne Forces welcome to a very active Association.

PEGASUS ASSOCIATION OF WEST AUSTRALIA (INC)

Committee meeting 1st Tuesday in month, Anzac Visitors welcome. President: Mrs John Hately, 143 McDonald Street, Joondanna 6060. Tel: 447 3995. Meetings to be held on 1st Tuesday each month at Anzac House at 11.00am.

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SUB-BRANCH NO. 9

President: Z. Krolikowski, Tel: 457 9346. Honorary Secretary: S. Zalewski. Tel: 274 4260. Treasurer: J. Grzeluk. Tel: 276 4789. All correspondence to 33 Eighth Avenue, Maylands 6051.
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R.A.E. ASSOCIATION (WA)

RAAF 467-463 LANCANER SQUADRONS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: G.V. (Gordon) Costes, 24 Brown Street, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 384 4091. Secretary: Jim Quinn, 9 Redcourt Road, Attadale, 6156. Tel: 330 4151. Treasurer: A.C. (Gus) Belford, D.S.O., 59 Sulman Road, Wembley Downs, 6018. Tel: 341 5484. The Branch meets four times a year at the Air Force Association, Bull Creek and will be hosting the Biennial Reunion in 1989.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: J. Obeirne, 4 Leichhardt Street, St. James, 6012. Tel: 361 8325 Secretary: D. LeFevre, 465 Canning Highway, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 4197. Committee meets second Tuesday each month, Anzac Club, Perth.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Air Cmm. S.W. Dallywater OBE AE (Retd). Tel: (090) 386 2744 Secretary: WO B.F. Cooper CD. A.I.M.M. Tel: (HI) (09) 401 4402 (W) 421 4444. Treasurer: Sgt R.A. Hinton. Tel: (09) 387 2237.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: N. Jarrett, 208 Mirrabooka Avenue, Mirrabooka, 6061. Tel: 349 0740. Secretary: Mrs A. Oldham, Unit 6/4 Pearson Place, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 6241. Meetings are held monthly. Please phone Chairman for details 276 3564.

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.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH
President: Miss Lyn Pearson, 4 San Rosa Road, Wanneroo, 6065. Tel: 405 2537. Secretary: Mrs Olga Greig, 9 Napier Road, Morley. 6062. Tel: 276 3493.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
President: Maj Geo T. Mallor, 177 Westview Street, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 2582. Secretary: R.P. Morgan, 16 Kennedy Close, Bull Creek, 6155. Tel: 332 1191.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mr John Hobbs, 10 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant, 6153. Tel: 364 3568. Secretary: Mr G.J. Cox, 581 Safety Bay Road, Waikiki. 6168. Tel: 592 2305. Meets each third Monday (except January) at Anzac Club, 11.00 hours. When Monday is a public holiday, first Tuesday. All members are invited to attend these meetings.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (WA)
State President: Mr B. Edmondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley, WA 6155. Tel: 457 5620. State Secretary: J. Shephard, Unit 45, Ocean Gardens, 60 Kalinda Drive, City Beach. Tel: 385 8400. State Treasurer: M. Corry, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park. Tel: 361 2824. Meetings: February, May, August, November.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Meets second Wednesday every month (except January), Cameron Lines, Irwin Barracks, Stubs Terrance, Karakatta. President: Mr K.V. Barrington, Tel: 446 4227. Secretary: K.R. Trent. Tel: 367 7794 (H) 323 4485 (O). All correspondence c/- 3 Broad Street, Kensington, WA 6151.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Peter Lofdahl, 409/138 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, 6000. Tel: 274 3444. Secretary, Bert Lane, 6 River Avenue, Maddington, 6109. Tel: 459 3032. Treasurer: Bruce Jellis, Carine Gardens, Caravan Park, 234 Balcatta Road, Gwelup, 6021. Tel: 447 6270. Meetings Anzac House. First Thursday of each month at 7pm except January.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: G. Norton, 20 Owen Street, Safety Bay, 6169. Tel: 592 2859. Secretary, J.G. Buxton, BEM, 2 Nangenty Street, Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 4320. Meetings: Committee meets at Navy Club, Inc. 26 Marine Terrace, Fremantle at 2000 hrs, second Monday each month. General Meeting same hour and place last Monday each month.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS ASSOCIATION
Chairman: Mr P. Norris, 72 James Street, Gosnells, 61010. Tel: 398 4508. Secretary: Mr S. Kent, Unit 21/99 Otway Street, Armadale, 6112. Tel: 399 7375. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm at Anzac House.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: A. Tyson, 12 Kooyong Road, Rivervale, 6103. Tel: 361 0567. 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).

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, WA BRANCH
President: Mr Jack Patterson, 15A Greville Way, Girrawheen, Tel: 342 0142. Secretary: J.G. Buxton, BEM, 2 Nangenty Street, Innaloo. Tel: 446 4320. Meetings at Anzac House third Thursday of every month, 8pm (December excepted).

THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF W.A. (INC)
President: G. Hall (CG) Tel: 448 3677. Secretary/Treasurer: F. Lawrence (GG) Tel: 295 2277. All correspondence to be sent to the Honorary Secretary, P.O. Box 251, Mundaring, WA 6073. General Meetings: To be held on 1st Monday of every month except in December and January when in recess. Venue: RSL Club, Anzac House, Perth.

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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS
President: F.C. Dunlop, 31A Munta Way, Nollamara. Tel: 349 3952. Secretary: Rupert Platel, 49 Banksia Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4914. Meets second Tuesday of each month at the Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sylvia Street, Nollamara at 7.30pm.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH)
President: Mr John M. Start, 2 Alice Road, Roleystone 6155. Tel: (09) 332 4964. Secretary: Mrs Vera Wragg, 8 Steven Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: (09) 276 7665. Treasurer: Mrs Ann Lumsden, 36 Hughenden Drive, Thornlie. Tel: (09) 459 7042. Meetings every other month, interested persons, please contact any of the above. To be held at Room 17, Peninsular Centre, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands.

THIRTY NINERS’ ASSOCIATION
Meets Anzac House, 12 noon, 4th Wednesday each month. State President: J.P. Hall, AM, BE, JP, Unit A/3 Helfam Grove, Booragoon. Tel: 364 7776. State Secretary: Mrs F.E. Johnson, OAM, 38 Renwick Street, South Perth. Tel: 367 9975. For further information contact either of the above.

TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION
TPI Memorial House, Bag Lot 2 PO Box, Como, WA 6152. President: E.J. Ahern. Tel: 450 6428. Annual General Meeting, second Tuesday in December 1.00pm. TPI House. Secretary: H. Davey.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
President: Mr Rob Cox, 13 Tribent Way, Bunburry, 6155. Tel: (09) 332 4964. Secretary: Mrs Vera Wragg, 8 Steven Street, Morley. Tel: (09) 276 7665. Treasurer: Mrs Ann Lumsden, 36 Hughenden Drive, Thornlie. Tel: (09) 459 7042. Meetings every other month, interested persons, please contact any of the above. To be held at Room 17, Peninsular Centre, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands.

WAAAF BRANCH — RAAFA ASSOCIATION
President: Nancy Passmore, Unit 236 Dakota House, AFB Armadale, Bullcreek, 6155. Tel: 310 0998. Secretary: Moira Ball, 11 Monaco Avenue, North Lake, 6163. Tel: 331 1486. Meets 2nd Monday each month at Memorial House, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bullcreek. Please note during the winter months of July, August and September each year the meeting will be held at 11.00am instead of 7.30pm. Lunch is available at the club.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)
President: Mrs Penny Stewart, 8/51 Alexander Drive, Mt Lawley. Tel: 271 9041. Secretary: Mrs Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Road, Lynwood. Tel: 457 3984. Address for Correspondence: Post Office Box 6149, East Perth 6004.

‘Z’ SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF WA
Meetings as arranged by committee. President: L.A. Reed, MBE, 40 Halvorsen Road, Morley. Tel: 276 1535. Secretary/Treasurer: Lt Col E.W. Dubeberin, ED, RL, JP, 17 Hotham Street, Meltham Ph: 271 1406.

1st AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION
President: Laurie Curtis, 38 Embleton Avenue, Girrawheen. Tel: 342 4430. Secretary: Mr R.H. Waters, 5 Catesby Street, City Beach. Tel: 385 9140.

2/1–2/2 PIONEERS W.A.
President: L.A. Preedy, 152 Kentucky Road, Shenton Park 6008. Tel: 381 6294. Meetings to be held at Anzac House on third Friday in March, July and November in Anzac Club.

2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
President: A. Campbell, 4A Frohisher Avenue, Sorrento. Tel: 447 0364. Secretary: J.W. Care, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman. Tel: 332 7050. Meetings held on second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am at Anzac Club.

2/3RD FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Address for Correspondence: 1 Kitchener Road, Melville, 6156. President: H.G. Ferrier, 18 Victoria Avenue, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 384 5573. Secretary: Mr M. Davison, 1 Kitchener Road, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 3033. Meetings: Second Wednesday every month, Anzac House, 11.00 a.m.

3/3RD LT.A.A. REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
(W.A. BRANCH)

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

2/4TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: P.R. Tomkins, 2 Deviling Place, Morley. Tel: 276 8514. Secretary: C.J. McPherson, 24 Rosmead Avenue, Beechboro 6083. Tel: 279 9838. Meetings House, third Tuesday each month 10am.
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2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION  
President: A. Jamieson, 53 Valencia Avenue, Churchlands. Tel: 446 1548. Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Marradong Street, Coolbinia. Tel: 444 1927. Details of meetings — contact Secretary.

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION  
President: W. Walker, 11 Packham Road, Hamilton Hill 6163. Tel: 418 1548. Secretary: G.G. McKenzie, ED, JP, 681 Karrinyup Road, Stirling 6021. Treasurer: C.E. Ingram, Unit 3-54 Federal Street, Tuart Hill. Tel: 344 7949. Editor-Pigeon Post: M.J. Jarvis, 432 Cambridge Street, Floreat Park, 6014. Tel: 387 4419. Committee meets first Wednesday each month at Anzac House at 1130a.m.

2/28TH BATTALION - 24TH ANTI-TANK COY  
President: F. Warner, 85 Dyson Street, South Perth 6151. Tel: 367 1169. Secretary: Mr W.A. Carlton, 190 Coode Street, Como, 6152. Tel: 367 4016. Annual Reunion: To be advised.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)  
President: F.J. (Fenton) Smith, 184 Shaftesbury Avenue, Bedford 6052. Tel: 271 6492. Secretary/Treasurer: Col. Edmiston, 54 St Andrews Way, Duncraig 6023. Tel: 447 7984.

7 ARMY TROOPS COY RAE ASSOCIATION  
President: Neil Durston, 17 Berkeley Crescent, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 2205. Secretary: Jack Benari, C/- 38 Roebuck Drive, Manning, 6152. Tel: 450 3876. Annual Reunion, last Friday of September. About 60 attend each year. Past members most welcome.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF  
Meets socially first and third Friday each month, Anzac Club, 12.00pm. 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.

11TH & 2/11TH AIF BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION  
President: L. Sullivan, Unit 189 Mustang House, A.F.M. Estate, Bull Creek 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, 805 Wellington Street, Perth, 1st floor.

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOCIATION  
For enquires contact — President: Lt Col O.R. Videar, 23 Halley Street, Innaloo 6018. Tel: 446 6304. Secretary: Ron Hutchings, 21 Melbourne Way, Morley 6062. Tel: 276 3159. Regular meetings held at 150 Harbourne Street, Wembley.

15TH BATTALION (THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION OF WA)  
President: Mr Phil Samuels, 9 Clanmel Road, Floreat 6014. Secretary: Lt. Col. J.W. Richardson, RFD, ED (Rtd), 6 Isaac Street, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 5404. Annual Dinner and three socials as advised.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION  
Committee meets when called. Annual Reunion on advice. President: R. Collins, 134 Roseberry Street, Bedford. Tel: 271 4448.

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION  
President: D. McLean, Unit 2/50 Endeavour Avenue, Bull Creek 6155. Secretary: T.H. Easom, 588 Marmion Street, Booragoon 6154. Tel: 330 7387. Meetings and luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East at 11.30am on the third Monday of each month.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA)  
President: W.E.M. (Gerry) Bateman, DFC, 221 South Terrace, Como 6152. Tel: 367 3063. Secretary: N.B. Johnson, 63 Kirwan Street, Floreat Park 6014. Tel: 387 4229. Treasurer: T.R. Gallop, 19 Felstead Crescent, Hamersley 6022. Tel: 447 4037. Meetings are held four times a year.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
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