WA Minister visits Benghazi War Cemetery

ERNIE BRIDGE, JP, MLA, the Minister for Agriculture, Water Resources and the North West, during a recent official visit to Libya took time out to visit the Benghazi War Cemetery — his report is inside this issue.

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"YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTA"

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This popular programme is guaranteed to you as an RSL member, and also to your spouse; and, if both of you decide to apply, you will each receive a premium discount — each and every month! Thousands of RSL wives are currently protected by the Cash Accident Programme as more and more members come to appreciate the value of full cover for both husband and wife.

RSL members under age 50 also qualify for extensive benefits under their own exclusive plan.

Thousands of dollars in benefits are paid to RSL members each year under this programme; and, of the many RSL members who have taken advantage of this protection, those who have had the need to make a claim will attest to the easy and efficient claim service.

Please note that enrolment is open for a limited time only. To apply, members need only complete the enrolment form which they will receive in the post and return it before the enrolment deadline. Note that there is no need to send money with your enrolment. The RSL has arranged for a period of free cover, allowing members to carefully examine their policy before committing any payment at all.

This service has been of enormous value to RSL members, and we urge you all to consider it carefully. If you have any questions regarding this official RSL Insurance Programme, please call the RSL Member Service Line at Oceanic Life on Freecall 008 022 566.

Anzac Day 1991

When I woke up this morning I looked out the window. It promised to be a perfect day. Just right for marching. Not that I looked forward to marching, for my legs aren't what they used to be. It is not only the marching that makes you tired, it is the standing around waiting to march off which takes it out of you. And you have to be early otherwise you may have trouble finding a parking spot.

At last we marched off, 25 of us. People were cheering, children were waving flags and I tried to smile but my legs were aching. We were late arriving at the Esplanade. I'm sure some people were saying, "Why didn't they walk a bit faster and arrive on time?" We tried dear people, we tried very hard. A girl guide handed me a programme. I glanced at it: Hymn (stand), Prayer (stand), In Memoriam (sit), Last Post (stand), Address (sit), National Anthem (stand): Up-down-up-down, my body doesn't deserve that kind of punishment.

After the service the march-past commenced, but we had to wait 45 minutes before it was our turn. We passed the official dais. Eyes right! I saw some familiar faces amongst the distinguished guests. They applauded and smiled. I couldn't raise a smile, I could hardly raise my arm trying to hold up our banner. We turned left into Barrack Street. Thank God, only about 200 metres to go. After that, no more marching for me, I thought. Not next year, not the years after. Next year I'll go to the club, like some other members do, watch the parade on TV with an icy-cold glass of beer in my hand. It was then I saw the lady. She was standing on the median strip. She didn't wave a flag, didn't even smile, but she held up a piece of paper, and written on that piece of paper were the words: "Thank you for us living in freedom". All of a sudden all my aches and pains were gone. Dear lady, God willing, I'll be marching again next year.

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A VISIT TO BENGHAZI

In July I made an official visit to Libya to inspect their US$258 million project to pipe water from under the Sahara, hundreds of kilometres north to their major coastal cities.

Prior to departure, contact was made with the Australian War Graves office as I wanted to take the opportunity to visit at least one of the several allied war cemeteries in that country.

I am pleased to advise that I visited the Benghazi War Cemetery which is 6km from the centre of Benghazi. There are some 1238 known and unknown graves of which 54 are Australian. (Over half the servicemen buried at Benghazi are from the United Kingdom; with over a dozen other allied nations also being represented).

The Australian War Graves Office stated that with respect to the cemetery's condition, some gardening and structural difficulties have been experienced in the past.

However, they said this problem was now being corrected with reparation work well advanced.

I am delighted to confirm that the condition of the Benghazi cemetery is quickly on the improve, and that all that appeared to be lacking was some much needed rain.

I placed a wreath at the memorial and found my visit to the grave site to be most moving and memorable.

I will pass on to the War Graves Office my impressions of the cemetery and its surrounds.

ERNIE BRIDGE, JP, MLA
Minister for Agriculture,
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People who die intestate, that is without a Will, have their estate divided according to law.

The process could take months or even years and some family members may not get the money they need to live.

For example, if a husband dies, the wife will only receive the whole of the estate if there are no children, his parents are deceased and he had no living brothers, sisters, nieces or nephews. It is not uncommon for the wife to have to sell the family home in order to pay other family members their share of the estate. The best time to make a Will is now, while you are physically capable and have your full faculties. Making a Will will give you the peace of mind of knowing:

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Problems occur when the interpretation of the Will is not clear and it is necessary to obtain legal opinion. This is both time consuming and costly.

If you have any questions regarding the making of Wills please phone the Public Trustee's Will Making Service on 222 6758 or 222 6759.
ADDRESS BY BRIGADIER ALF GARLAND, AM (RL) 
AT W.A. STATE CONGRESS 1991

In a public statement on 24 April 1989 the Prime Minister Mr Bob Hawke said: "I want to make quite clear my Government's complete determination to ensure that, as the health care needs of veterans change over the years they continue to get the best. The Veterans' Affairs Minister, Mr Ben Humphreys, and I have guaranteed on a number of occasions that:

(a) no Repatriation General Hospitals will be transferred to a State until a satisfactory agreement has been reached on matters such as priority of access and quality of health care for veterans and war widows and unless the interests of the hospital staff have been adequately safeguarded.

(b) no final decision will be taken if the RSL has reasonable cause for dissatisfaction with the proposed arrangements, and I repeat that particular section again, no final decision will be taken if the RSL, (he didn't say the ex-service community, he said the RSL) has reasonable cause for dissatisfaction with the proposed arrangements."

He then went on to say: "There is nothing equivocal about these guarantees, and there is no secret agenda." Nothing equivocal, no secret agenda! He made the same statement to a group of people at Repatriation Hospital Concord on 7 March 1990. Again, no transfer unless satisfactory arrangements have been made for priority of access and quality of health care. No final decision if the RSL had reasonable cause for dissatisfaction with the proposed arrangements.

It is with some concern, and a great deal of anger I might say, that I read in a letter from the Minister Ben Humphreys to a Mr Riggall (who is the Member for MacMillan in Victoria) in reply to a speech that was made by Mr Riggall in the House based on a letter which he had received from Mr Evans, the Secretary of the Latrobe Valley Ex-POWs, where he raised these particular issues and said: "Mr Minister, why have you not continued to promote what the Prime Minister and you have said?" And the Minister said: "The guarantees that Mr Evans mentions were first given in my Press Release on 14 August 1988. Those guarantees being priority of access, quality of health care, no hand over of Repatriation Hospitals if there was reasonable cause for concern by the RSL."

"However, some members of the ex-service community, particularly the RSL, are misinterpreting the assurances given to the RSL. That quote, the Government would not proceed if the RSL had reasonable cause for dissatisfaction with the proposed arrangements, upquote. And this has caused some unnecessary concern. Whilst the Government is certainly prepared to listen to the views of the RSL and other ex-service organisations, to expect the Government to act upon the RSL's views which are not related to health care, and not reflecting the needs of the ex-service population, is clearly not appropriate. It is unrealistic to expect that Government policy can be subject to outright veto by an external organisation such as the RSL regardless of the relevance of their arguments."

What a statement of duplicity the Minister made on that particular occasion. I also highlight the duplicity of Bob Hawke and his statement of promises. Keating knows all about duplicity, and now it appears that the same duplicity is being perpetrated on the RSL, and indeed the ex-service community.

I repeat the Prime Minister's statement that "that there is nothing equivocal about these guarantees and there is no secret agenda." We now have, on 2 May 1991, the Minister saying, forget about that. Those were not guarantees. Those were not promises. We're not going to take any issue or notice if it conflicts with what we believe should happen in relation to the Repatriation Hospitals integration system.

Well, the RSL, over the years, has been used to dealing with people who have honesty, integrity, and truthfulness in the proposals that they put forward. We have also always given that same sort of treatment back again. We therefore expect, in this day and age 1991, to get the same degree of honesty, integrity and truthfulness from those people in Government who are responsible for making the statements that they would consult with and, if the RSL had cause for concern, and there are such concerns, would listen to them and the proposal for integration would not go ahead.

Now, I ask, what sort of a Government and what sort of a Prime Minister do we have? Do they have integrity and honesty as we expect of them? Or will they renege on the promises that we have been given, and freely given to the RSL? There is no pressure placed on the Minister or the Prime Minister to come up and say, we will not process this particular proposal if the RSL has reasonable cause for concern. That was a decision that was taken by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, not the RSL. There is no secret agenda. There is nothing equivocal about these guarantees that we have given.

We expect that the Prime Minister and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Government would do those things which have been accepted by the Parliament over the years. That they acknowledge the great debt owed by Australians to the ex-service community. I would say again that if those guarantees were fair dinkum or not fair dinkum in the first place, why garnish them with the statement that there was nothing equivocal about the guarantees and there was no secret agenda.
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I would like to see the Prime Minister and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs come good with the promises that they have made and not do another Keating or another Kirribilli on us. I must also say that the Minister and the Commission should take no comfort from the agreement that was passed by the State of New South Wales at their last State Congress. Let me read exactly what that says: "That the State Branch policy on the matter of transfer of the Repatriation Hospital Concorde to the State health system be altered so as to accept the principal of such transfer, subject to satisfactory acceptance of the guarantees of priority of access for veterans and war widows to hospitalisation in the State and Private health hospitals and satisfactory arrangements between State and Federal Governments."

I have now been around and spoken to every State Health Minister in the country, except the Minister in Western Australia. Each and every one of them has said that they do not wish to take over your Repatriation Hospitals, as they cannot afford them in the first instance. They cannot guarantee you the same degree of health care as you are currently getting. They will give you the best that they can, but they cannot guarantee that you will get the same standard of health care that you are able to get out of your Repatriation system.

As I understand it, a formal proposal has not yet been made to any State to take over the Repatriation hospitals. If there has, it has been done within the last week or 10 days. But I have now spoken to the Minister in Queensland, to the Minister in New South Wales, to the Minister in the ACT, to the Minister in Tasmania and the Minister in South Australia. They have all given me the same story. It has got nothing to do with Party politics but everything to do with dollars and cents, and Federal versus State issues.

To my way of thinking it is a very important issue when you are given a promise, a guarantee, that you live up to that guarantee. If they don't live up to that guarantee, then I suggest we have other action we are going to take. It might take 18 months or two years for that action to be implemented but we will remember. We will remember very well at the ballot box those people who made promises to the ex-service community and did not keep them.

Your Vice President said there are still a significantly large number of ex-servicemen and women and their dependents in the community, probably something in the vicinity of 1.5 million people of voting age. This represents a significant percentage of the Australian voting community, and the Government needs to take account of the fact that if they do reneg on the promises they have made on this particular issue, the response by the ex-service community may well be reflected in the ballot box the next time we go to a Federal election.

Thank you very much for being patient and listening to me, but I felt that this message needed to be put, and I would hope that the President of the Commission will take back to the Minister the fact that we are dissatisfied and that we expect him to live up to the promises that he made and those that were made by his Prime Minister.

ANZAC AWARD

The Hon. Graham C. Edwards MLC, a West Australian, was one of the six recipients of the Anzac Award in 1990.

Born in Kalgoorlie in 1946, Graham Edwards was educated at St John's Convent Scarborough, CBC Perth and the Leederville Technical College.

He served in the Regular Army for three years and saw active service in Vietnam as a member of Pioneer Platoon, 7th Battalion RAR. He lost both legs in a land mine blast while serving in Vietnam.

Following his discharge from the Army, he worked as an officer in the Department of Defence, Veterans' Affairs and Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, and served three years as a councillor of the City of Stirling. He was elected to the Legislative Council of the WA Parliament in 1983, and became the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Parliamentary Secretary in 1987. In 1989 he headed the portfolio of Racing and Gaming, and in 1990 he was appointed Minister for Police, Emergency Services and The Aged. Graham and his wife Noelene have two daughters, Kerry and Jaynie.

Graham is a tireless advocate for increasing opportunities for the disadvantaged. He received his award for his tireless service to the Vietnam Veteran community and the disabled, and in setting an outstanding example of triumph over adversity.
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THE MERITORIOUS MEDAL

In 1982, the National Congress of the League approved the award of the Meritorious Medal to persons already holding Life Membership, who had 30 years of continuous membership and 25 years of outstanding service to the community and their fellow man. Twenty medals were to be issued annually.

The medal is worn on the right breast and displayed whenever service decorations are worn, or on official RSL duties or at RSL official functions. A miniature medal and a lapel badge have also been produced. Both insignia are of gold-plated silver and are accompanied by a Certificate.

The first awards of the Meritorious Medal were made in September 1983. This year four West Australians received the award.

Mrs Dorothy Joan Dowson, MBE

Mrs Dowson saw overseas service in the Middle East as a member of the VAD attached to 2/7th AGH. On her return to Australia she transferred to the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and was posted in 1942 to 2/5th AGH Port Moresby. She returned to Australia in 1944 and joined the Australian Red Cross as a field officer.

Mrs Dowson joined the RSL in 1945. She was a foundation member of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch in 1948, and has held various offices in the sub-branch. She was its President from 1971 to 1974 and was elected for a second time in 1990.

Mr Percy Pearson, CMG, OBE

Mr Percy Pearson's contributions to the League are far too numerous to mention in detail in this brief resume.

Educated in Perth, he subsequently became a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, a Fellow of the Institute of Sales and Marketing Executives, and an Associate of the Market Research Society of Australia.

Mr Pearson joined the Australian Army in 1940 and served in Australia and Morotai during the Borneo Campaign. After the war he served in the CMF from 1947 to 1955.

He joined the League in 1947 and, since then, has served continuously. He is a member of the Highgate Sub-Branch having served over 20 years as a committee member and Sub-Branch President. In May 1957 he was elected to the State Executive and was State President from 1965 to 1975. He is presently a Trustee of this State Branch and has held that position for many years. He was awarded Life Membership and the OBE in 1971, and the CMG in 1975 for his services to the ex-service and general community. He was State Commissioner for the Australian Forces Overseas Fund from 25 September 1967 to 1 August 1975.

Mr Howard M. Grafton

Mr Howard Grafton joined the League in 1945 as a member of the NE Fremantle Sub-Branch. Since 1966, he has been a member of the Scarborough Sub-Branch, where has has served in many appointments, including 18 years as the Secretary and two years as President.

Mr Grafton has given exceptional service to his sub-branch and the League and has been a driving force in every facet of its welfare and social undertakings. He has gone out of his way to be of assistance to members and promote the cause of the veteran, and he is well-known for his commitment to youth and youth affairs.
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The Meritorious Medal .. Cont.

Mr George Raynor Hayhow
Mr Hayhow joined the League in 1946 and has been an active and conscientious member of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch since that date. He has been actively involved in all sub-branch undertakings and has held various appointments including the Presidency, which he has held since 1978. He was the Country Vice President for the Eastern Goldfields Region from 1978 to 1985 and introduced a number of initiatives to encourage ex-servicemen to join the League and improve the League's standing in the community.

Mr Hayhow was awarded Life Membership in 1983 and by his efforts and achievements is a worthy recipient of this award.

THE STATE EXECUTIVE

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Matching 2 seater also available.

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Infinitely adjustable back position, with extra release lever for ease of operation.
W.A. Veterans' Home Building Appeal Donations to 31 July 1991

State President Jim Hall thanks the following donors whose contributions have brought the total to $129,000. There is still a long way to go and he hopes that more sub-branches will respond.

### RSL SUB-BRANCHES

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Listening Post — Spring 1991 — Page 17
ROOF COATINGS
GUARANTEED FOR 15 YEARS
Cement Tile Roofs

Cement tile roofs over 10 years of age often show signs of considerable deterioration including broken and cracked tiles, loose and cracked capping and loss of colour. This can allow moisture to enter as well as detracting considerably from the appearance of the home. P.B. Coatings have developed a process to rejuvenate and recolour cement tiles that is guaranteed for 15 years.

Firstly all broken and cracked tiles are replaced using matched tiles. These are taken from P.B. Coating's huge stock of second hand tiles. The roof is then high pressure water cleaned to remove all moss, dirt and oxidised paint etc. All the ridges and hips are then completely ressealed using a flexible latex-sealant mixed into the cement. All the valleys and flashings are checked and renovated as required to stop all leaks. The gutters and downpipes are completely cleaned out, and if required these can be repaired or replaced. Finally, two coats of the vinyl latex protective roofcoating are applied over the entire roof. This is a similar coating to the one used on the iron roofs by P.B. Coatings. It has been specially formulated for the harsh W.A. conditions and includes an ultraviolet light inhibitor and natural rock oxides are used for the colour. The coating has a life expectancy in excess of 20 years and is backed up with a 15 year written guarantee.

IRON ROOFS

P.B. Coatings has developed a method of restoring and colouring iron roofs which is superior to the old peeling method. This involves not only colouring the roof but a total roof restoration.

Firstly all the rusted and badly distressed areas are replaced using matching metal sheeting. This has the advantage of the corrugations matching and there is no metal reaction which can occur if zinc and galvanised sheets are mixed.

Then all the lifting sheets at the sides are secured with stitching screws. This means you will never need to worry about lifting sheets again.

CLAY ROOFS

Lichen which holds dirt particles drinking water and damages the surface of clay tiles can be removed by P.B. Coatings. All broken and cracked tiles are replaced. All ridges and hips are ressealed using a flexible compound to avoid further cracking.

If required a waterproof sealant can then be applied over the roof.

ROOFS

Rising damp cured, 15 year guarantee

Rising damp is a problem with every house in W.A. The coating completely damps down existing damp and is backed up with a 15 year guarantee.

ROOF and WALL COATINGS
15 YEAR GUARANTEE

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  Roofed, Coloured and Sealed
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1991
The Review as announced by the Minister for Defence, Senator Ray, on 30 May 1991, is another disaster in the development of Australian defence policy. It has nothing to do with what is required to provide adequate defence structure to protect Australia's national integrity, but everything to do with what defence policy can be obtained by spending 2.3% of GDP or even less.

The argument that because of the state of the Australian economy no more funds can be made available on defence spending, should be rejected on grounds that it is a matter of political priorities set against other demands e.g. social services, health, education, etc. The R&SL must fight much harder for defence to gain a higher priority.
“The RSL Cash Accident Programme continues to provide the comprehensive protection RSL members are looking for.”

RSL members from right across Australia tell us it’s the security, low price and the money-back guarantee that convinced them to enrol in this exclusive RSL programme.

"It is essential that returned service men and women help one another as best we can. The benefits are extensive for a comparatively small outlay — security is ensured as well."

Mr W.A. Proposch
Cheltenham, Victoria.

I enrolled in the RSL Cash Accident Programme because "I can now rest easy. If I am injured, I have peace of mind knowing that I am covered."

Mr William Anderson
Leichhardt, Tasmania.

"After deep consideration on the pros and cons of the programme, I was impressed by the comprehensive cover, the low premium, and the fact that I could be covered for a lifetime."

Mr Edward O’Gall Proserpine, Queensland.

"My wife is an ex-service woman and I thought that it would be a good idea to have some form of insurance."

Mr Charles J. Milford
Osborne, S.A.

"It supports the RSL Movement and also at the same time gives the needed coverage that I feel we require."

Mr R. Hindmarsh
C Concern, N.S.W.

I enrolled in the RSL Cash Accident Programme because "a financial benefit where I was not insured for a reasonable premium and with a refund benefit."

Mr Harold Parker
Cheerio, A.C.T.

"My wife and I started the policy and thought it was a good value because of the volume of traffic on the road today. I will say my wife thinking of joining us will be worth it as well a great service."

T.E. Smith
Noble Park, Victoria.

Most appealing to me was the savings and the fact that we were covered for a lifetime."

Joseph R. Bellamy
Kambah, A.C.T.

"The first period of cover without cost helped us to decide to enrol plus the fact that if after a ten year period without a claim we have a five-tenth return of premium."

K.J. Floyd
North Beach, W.A.

The features that most appealed to me were: "reasonable cost, no claim bonus. The bonus is where most accident cover and as a person who is not an典型 owner, one is more prone to slips and falls in day-to-day life."

Philips W. Wannang:
Mannum, A.C.T.

"I consider it to be an excellent programme. Because it covers almost all eventualities for an extremely low premium. I know of another insurance policy which covers so much."

Mr Bruce J. Weir
North Coates, W.A.

The RSL 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 secure for this essential cover now.

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Defence Issues .. Cont.

Much comment has been made of the Ready Reserve Program which has many desirable features; however, whether regular service personnel leaving the ADF, very often completely frustrated with their conditions of service, would be prepared to further military careers in the Ready Reserve is open to question as is the likelihood of employers in the private sector granting the generous leave required to fulfill the training commitments outlined.

As already widely commented, the creation of the Ready Reserve provides a third tier in the defence force structure and is bound to cause considerable disquiet in the existing Reserves who have always been starved of resources.

It should be said that there is no shortage of young people prepared to join Reserve forces but they will not be retained when the units are almost continually starved of funds for adequate training and equipment. Indeed the Australian military tradition has been largely created by the performance of its citizen soldiers.

The civilianisation of the ADF is a desirable goal providing the combat units are not put in the position of having their readiness compromised by union intractability. Wrigley shows a dreadful lack of understanding of industrial relations practice in his report, as he does on many other aspects of military affairs. The simple fact is that many big Australian unions have an appalling record of disruption in time of war, and this factor should not be ignored when contracting out duties presently carried out by people in uniform.

This is not to say that wherever possible the non-combat elements of all three services should be realised, because it is abundantly clear that there has been far too long a tail to the detriment of the combat units. This brings into serious question how good has the management been of the Army, Navy and Air Force?

There is obviously a great deal of Wrigley influence in the Force Structure Review and he makes much of the alienation between the ADF and civilian community. There is a measure of truth in this claim but the reasons for it are almost totally self-inflicted as is so much in Australia's problem areas.

The causes of this situation might be summarised as follows:

The lack of political direction and leadership by successive Federal Governments on defence policy issues.

The anti-Vietnam campaign sponsored by left wing unions, academics and politicians which drew in other peripheral groups.

The sponsorship of peace studies in schools throughout Australia which are largely government funded and have had a profound effect on young people's minds in the last decade. We are funding the subversion of our own people.

The withdrawal by Service Leaders of funding for school cadets in 1975 on the pretext that the $12m then spent could be better used in the ADF. This was a short-sighted and utterly stupid decision.

Whatever lack of support there is in the general community for defence policy initiatives is all the more tragic considering the enormous military heritage and tradition Australia has created in the wars of this century and particularly during the two world wars.

CONCLUSION

There is an urgent need for the defence planners in this country to get back to the basics, which are — what defence forces and reserves do we require to safeguard our national security and what is that going to cost?

The end of the Cold War has provided a level of stability in Super Power relations but in some respects the world is becoming less stable. Political instability is increasing in the republics of the USSR, in some parts of Asia, and in the religious evangelism of Islam and Judaism, to name just a few areas of concern.

It is essential that Australia maintains a credible defence deterrent not only for itself but where needed for operations in other trouble zones. Events in recent years in Fiji, New Guinea, Pacific Islands and the Gulf have revealed the poor state of readiness and mobility of the ADF.

It seems incredible that so much of the input into the Force Structure debate is provided by academics and bureaucrats with no military experience at all.

Whilst there is obviously considerable value in the contribution of these people, because as history has shown, the military mind is by no means infallible on military matters, surely the substance of force structure is, in the end, a military matter.

This requires not only a highly professional approach by our military leaders but also a decision making process that is designed for the overall good of Australian defence strategy with a minimum of inter-service rivalry for a share of the all-too-small cake to be divided.

PETER FIRKINS
Chairman, Defence Committee

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Listening Post — Spring 1991 — Page 21
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WOMEN IN UNIFORM

This November will see the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Women's Army Service.

In World War II, 57 West Australians were among the 386 members of the Australian Women's Army Service who left Australian shores bound for New Guinea. Many thousands had applied and those who were chosen considered themselves fortunate indeed. Until then, nurses were the only females to have served overseas.

They came from all States to train in Queensland: at Fraser's Paddock, Enoggera (now the site of the University of Queensland), St. Lucia or Indooroopilly. Normal uniforms were put into storage and the girls were issued with a light-weight poplin jacket, trousers worn with gaiters and boots, a digger's slouch hat (worn turned down all round), gas cape, which in some cases reached the ground: ideal wearing apparel for outside entertainment, such as picture shows and concerts. Along with these came the old "tin hat" and ground-sheet, and the army issue bloomers. These had to be seen to be believed, khaki in colour and not at all what one could term feminine. At least they were the cause of a fair amount of hilarity.

Eventually, on church parade one morning, we were told we were on draft and all leave was cancelled. The church service held at the Cathedral will no doubt stand out in the minds of every girl who went away. The singing of the hymn " For Those in Peril on the Sea" was a very moving moment for all present.

On 2 May 1945 at noon, the first contingent sailed from Newstead Wharf on board the 'Duntroon'. None had slept the night before and excitement was at fever pitch. As the ship sailed toward New Guinea and the Australian coastline slipped from view, the same thought passed through the minds of everyone on board, as it had no doubt passed through the minds of thousands of troops before them — Will we ever see our homeland again?

The Duntroon had previously been a troop ship for at least three years and before that an interstate passenger ship and coastal cargo vessel. Four war ships accompanied us on our journey in case of enemy bombing.

Ship life was cramped but not unpleasant. When one is young, (the average age was early twenties) it is easy to find humour and pleasure in many things. The weather was kind and the moonlit nights lent themselves more to a pleasure cruise than a wartime trip. It wasn't hard to forget the war at such a time, it all seemed so far away. Community singing was one way of passing the time and of course writing letters home.

One dark and very rainy night, the Duntroon weighed anchor at the mouth of the Markham River to await the dawn which, when it came, brought no relief from the torrents of rain. The wharf at Milford Haven, Lae, had been swept away by the flooded river. How to disembark more than 300 females became the immediate problem. It was solved by the decision to first take us by pontoon, provided by the Americans, on to barges provided by the Australians and when this was accomplished, by trucks which were standing in readiness to our destination — the AWAS Army barracks in Butibum Road, Lae.

The compound consisted of huts with wooden floors and thatched roofs. The walls were different to the usual type with sections slanting outward in three levels covered by flywire to protect us from the dreaded anopheles mosquito. The beds were camp stretchers with a blanket on which to lie and a mosquito net attached to rafters by the four corners. There were 22 girls to each hut including two NCO's.

There was also a recreation hut, kitchen, officers' mess and other ranks' mess. An ablution block provided showers and laundry. Snakes were plentiful. One person was seen, trousers at half-mast, racing across the compound screaming "snake, snake". A snake had curled itself under the


After five weeks' training, excitement, anticipation and patriotism ran high. They had been told they were relieving men to fight in the front line.

This then is just one person's memories of the Lae Contingent of Women.

In March, 1945 we were given pre-embarkation leave but not long enough to visit our homes scattered throughout Australia, for one last farewell.
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lid of the one of the toilets. Rats also were quite a feature of life in Lae, often playing in the rafters, much to the chagrin of one and all.

Shyness became a thing of the past. If one waited for privacy, a shower would have been out of the question. The routine was to wait, partially clad, for someone to come out of the shower and before anyone could steal your position, to shoot in as fast as you could. After showers came the daily atebrin parade (when tablets were issued to ward off malaria) and then breakfast. In the heat of the tropics, the normal Aussie breakfast was a thing of the past. In Lae it usually consisted of bread (which at least was fresh as it was made daily) and tropical spread in place of butter...Yuk. Dehydrated eggs, once again Yuk. many preferred to toast bread by the open fires used for heating the water. Dripping was a far better substitute than tropical spread. Dried milk was also on the menu.

Dates with the opposite sex were a little unusual, in that AWAS personnel were only permitted to leave the compound in groups of six or more and then only if accompanied by soldiers carrying firearms. We were signed for when we were taken out, and they signed us in when we returned!

There was a canteen from which we were issued two bottles of beer and 100 cigarettes per week. After a while the two bottles of beer could be issued only if the tops were removed, as some of the more enterprising girls had been discovered selling their issue to the men. Not many bothered to collect their ration after that as it all seemed pointless. There were no tables and chairs where one could sit in reasonable comfort in the canteen, and trying to save the beer for a party at some later date was impossible.

A W.A.S. Western Australians — Mary Moloney, Nina O’Connell, Joan Smith, Bing Hussey, Joan Reeves. The ‘gas cape patrol’.

Although the Japanese had left the area, there was still evidence of their occupation, such as a Japanese ship wrecked on Butibum beach where we swam, along with tunnels dotting the landscape. Butibum beach, unlike our white sands in Australia, consisted of fine black sand, which although not...
Traveland ANZ and Ya'lla Tours (experts in Middle East touring) have joined together to release an Australian heritage tour visiting Turkey, Israel and Egypt. Departure from Australia is 22nd April 1992 and visiting Gallipoli on Anzac Day. Other places to be visited during the 28 day tour are Kusadasi, Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias, The Dead Sea, Jerusalem, Cairo (including a 4 night cruise on the Nile) and Alexandria. Many military battlegrounds, museums and cemeteries of interest are included along the way.

The all inclusive cost, including air fares, first class accommodation, touring by air conditioned bus, the Nile Cruise and most meals is $8940.00. The tour will also be fully escorted from Australia together with local guides at each destination. This will be a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to be part of such an interesting holiday.

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Women In Uniform ... Cont.
dirty, clung to the legs and body and was very
difficult to remove. The colour of the sand was
caused by the amount of mica contained therein.

Moonlight over Salamaua.

Females serving with the AWAS in New Guinea
were given one week’s R & R, on an island called
Salamaua. The waters on the ocean side were so
infested with sharks, that we were permitted to swim
only in the bay. We didn’t complain as we hadn’t
come all this way to become shark fodder. Here
again was evidence of Japanese occupation, as the
whole island was a mass of foxholes.

Fuzzie Wuzzie - Angels (New Guinea Natives) helping with the
unloading at Canteen Bulk Store.

The New Guinea natives, known as “Fuzzie
Wuzzie Angels” because of their assistance to our
troops in fighting the Japanese and often acting as
stretcher bearers, were very friendly and almost
childlike in those days. In 1945 white people were
still quite a novelty and respected by most of the
natives. Education had not yet caught up with them,
unlike today when many are very well educated and
in some cases have university degrees.

The Japanese prisoners were treated like animals
in a zoo. We would walk up and down the compound
in which they were imprisoned, staring and talking
about them as though they were sub-human. Of
course that is how we saw them in 1945, which is
quite understandable. What did we know about
Japanese people? Most of us had never seen one ...
and they were the enemy.

On 15 August 1945 came the news that the war
was over — peace had been declared and we would
soon be going home. This, however, didn’t take
place until March 1946. We came home in two drafts,
one aboard the Marella which, due to a shortage of
fuel, had to put into Gladstone where those on
board devoured everything in sight. We came home
aboard the Canberra which made a stop at Bowen. A
cyclone had hit the town the day before, but the
damage it did was nothing compared to that done to
the food supply by the hundreds of troops who
came swarming off the Canberra. To say they were
not prepared for the onslaught would be putting it
mildly. Fresh food was what we had long dreamed
of.

I remember the days in New Guinea and the
friends I made with great fondness, and as 1
October 1991 is the 50th anniversary of the
formation of the Australian Women’s Army Service,
I felt it necessary to put pen to paper and recount
this incident in the history of the Service.

A book called “Women Making History” and
published by Boolarong Publications in
Queensland was written for the Lae contingent of

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

HOSPITAL INTEGRATION

Following is a letter from Mr G.C. Collins, Chief Executive Officer, RGH Hollywood concerning the handover of our hospital.

"RGH Hollywood will not be merging with the Sir Charles Gairdner or any other Hospital in November.

The claims published by a newspaper are completely without substance as are any ill-informed rumours about such a merger.

There are no merger plans.

The facts are:

- The Commonwealth Government is committed to the integration of RGH Hollywood with the State health system by mid 1995.
- As yet there have been no negotiations on the proposed integration between the Commonwealth and State Governments, including its agencies such as the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Such negotiations are subject to an embargo under an agreement between the State Government and the R&SL.
- A fundamental reason behind the integration proposal is to assist in ensuring the RGHs continue as viable acute care hospitals in the face of the declining size of the veteran treatment population, who will be offered access to qualify acute care under the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme.
- Under these circumstances it is not in the long term interest of either the Hospital or the veteran community for negotiations on integration to be continually stalled. Sound strategic planning and the well-being of the staff would best be served if there was the capacity to establish an agreed future role for the Hospital. The present embargo prevents such agreement being reached.
- The Hospital's Executive is presently considering ways in which the Hospital itself might develop ideas about its future direction, especially how the Hospital might serve the wider community post-integration.

Should you have any further questions about the above, please contact David Haddow.

WARD 17 — RGH HOLLYWOOD

After receiving a complaint in 1989, members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee visited Ward 17 (Aged and Extended Care Unit) and were appalled at the ward's deteriorating conditions through lack of funding.

Representation from the R&SL was made to local Members of Parliament, as well as the Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

A decision has now finally been made to commence work on refurbishing Ward 17 early in September with a completion date expected to be in March 1992.

Refurbishing plans will provide a new nursing base and dispensary, plus 24 beds in single, double and four-bed rooms; each room will have its own ensuite toilet and shower.

The cost for this upgrading is estimated to be approximately $480,000.

DEFENCE SEMINAR

NOTICE OF A MATTER OF DEFENCE CONCERN, BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION THROUGH THE DEFENCE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE R&SL (WA BRANCH)

Seminar: "Australia's Defence Forces — Restructured for Efficiency or Economy?"

This important debate is to be the subject of the annual Seminar of the United Service Institute (For Defence Studies) on Thursday 24 October 1991. The venue is 16 Battalion RWAR Study Centre, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, and the programme will commence at 5.30 pm with a buffet meal and drinks. Registration fee of $15 includes the cost of meal and drinks; all those attending will receive a copy of the proceedings at a later date.

The Seminar will start at 6.30 pm and continue to approximately 10.15 pm.

The programme will commence with a review of "Why Australia needs a Defence Force". This will be followed by presentations by Serving Officers, from each of the three Services, detailing the implications of the Government's Restructuring announcement on their Service and subsequent capabilities.

Senior retired Officers will then highlight the apparent weaknesses or deficiencies following restructuring. Employers, Trade Unionists, Reservists, Allied Country Commentators etc., will then be invited to comment before the meeting is thrown open to general questions or discussion.

The Service Commanders in WA have given the Seminar their full support, and it is hoped politicians at State and Federal level will accept invitations to attend.

Applications to attend may be made by telephoning the Secretary, USI of WA on 328 0587 (office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays only, but an answerphone is connected at all times), or to Brigadier 'Able' Dacre, at home, on 364 1393. Brigadier Dacre is a member of the R&SL Defence Policy Committee and President of the USI of WA.

This is an opportunity to inform yourself on what the Government is doing to our Defence Forces, to question those involved and to have your say.

PETER FIRKINS
Chairman
Defence Committee
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STATE CONFERENCE REPORT

Our Conference in May was well attended by delegates and observers, and guest visitors were Mrs Iris Chardon, State President, and Mrs Margaret Waters, State Secretary from South Australia.

After officially opening the Conference, R&SL State President Mr J.P. Hall thanked all Auxiliaries for their continued support of the League and then presented Mesdames N. Hawker and M. Lowe of Belmont Auxiliary and Mrs J. Bettridge from Bassendean-Guildford Auxiliary with Certificates of Merit and Gold Badges.

A cheque for $9,000 was presented to the League towards the War Veterans' Building Fund, along with $1,000 which were proceeds from the Conference trading table, and a further donation of $2,000 was given towards the upkeep of the State War Memorial.

Winner of the Country Cup was Geraldton, the Geraldton Shield was won by Mt Barker and the Tray went to Katanning; the Metropolitan Cup was won by Wanneroo, the Ames Shield went to Bassendean-Guildford and the Tray to Subiaco; Incentive Certificates were presented to Fremantle City, City of Perth, Bunbury and Collie-Cardiff.

State Executive members for 1991-92 are: State President Mrs A. Cayley, Immediate Past President Mrs J. Ford OAM (deceased), Senior Vice-President Mrs T. Taylor, Junior Vice-President Mrs R. Barrell, State Secretary Mrs M. Sullivan, State Treasurer Mrs H. Holder, Committee: Mesdames G. Rolfe BEM (Bellevue), G. McPartland, L. Ryniker, J. Bettridge (Bassendean-Guildford), E. Hains (Wembley-Floreat), M. Fisher, M. Dawe (Rivervale-Carlisle), E. Skelly, F. Crispin (Belmont), J. Southern (Nollamara-North Perth) W. Jaksich and I. Norris (City of Perth).

Auxiliaries I attended with State Executive members throughout the year were Armadale, Belmont, Bedford-Morley, Rivervale-Carlisle, Mandurah, Waroona-Hamel, Kojonup and Wanneroo where I presented Mrs Cec Bruce with Life Membership. At Bellevue, Mrs D. Challoner received a Life Membership and Mrs J. Johnson a Certificate of Service. Mrs Haines of Belmont received a Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge from Belmont RSL and Rivervale Carlisle RSL presented Mrs M. Dawe with a plaque with R&SL Badge inset.

In conclusion, my thanks to all Auxiliaries for continued co-operation and generous donations during the past year with special thanks to Mrs N. Turner and Mr T. Taylor for their help in compiling League records.

Our State Secretary Mrs Sullivan is home after major surgery and is improving day by day; we hope to see her back in Anzac House very soon.

Please don't forget our special project towards the War Veterans' Home Building Fund.

ALLISON CAYLEY
State President

REUNIONS

AWAS

The 50th Anniversary celebrations of the formation of the Australian Women's Army Service will be held over the weekend 22 to 24 November 1991.

Friday 22 — Unveiling of plaque at the WA Cricket Association Ground at 4.30pm followed by a sundowner $10.00.

Saturday 23 — Luncheon in Golden Nugget Room, WA Trotting Association at Gloucester Park commencing 11.30am $28.00

Sunday 24 — Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the War Memorial Kings Park commencing 11am followed by BYO picnic in the grounds to which families may be invited.

Tickets are available from Mrs Pat Gilchrist, 1/2 Susan Street, Maylands or Ms Ruth Franklin, 126b Basinghall Street, East Victoria Park.

Publicity Committee: Eileen Tucker 277 6065, Gladys Etheridge 244 3096, Joy Tufnell 330 3945.

118 AGH REUNION

On Sunday, 13 October 1991, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hospital at Northam, a BYO picnic lunch will be held at the BBQ area, corner Saw Avenue and May Drive, Kings Park from 11am.

All Staff — male and female; Officers and ORs and their families will be welcomed.

Contact: Sue Thomas 328 5952 or Margaret Hansen (nee Palmer) 446 4719.
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ENLISTED VAs & AAMWS ASSOCIATION

The Christmas Party will be held on Thursday 12 December 1991 from 12 noon at the Victoria League premises, 276 Onslow Road, Shenton Park.

For further information please contact the Hon. Sec. Ena McGinn on 446 3742 or the Pres. Glyn Cody on 341 3323.

MIDDLE EAST VADs 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A reunion of the Middle East VADs who left Australia in November 1941 on the Queen Mary (calling at Fremantle for the Western Australian group of 25) will be held in Sydney from 30 October to 3 November.

A reception at the Shore Hotel hosted by NSW on Wednesday 30 October will be followed the next day by a trip to Camden historic sites.

Friday 1 November — Lunch at Parliament House; evening — Reunion Dinner at Shore Hotel
Saturday 2 — Three hour harbour cruise including the site from where the Queen Mary embarked the troops.
Sunday 3 — Church Parade HMAS Watson, Watson's Bay followed by coffee in the wardroom. Lunch at Doyle's Harbourside Restaurant and an informal farewell party at Shore Hotel.

JOAN DOWSON

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

Attention all ex Gunners from the Army, Navy and Airforce, who served in World War II: 19 February 1992 will be the 50th Anniversary of the first enemy attack on Australian soil when the Japanese bombed Darwin.

A reunion of Anti-Aircraft Gunners who served in Darwin at that time will be held and transport, plus accommodation, has been arranged from WA. There are several options of travel and further bookings are available but we advise these are made immediately. All ex Anti-Aircraft Gunners (irrespective of where they served) together with their wives, relations and friends are welcome to join our members in Darwin to honour the memory of those 243 people who gave their lives on that tragic day.

In July our officials met the representative from the Northern Territory Government, Mr Peter Dermoudy, to discuss all aspects of the Commemoration; this proved very helpful.

The NSW Anti-Aircraft Association has advised that more than 100 of its members and friends will be attending.

Further information is available from Secretary Len de Grussa, phone (09) 276 7253, 43 Pitt Street, Dianella 6062. All correspondence will be acknowledged.

13TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE (AIF)

The 45th Annual Officer's Reunion Luncheon will be held at the Heritage Function Centre, 445 Charles Street, North Perth at 12.00 on Friday, 4 October 1991.

Commissioned Officers serving with the 11-16-28-44 Battalions or supporting units, prior to or during World War II, are invited to come and meet old mates. Enquiries to the Secretary, Len Mincham, phone 447 2227.

SPRINGHILL 1 DECEMBER 1991 6 CAD — 511

Army and civilian personnel, bring your family and friends back to Springhill for a day in the country: morning and afternoon teas, lunch, a bar, hay, camel and horse rides plus a jazz band. It is hoped to hold a craft-fair at the camp on the same day which could attract the services of the Hotham Valley train.

To assist with catering arrangements, etc. would those who wish to attend please contact Barry Rose, PO Box 536, Northam 6401. Phone (096) 22 3313, fax (096) 22 5123. A small charge will be made for adults and any profit will be donated to Appealathon.

A former munitions depot, Springhill was purchased by Joy and Barry Rose in 1969. After renovations, the old depot is now operating as a camp school and caters for church and social groups, cadets, sports clubs, seminars, etc. The camp, which also has a golf course, has 135 beds and groups have the option of camp catering or cooking for themselves.

Barry and Joy are interested in acquiring any memorabilia, photos, etc. that will enable them to start on a history of Springhill.

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Page 36 — Listening Post — Spring 1991
HMAS MARGUIRETE

Dear Editor,

I wonder if there are many surviving men who served on the training ship HMAS Marguirete which was sent from Sydney to WA in the early 20s to train locals for 17 days continuously. It was compulsory in those days. She had a mixed permanent crew of Australian and British sailors and was a very crowded ship. We used to paint her from stem to stern every time she came. They used to say she had more paint than plates. I can pass on a lot of stories about those days if anybody is interested.

GORDON J. PLOWMAN
Unit 4,
48 Albermarle Street,
Doubleview WA 6018
Tel: 341 1699

FORMATION OF CANUNGRA JUNGLE WARFARE SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

Late in 1942 a few soldiers were seconded from the Independent (Commando) School, Wilsons Promontory, Victoria and transferred to a place called Canungra in Queensland, where our instructions were to create and establish a training school for jungle warfare.

Although granted little help, with the exception of trucks delivering tents and food to the area, we in fact established and created what became known as Canungra Jungle Warfare School, successfully training many troops in the art of jungle combat. I created the original syllabus which was based on the ability of my colleagues' teaching expertise in various subjects. As our knowledge was purely of commando-type training, the course instruction was intense, harsh and vigorous with combative troops the object on course completion.

Colonel McDonald arrived many weeks after an appeal for help, as my assistants were physically stressed, and became the first Commanding Officer at Canungra Jungle Warfare School. With his arrival also came other Officers and NCOs for his Command Headquarters. These were followed by Officers from the Officer's Training School, Woodside, South Australia.

As no Officers or NCOs could teach the syllabus, Colonel McDonald authorised me to form an Officers and NCO Cadre, to teach the syllabus so training could be continued. I was in charge of this Cadre for 12 months prior to my transfer to RAAF aircrew training in early 1944.

The Pioneers of Jungle Warfare are obviously the forgotten men of the Canungra era and it will be difficult to locate those of us who made Canungra happen. It would be appreciated if you could assist in locating the Canungra Jungle Warfare Pioneers so that a 50th Anniversary reunion could be arranged for 1992.

R.D. COLLINS
c/- 111 Boyd Street,
Cabramatta NSW

DARWIN MEMORIAL YEAR

Dear Editor,

In Australia's capital cities, regional centres, townships and farms, awareness is growing about a unique event unfolding in the Northern Territory.

If affects many of your readers as more than 200,000 Australian served in the Territory from 1939-45.

They will have the opportunity during 1992 to participate in the Territory's war service memorial year. It ranks among the most significant steps taken in this country to both commemorate service and to educate the nation about the conflict which took place on our soil.

It is going to be a unique year. No part of Australia has ever attempted such a project because no other part of Australia has the depth of wartime heritage that the Territory possesses.

Details on the 1992 commemoration events, wartime sites which are being rehabilitated, and fares to the Territory are now available through Frontline, GPO Box 3146, Darwin, NT 0801. Tel: (089) 81 7458 Fax: (089) 89 7601.

SIR WILLIAM KEYS AC, OBE, MC
Patron of the Northern Territory's 1992 War Service Memorial Year.

A GALLIPOLI LETTER

Dear Editor,

A copy of a letter written to one of his mates by my uncle, Roy Charman, while serving during the Gallipoli Campaign may be of interest to your readers. Roy was awarded the Military Medal for his exploits but may be better remembered as a member of the Harley Davidson motor-bike club during the 1920s-1930s period along with other notables: Aub Melrose, Roy Wilkinson etc.
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Letters cont.

My father Ernie Charman (Roy’s brother) also served in France and was wounded. He was classified TPI and died at a relatively early age. My brother Ted served with the RAAF and was killed over Germany in 1944 and I served with the RAN during the Pacific Campaign on HMAS Shropshire.

J.B. CHARMAN
C/- 74 Rethinick Street, Bunbury WA 6230

Dear Guy,

Just a line at last to let you know I am back at Zeitoun again in base details, which means I am liable to be sent back to the front any time. My wounds have just about healed up, they weren’t very serious anyway. Guy old chap you’re safe where you are, don’t come here, it’s just a toss up with you when you have to charge the trench in front of you, as to whether you will get there alive or not. I’ve done it twice now and so long as I don’t get hit I’d just as soon be there as anywhere, but you realize how narrow your chance is when the chaps in front and on each side of you are dropping down like flies and still you tear on over them and barb wire galore, and at last drop down, under the earth thrown out of the Turk trench where you have a duel with the Turks at one yard range, till you get them all, when you then jump into the trench and hold it till reinforcements come. Heaven help you if you get badly wounded in between the two trenches, for the shrapnel cuts you up, as you can’t be rescued before night, and even then the fire may be too fierce to attempt a rescue. In daylight it’s almost certain death to the rescuers.

Well I’ve lessened the Turkish army by 16 men. I got into a lot of them rather accidently and opened out with above result, the poor devils must have been terror-stricken at the last. They had to pass a narrow gap in their trench, once through that and they were safe, but I had a heap of their dead piled up in the gap and they had to get over them to get past with the result that the pile got larger and they had to drag them away to get past at all in the end. They tried hard to locate me, which shouldn’t have been hard considering I am lying in full view about 10 yards off and my rifle giving forth a sheet of flame in the moonlight every time I fired. I got complimented for that little lot by our DC.

After than I was a sniper for a while, it’s good fun. I have an observer with a large telescope and when he sees a Turk looking through a loop hole, I try and put a bullet through that hole, and if I do that’s one more Turk less. They come out of their trench and make loopholes in some bushes perhaps only 60 yards in front of us and are so well hidden that they may be sniping at us for ten days or more, when the observer who is all the time searching every inch of

Dear Guy,

Just a note to let you know of a recent petty theft. Being a member of the RSL, I rang the office in Perth and they suggested I drop you a line.

I have an Australian flag on my car, which gets taken occasionally, but in my garden I have a flag pole approximately 20ft high and someone had the gall to climb over a brick wall, cut the rope and take my flag valued at $92 — so I guess they must have wanted it badly, or perhaps don’t like our flag and think they are smart. I thought this would be a spot of news for your readers.

Keep up the good work. I look forward to my Listening Posts and send them on to an old Army mate in Melbourne after I’ve read them.

M.H. CLARKE
195A Champion Drive, Kelmscott WA 6111

Dear Editor,

Though much has been written recently about the withdrawal from Crete by the British, Australian and New Zealand forces in May/June 1941, I have seen no mention of the Royal Marines.

When the order came to withdraw from the north of the island to Sphakia on the south coast, Major
Above: Major Mark Little, of Townsville, and formerly from Perth, treats a Kurdish man in northern Iraq. Major Little, an Army doctor, was a member of the Australian Operation Habitat contingent sent to the area to help provide medical care to the thousands of Kurds displaced from their homes after bitter clashes with Iraqi troops. Major Little is normally based at Lavarrack Barracks, Townsville, with 2nd Field Ambulance. The contingent returned to Australia on 30 June.

CIAO MACCHI

After 23 years as the RAAF's advanced trainer, the Italian-designed Macchi MB326H was farewelled with flair at RAAF Base Pearce, between June 21 and 23. At the centre of the festivities were members of No 2 Flying Training School, and the WA Italian community.

The two groups organised a "Ciao Festa" to farewell the popular training aircraft, which has been succeeded by the Swiss-designed PC9/A turboprop.

The programme included a series of social events and an airshow. A highlight was a race between two powerful Italian pieces of machinery — the Macchi jet and a Ferrari car. The Ferrari showed an impressive turn of speed in the early stages, but eventually fell behind the aircraft's dashing pace.

Left: In a farewell salute, Macchi aircraft from No 2 Flying Training School, led by Chief Flying Instructor, Squadron Leader Jack Plenty, fly in diamond nine formation over RAAF Pearce.
**Airforce now**

**HMAS Stuart 1963-1991**

"Special sea-dutymen close up" ... "Hands fall in for leaving harbour".

Early 1968, and from the dockside, these were the last pipes I heard on HMAS Stuart. Then the sight of the Seacat and Ikara launchers on the 'back end' as she worked her way out through the heads of Fremantle Harbour. I had just drafted off after another stint on the Strategic Reserve 'up top', which included another escort run with the troop-carrier HMAS Sydney into Vietnam waters and the inevitable Vung Tau.

The date now is 26 July 1991, and I have had the opportunity to attend HMAS Stirling, WA's premier naval establishment, at the de-commissioning ceremony of HMAS Stuart. The ceremony was originally to be held on the dock alongside the ship, but inclement weather forced the official guests and 100 or more family and friends into the gymnasium.

The official guests included representatives of the cities of Rockingham and Albany, in company with the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral D.G. MacDougall, AO, RAN.

The Commanding Officer, Commander J.R. Langsford, RAN, presented the ship's plaque to the Mayor of Albany in recognition of the way in which the city of Albany had received the ship, then spoke in glowing terms of the ship's companies past and present and the manner in which Stuart had carried out all tasks asked of her. He ended with an invitation to old hands to have a last look over her and 'touch their old bunks', an invitation that was taken up by many.

At the end of the ceremony, Commander Langsford received the White Ensign, which had been lowered on the ship for the last time.

She looks a little different now, with the early-warning radar moved from atop the forecastle to midships at deck level, (The Kiwis called us the Dinky-toy ship, likening the aerial to a key) and other superstructure changes completed during the half-life refit. But you don't easily forget how it was living in sometimes-cramped quarters, but in the best of company, for over two years.

During her career Stuart had the distinction of participating in many events, some of which included tracking the submarine detected off Sydney in the 60s, Ikara anti-submarine missile trials, first Australian warship to visit Pearl Harbour (Hawaii) since World War II, and first destroyer to be home based at HMAS Stirling (colloquially known as the WA Navy). She was also twice awarded the Gloucester Cup for efficiency, no mean feat in a navy known internationally for its high efficiency rate.

The Battle-Honours board, which had been in full view during the ceremony, is enriched by the deeds of the previous ships of the same name. Among the honours are Libya, Matapan, Crete, Greece, Calabria and New Guinea. Conspicuous by its absence was the Vietnam conflict, to which HMAS Stuart and many of her contemporaries contributed with unequalled, yet unheralded, logistic support. To deny the Honour-Board this inclusion is to deny the men of the ship's company during that period the honours that should be accorded them.

My thanks go to the organisers of the ceremony for the opportunity to take part. I hope it is in the Navy's future programmes to include invitations to ex-ship's companies and old comrades to other such ceremonies as they inevitably occur, allowing the opportunity to indulge in a little nostalgia.

ROBERT FLETT (ex-RAN)

**"Tartan Terror" leaves the fleet**

The Western Australian based destroyer escort HMAS Stuart (DE-48) was decommissioned at HMAS Stirling fleet support facility on 26 July after 28 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy.

First commissioned on 28 June 1963, HMAS Stuart steamed 704,044 nautical miles during her career and spent 51,396 hours underway. Between March 1979, and July 1983, she underwent a half-life refit and modernisation at the Williamstown Naval Dockyard.

HMAS Stuart had the distinction of being the first destroyer to be homeported in Western Australia, having first arrived on 20 January 1984.

Always remembered as a "happy ship", HMAS Stuart's memory will be perpetuated at HMAS Stirling on Garden Island with her 4.5-inch gun turret to be re-located outside the base ceremonial gates and an anchor to be placed outside the Naval Headquarters.

HMAS Stuart is being replaced by the destroyer escort HMAS Torrens (DE-53) later this year.
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Ralph Garrett of the Royal Marines had been ordered to form a Royal Marine rifle battalion from elements of several RM units (including anti-aircraft the searchlights) to help cover the withdrawal. Told to fight for 24 hours, these 700 Marines, with a few 4" and 6" guns, held back the Germans for best part of four days. According to Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart in his book "The Marines Were There", "... they made a further three days evacuation from the Sphakia beaches possible and thus helped to save 17,000 troops to fight again. Their losses were severe".

On 5 November 1941 the award of the DSO to Major Garrett was gazetted — the citation being "For gallantry, skill and enterprise in face of the enemy in Crete".

I have come across several references to a "delaying force" in which it is equated with Leonidas at the Pass of Thermopylae, but never a mention of the Royal Marines. One has been left to assume that the force comprised Australian and/or New Zealand troops.

Let us give credit where it is due and not, in this regard, become Americanised.

Relevant information from anyone who fought in the Greece/Crete campaign would be most gratefully received.

FERGUS McBAIN
PO Box 153, Northampton WA 6535

CHANGI LETTER CARD

Dear Editor,

I refer to a request in the last Listening Post from a reader asking for a momento in the form of a Changi Letter Card (POW Days).

Fortunately I have such a card saved from all those years ago and have sent him a photostat copy. An extra copy is enclosed which you may wish to use in your next edition.

In many cases, these letter cards were the first and last communication prisoners-of-war had with their next-of-kin.

M.F. SCHOFIELD
1/40 Wellington Street,
Mosman Park WA 6012

DISABILITY ENTITLEMENT

Dear Editor,

In connection with any suggestions for extended grants for veterans, I would like to suggest disability entitlements be extended to cover wives of cardholders for medical and hospital care.

R.C. OLSEN
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**Lost Trails**

**CALLING BOB FORSTER**

Lily May Davies (nee Casburn, born 1899) of Conway, 3a White Farm Lane, Thorpe Street, Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0BP UK, would like to make contact with the relatives of her cousin, Bob Forster, whom she believes live in the Fremantle area. Cousin Bob visited her parents' farm in Hunworth, Norfolk during World War I when he was serving with the Australian Forces. He was on leave as he had an injured knee. One of his sisters (Annie?) used to correspond with her Aunt, Mrs Annie Stevens. His ancestors were Bannells/Casburns of Grimston, Norfolk, from where his mother Eliza emigrated in the late 1860s/early 1870s.

Lily Davies and her daughters, Betty and Mary, would be very pleased to hear from any relatives.

**LANCE CORKERY**

KALGOORLIE/BOULDER

I would be pleased if you could help me locate a member of the Australian Regular Army with whom I served in 1949 and who came from your State, as I have something which may be of interest to him or his family.

The member's name was Lance Corkery, and he did his recruit training with me at Greta and Ingleburn during April, May, June 1949. To the best of my knowledge he came from the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area.

If he or any of his family would like to contact me, it would be greatly appreciated.

RALPH W. WARHURST

(Ex 2/3207 3 RAR Korea)

52 Baxter Road,

Bass Hill NSW 2197

**OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES**

Mr/Ms K.R. Edwards of Box 4 Zschiedrich Road, RR1 Quesnol, BC Canada V2J 3H5 wishes to contact Frank Trueman born 10 June 1887 at Bollington, Cheshire, England who was thought to have immigrated to Australia during the 1920s or 1930s.

Mr J. George of 28 Earls Road, Whitehaven CA28 6BE England is attempting to trace former members or their relatives of the Lancaster bomber crew of his uncle Sgt Ralph Chambers in 467 Sqn RAFF. In particular, he wishes to contact rear gunner F/O Bill Fisher A415470 RAFF who was wounded during the operation on Dusseldorf on 3/4 November 1943.

Mrs Val Scott (nee Barnes) 12 Garnet Street, Gore Southland, New Zealand wishes to contact her father who served in the RAAF as Corporal Allyn James Barnes from 22 June 1941 to 20 June 1945.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

Mr J.B. Hak Valkenbosplein, 19-G, 2563 CB The Hague, The Netherlands, is attempting to locate a Mr Waldron, probably from Melbourne, who was transported in February 1942 from North Africa to Fremantle on the Dutch steamer Ittersum.

**WATERHEN**

The Australian Embassy in Rome has asked if we could assist an Italian gentleman, Adolfo Lastrucci to make contact with any living survivors of the Australian destroyer "Waterhen". Mr Lastrucci has said:

"On 29 June 1941 at 1845 a 500kg bomb was released by my plane, a Ju 87 "Stuka"; the bomb did exactly hit the torpedo-boat. I still remember the sequence of the slow and tragic agony of the hit boat, which slowly sank, after defending itself bravely by its anti-aircraft artillery. Half a century has passed since that evening and in remembering that tragic event, I think of those courageous sailors in the Waterhen who gave their lives for the execution of their duty. I would like to be allowed to send my friendly salutation and an affectionate embrace to the still-living survivors who succeeded in going back to their country."

Mr Lastrucci can be contacted via F. Crispi 16, 21052 Busto Arsizio (VA) Italy.

**POLICE VETERANS**

Inspector Ken Tucknott of the Victorian Police Force is attempting to contact all serving and retired members of the Force who are returned servicepersons or otherwise entitled to join the R&SL or participate in the Anzac Day march. Apart from members of the armed forces, details of people serving in UN Peacekeeping Forces and other ancillary units in active zones are requested.

In conjunction with the Police R&SL Sub-Branch and the UNCIVPOL, he is compiling details of all such persons including those who have passed away. The details will be used to maintain contact with these people and or relatives and provide assistance where possible as well as improving social activities.

Inspector Tucknott can be obtained on (03) 320 3442 or write to 6th Floor, Police HQ, 380 William Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

Queensland Ex-POW Repatriation Committee Requirement to Substantiate Claim to being a POW held in D Hall, Military Section, Pearls Hill Goal, Outram Road, Singapore — 1942-44

I seek assistance in tracing the whereabouts of two ex-servicemen, possibly members of the R&SL either in Perth or thereabouts.

I and about a dozen others were the first inmates of D Hall, in the Military Section of the prison.
HMAS SYDNEY SINKING 50th. ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 23rd, 1991

Witness the Commemorative Memorial unveiling ceremony in Carnarvon for those brave men who perished when the HMAS Sydney was destroyed on November 23, 1941.

Brass Plaques set in a Memorial Wall listing all names of the Sydney's compliment will be unveiled.

A dusk remembrance gathering at Quokka Point will also be a feature of the ceremonies, followed by a Barbecue (Cost not Included).

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The Tour will depart Perth on Thursday November 21st. and return on Monday November 25th.

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Lost Trails cont.

Among those founding members were two AIF Soldiers from Western Australia: Lieutenant Penrod Dean and Sergeant (?) 'Mac' MacGregor.

Both had served, I think, with the Double 4th - 4th/14th - Machinegun Company.

Mr MacGregor — McGregor (?) lost his sight due to the extreme malnutrition from which we all suffered. The last time I heard from him, immediately after the war ended, he said he hoped to be sent to St Dunstan's Military Institution in the UK for rehabilitation.

R.W. SMITH
55 Yarrum Street,
Earville
Cairns QLD 4870

ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

For the past three years we have held an annual Artillery Corps Dinner at Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks. The aim of the dinner is to unite current serving regular and reserve Warrant officers and senior NCOs and ex-members of the Regiment to rekindle old friendships and create new ones.

We are always looking to enhance our ranks and extend an invitation to all ex Warrant Officers and senior NCOs who are not currently on our register to contact me with name, address and phone number. The next corps dinner is early in 1992.

G.M. FREY
Secretary
Hobbs Artillery Park Sergeants Mess,
Irwin Barracks,
Stubbs Terrace,
Karrakatta WA 6010

SUB-BRANCH NEWS

GERALDTON

A Memorial Park, with a line of memorial trees with plaques attached, is to be established on the vacant block next to Birdwood House.

The Sub-Branch has sought approval in principle to raise an Army Cadet Unit which would be a community-based open unit encompassing Geraldton-Greenough and surrounding districts with both male and female cadets. If approved, the unit will be fostered by A-Company 16 BN. RWAR whose Officer Commanding is Major Ron Bradfield. This Army Cadet Unit would complement the Naval Reserve Cadet Unit.

We were delighted with the additional Anzac Day's youth involvement and the fine addresses given by Geraldton Senior High School captains Luke Brain and Lesley Andrews.

W.A. R&SL Bowls Section

Patron: Jim P. Hall AM, BEM, JP

Office Bearers of the R&SL Bowls Section are now:
Immediate Past President Max O'Loughlin;
President Dudley Docking; Deputy President Doug Piggott; Vice President Les Fynmore; Secretary Ted Philp; Treasurer Doug Sweetman; Match Committee - Chairman Reg Axford, Keith Alberthson, Bill Clark, Jim Middleton; Social Committee - Chairman Les Fynmore, Wally Evans, Jim Middleton, Fred Birnie, Bill Jackson, Jim McCall; Selection Committee - Chairman Reg Axford, Les Fynmore, Ken Marshall.

AWARDS

At the last State Congress four meritorious awards were presented and one of the recipients was Howard Grafton (Scarborough Sub Branch). Howard has been a member of our Bowls Section for many years and I cannot think of a more worthy person to receive this award.

Ken Marshall (Osborne Park Sub Branch) was recommended by the Bowls Committee and granted life membership of the Bowls Section by members at the AGM.

We congratulate Howard and Ken on their achievements.

The Match Committee is currently working on a programme for the 1991-92 season. For those travelling to Hobart the selectors plan trial games commencing in September and continuing at intervals before the team's departure in December.

DOUG PIGGOTT
Deputy President

New members have been welcomed: Barbara and Mervyn Maurer, formerly of Campbelltown, NSW, and Louise Kaetner.

Before our May meeting, Susie Green (the Chapman Valley Society's Property Officer) showed us an Australian flag which is believed to have been brought back from Gallipoli by the late Dave Patten. The flag, with bullet holes attributed to the Turks, would cost about $600 to stabilise and conserve. Mrs Green said that the flag had been pinned across a doorway in the old Upper Chapman Road Board building at Nanson where the Historical Society meet, and was given to the Society after being used by the R&SL.

A Lotteries Commission grant of nearly $5,000 has been received towards additions for the hostel lounge-room at the Regional War Veterans' Home, we have decided to adopt a Legacy Ward at a cost of...
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$50 and Bill Cunningham has presented us with photos taken when he placed wreaths on behalf of the Sub-Branch at two memorials during the 50th anniversary pilgrimage to Greece and Crete.

The Sub-Branch has won the Collett Cup for the 23rd time and its Women's Auxiliary won the Country Cup for the 24th time; they are awarded for the most meritorious service in rural areas.

The Midwest region recorded a treble in 1991 as Northampton Sub-Branch again received the Geraldton Shield for a country sub-branch with fewer than 100 members.

MANDURAH

Lead by the Wanneroo Pipe Band, an estimated 2,000 people joined in the Mandurah Anzac Day march. Pride of place on the saluting stand was taken by three World War I Veterans who proudly reviewed the marchers. Another pleasing feature was the number of young people who participated in the march and commemorative service and the many youngsters in the audience and along the route. Mandurah City was splendidly represented by the Honour Guard drawn from members of the No. 504 Cadet Unit.

Due to the increase in the number of marchers now taking part in the Mandurah Anzac Day parade, a second band will be needed for next Anzac Day; negotiations are in hand to obtain one.

We now have a new patio, designed and built by volunteer labour, at the rear of our club rooms which are stretched to capacity on occasions such as Anzac Day.

The many new Veterans to the Mandurah area have been advised of the various social and welfare activities which are available for their use and convenience.

We are looking for a 25-pounder field gun or a 40 m.m. A/A gun to mount in the front of our club rooms as a tribute to the Gunners but, so far, have not been able to locate one.

In Autumn, the Auxiliary advised that its oldest member, Mrs Kate Muncie, had passed away aged 93. Her daughter, Mrs Margaret Baucout, is presenting the Auxiliary with a garden bench in loving memory of her 'Mum', so we will be able to picture our dear Kate sitting there.

JOHN RALPH

BUNBURY

We have been active for some time in assisting Veterans with preparation of claims on the Repatriation System, frequently acting as advocates in the appeal process.

While priority needs to be given to our own members, we have been handling claims by members of other Sub-Branches throughout the south west. Veterans who are not R&SL members are also being assisted and while no pressure is applied to join, almost all have ultimately become a member of one or other Sub-Branch.

At a recent meeting involving the National and State Veterans' Review Board Registrars and RSL State Advocate, we learned that, despite the VRB hearing capacity not being used to the full, State Office has a backlog of about 500 claims. Obviously the bulk of this backlog is being created because our one and only headquarters advocate has not got a snowlake's chance in hell of coping with an impossible workload. There must be a plethora of members in city and country capable of coping with advocacy. Of course it is demanding and time consuming, but surely there are enough volunteers willing to give their mates a hand.

Please give us a call if you can help.

FORD CAMPBELL

BRUCE ROCK

At our May meeting it was agreed that we write and support the proposal by the Geraldton Sub-Branch, concerning the Indonesian fishermen poaching in our north-west waters. The Australian taxpayer should no longer be expected to foot the bill for the apprehension and repatriation of these poachers, and the sooner the State and Federal Parliaments face up to their responsibilities and take positive action, such as suggested by the Geraldton Sub-Branch, the sooner these incursions into our waters will cease.

Whilst on the subject of aid to foreign countries to the greatest treasurer in the world perhaps the successor will seriously look at the whole question, considering the financial position in which this country now finds itself.

W. MARTIN
Hon. Secretary

KALGOORLIE

During a very successful Anzac Day, we had, in our company, 12 members of the Corvette Association, who visited us for Services to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the launching of the Corvette HMAS Kalgoorlie. The Corvette boys were given the honour of leading our company, 12 members of the Corvette Association, who visited us for Services to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the launching of the Corvette HMAS Kalgoorlie. The Corvette boys were given the honour of leading the veterans on the Dawn Parade and at the main service.

During the wreath-laying ceremony at the dawn service, a horse saddled with leggings and boots reversed in the stirrups was led across the southern side of the memorial by a member dressed in full Light Horse uniform.

A "Gun Shot" breakfast, provided at the Kalgoorlie Ex-Servicemen's Memorial Club, was attended by nearly 180 people; our sincere thanks go to the Club Committee and members who ensured that a successful morning was enjoyed by all.

At 1000 hours a short memorial service and wreath laying was held at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital Memorial Rose Garden for the benefit of those who, through work commitments or ill health, could not attend the main service.
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Page 50 — Listening Post — Spring 1991
Sub-Branch News

At 1045 hours our main parade was assembled opposite the Kalgoorlie Post Office and marched off by WO11 R. Leahy down Hannan Street, led by the Eastern Goldfields Highland Pipe Band to the Kalgoorlie Town Hall for the main service when the local Aero Club stage a fly-over.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Elvish. Items were given by the Kalgoorlie College Choir and the Goldfields Brass Band and organist Mr Stanley Brown MBE played for the hymns. During the service, His Worship the Mayor, Mr R. Finlayson JP, was presented with a scroll by HMAS Kalgoorlie’s longest serving member, Bob Fewsdale. This has been placed under the photo of the ship in the Town Hall. After the service we reformed in Hannan Street and marched to the Kalgoorlie Ex-Servicemen’s Club for refreshments.

This Sub-Branch attained the good age of 71 years on 23 April 1991; the charter states that it was formed on 23 April 1920.

H. CASLEY

BELMONT

We have had an extremely busy time during the last few months with our annual Anzac Service, and annual dinner, the Bowls competition and State Congress etc.

Our Women’s Auxiliary has also been very busy; without them, where would our Sub-Branch be? They have a big programme of planned activities and have managed to secure many recent awards e.g. Maisie Kilgallon and Wendy Jackson received “In Appreciation” awards from the State President at the recent annual dinner, Edna Haimes received the Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge awarded by the National Executive of the League. from without them, where would our Sub-Branch be?

Kay Forrest was presented with a Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge awarded by the National Executive of the League. from the National Executive of the League. from the National Executive of the League.

The Koreap and South East Asia Forces Association held its annual luncheon at the Club after the Anzac parade. The luncheon was catered for by the Women’s Auxiliary, who again excelled themselves with a delicious meal.

Have you ever been to our Club? It is at 22 Leake Street, Belmont (Ascot side of Great Eastern Highway). General meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 8.00 p.m. and the bar is open Wednesday 3-7 p.m., Friday 4-10 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 4-8 p.m. We invite ex-service men and women to become members. Come and see one of the best R&SL Branch Clubhouses in the metropolitan area and admire the hard work done by the members who tend the bowling green and who beautify and maintain the Clubhouse.

The R&SL loses some 10,000 to 12,000 members a year: they pass (or fade) away. Many of our own members are now reaching a good age and we look forward to younger service-men and women (or ex) joining us.

CARL F. CAUBO

OSBORNE PARK

State Congress has come and gone for another year and, as one of the three delegates representing this sub-branch, I can report that once again it was very successful. The items submitted by the various sub-branches were excellent and some required a considerable amount of debate; it is always an education to be at Congress and listen to the speakers.

Once again Osborne Park received a further membership pennant for 1990; it is pleasing to report that we now have 177 members. Attendance at monthly meetings has also shown a marked increase which is greatly appreciated.

Two of our members have recently received their Russian Medals; we congratulate Ray Smith and Ron Paige. An Able Seaman in the Royal Navy, Ray Smith served on board HMS King George V escorting convoys bound for Murmansk. He was then drafted as a Leading Hand Seaman to HMS Freebooter, an armed ocean-going tug commissioned by the RN to escort and assist ships in trouble between England and Russia. Ray eventually completed his wartime service as a submariner and obtained the rate of Petty Officer.

Ron Paige first served in the Royal Naval Air Service as a Leading Air Artificer on HMS Battler and HMS Archer; both ships were employed on the North American and North African convoys. He was then drafted to HMS Activity, an escort carrier, after attaining the rate of PO Air Artificer servicing the American and British aircraft on board. HMS Activity was employed patrolling with the convoys to and from Murmansk, Russia. Ron completed three trips on the convoys to Russia, certainly a remarkable feat. He finished his naval career convalescing at the Isle of Man.

Members are reminded that general meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month (January in recess), commencing at 7.30 p.m. Please pass the message on.

BILL SULLIVAN
President 349 2797

SCARBOROUGH

A recent speaker at our Branch was Doctor Dick Reid of the State Executive, who gave us an account of becoming a doctor; apparently if one is a good Rugby player the chances are much better! His account of doctoring in Kalgoorlie after leaving Ireland was entertaining — he had some anxious moments initially with patients being bitten or thinking they had been bitten by red-back spiders.

Another recent speaker this quarter was Graham Edwards, who spoke about Vietnam, and how it changed his life. He told of being wounded and picked up by helicopter before being transferred...
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The last Anzac Memorial Service at the old St Brigid's Terrace memorial was attended by 170 people. (The next service will be at the new site at the corner of Shearn Crescent and Millcrest Street). Two World War I veterans were welcomed by President Bob White: Alf Parker (92) and Len Hall (94) are the only two surviving World War I Sub-Branch members. The organist was Mary Keetly, with Norah Kelynack leading the prayers. Afternoon tea was served at the Doubleview Bowling Club after the service.

The Scarborough troop of Scouts carried out their usual night vigil and President Bot White in his address thanked them sincerely and mentioned we have been pleased to help them for many years.

Progress on the re-location of our Memorial was reported at the last meeting by Doug Piggott. Now that it is taking shape, people are commenting that the appearance of the new site is developing as a classic standard.

We enjoyed another of our "Christmas in July" trips to Chalet Healey at Araluen when 123 people boarded two double-decker buses. The food and entertainment were excellent and members who can only come along occasionally were able to meet many old friends.

A number of schools' essays in the Sub-Branch competition on Anzac Day are being judged and the winners will soon be notified.

Howard Grafton, our ex-Secretary, has been awarded a Meritorious Service Medal by the National Executive for his service to the RSL. Our Acting Secretary, Lloyd Adam, is doing an excellent job whilst Ron Elms is away. (Lloyd's phone number is 446 4851), and the Welfare ladies continue to visit and write to hospital patients and others needing help.

Don't forget, we meet every second Monday in the month at the Doubleview Bowling Club, Shearn Crescent.

The largest roll-call for any of our meetings was in July when 120 members were present plus the family of our latest recruit, Natalie Jane Collis. Natalie has returned from a period served on the Westralia in the Gulf in radio and communications; a presentation of a shirt emblazoned with the emblem of the R&SL and Cockburn Logo, plus stubby holders and ball point pens, was ably performed by President Jack Bavich. Miss Collis, granddaughter of member H.A. Dixon suitably responded, advising that she has been posted back to the Westralia.

In June Mr Russell Davis attended the Branch and spoke about the home-visiting by Veterans' Affairs officials. This is to assist members who are ill or incapacitated.

Visitors are welcome to join us at our monthly dances which are gaining in popularity.

WALLY HAGAN

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CANNING DISTRICTS — VICTORIA PARK

Peter Simpson was elected to the State Executive at State Congress. President Bob Hill is still enjoying the good life on his yacht up Exmouth way and Norm Semmens (who looks after our lawns) and his wife Peg have just returned from a five-week trip to England.

Dave Smith's ex-RAAOC members held their reunion at the club in June and a happy afternoon was enjoyed by all. It was good to see Tubby Baker out of hospital for the day.

Bill Sharpe from the Korean SEAO has presented the club with a painting from the Korean War, also a citation of units from Korea which are now up on the wall. Thanks Bill.

Our thanks are also extended to the ladies for their help at the barbecue after our last meeting—and to fire-stackers Neil Wright and Dave Smith.

If you find yourself in hospital, give Cliff Joyner a call on 330 7319 and he will brighten up your day.

BERT NEIL

The report from Congress was well received and the rise in dues did not seem to raise a ripple. A suggestion that we approach the League with a request that a Defence spokesman address us was received with enthusiasm and Mr Peter Firkins will join us for lunch at our next meeting.

Our Liaison Officer Mr Percy White keeps us well informed on League matters, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs forwards stacks of material designed, we hope, to assist our members.

LISTENING POST — SPRING 1991 — PAGE 53
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Sub-Branch News

BELLEVUE

Members are notified of a change of date — our November meeting will be held on Sunday 10 November at 10.00 am in the Bellevue RSL Club. It is a special occasion members, so please attend.

GEORGE JARVIS
Honorary Secretary

EASTERN HILLS

Our Anzac Day parade and commemorative service was well-attended by the public as was our parade and march led by the Kalamunda and Districts Pipe Band and supported by ex-servicemen and women from the Hills district, plus other organisations.

Our new president is John Johnson (ex-Vietnam), and we have more than 70 members — about 20 of whom attend the monthly meetings.

We arrange a Christmas party each year, which is always a lively affair, and organise a variety of trips to places of interest.

The 75th anniversary of the R&SL was celebrated in grand style by this Sub-Branch when 26 members, with their spouses and/or friends, went to the Hills Restaurant, Sawyers Valley. Arthur Repacholi entertained us with a rendition of his amusing poem "True Blue Galah". It was a night that we will all remember for a long time to come.

Our joint venture publication "The Bugler" is well-received each month when we try to keep everybody up to date with Veterans' affairs and welfare facilities as well as reporting on our monthly meetings.

Member Ted Frankis has found an old RSL badge near the Mundaring Weir; there are just two servicemen on the face of the badge and the number W12019 on the reverse. Can anyone help us trace the owner?

A reminder that we meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm in the lesser hall at Mundaring.

JOHN O'BRIEN-HILL

RETURNED SISTERS

VALE:
Hawkins, Alexina Elizabeth (Lalla) MBE, QAIMNS (R)

Lalla Hawkins, who died on 21 May, was the eldest of the four Hawkins sisters who trained at the Perth Hospital in the 1930s, and in 1936 went to England for a working holiday. At the outbreak of war she was called by the Port of London Authority to serve on an ambulance ship on the Thames. In 1941 she joined the QAIMNS (R) and served in Iraq, Ceylon and India. She was awarded the MBE for distinguished service and devotion to duty.

At the end of the war with Japan, Lalla was part of a medical team of doctors and QAs — mainly Australian Sisters — who were sent to Singapore for service on a ship carrying Australian POWs back to Australia and returning Indian POWs from the Islands back to India. She returned to Australia in 1946.

In the post-war period, Sister Hawkins became involved in child health and was appointed matron of 'Morriston', an establishment attached to the Chest Hospital for the care of infants of mothers who were undergoing treatment for tuberculosis. After retiring, she continued working for the Tuberculosis Association in a voluntary capacity.

With two of her sisters, she was among the first residents of the Pearson Retirement Village at the War Veterans' Home. Unfortunately, increasing ill-health and the lack of on-going medical care meant transferring to another establishment where she died after a long protracted illness just a week before her youngest sister.

VALE:
Hawkins, Kathleen Doreen AANS WFX 22054

The youngest sister in the Hawkins family was completing her training in Perth Hospital at the outbreak of war and, realising that she would have to wait for an army appointment, elected to undertake her midwifery and child health training at King Edward Memorial Hospital before doing country service until she was able to join up.

Joining the AANS in 1942, Doreen served at 110 AGH and 118th AGH before being posted to the 2/6th AHM for overseas service with the hospital in Labuan in British North Borneo.

In the early post-war years she served in military hospitals at Hollywood and Heidelberg until her discharge from the Army in 1948.

Working as Sister in the department of Child health, her interest was in community nursing but as the College of Nursing did not offer a course in this she undertook the course in Nursing Administration and gained her diploma, subsequently becoming Fellow of the College. In 1966 she succeeded Miss M.D. Edis as matron of the Home of Peace and remained in that position until retirement.

With her sisters and army colleagues Doreen lived in the Pearson Village until her progressive illness necessitated being transferred to hospital where she died on 1 June 1991.

Memorial books have been placed in the Library of the War Veterans' Home at a tribute to both these Hawkins Sisters.
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SYER WFX 11105

When Ada Syer was on a working holiday in Western Australia, she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service and was posted to 2/10th AGH in Malaya in 1941. With the fall of Singapore she was one of the group evacuated by the ill-fated “Vynner Brooke” which was sunk by the Japanese with considerable loss of life. Along with others, she was taken prisoner and spent three years in a POW Camp. The experiences of these nurses is well documented. A talented musician, she was one of those who formed the Camp Choral Group and featured in the “Song of Survival” which was produced for their reunion in San Francisco in recent years.

On return to Australia, Micky (as she was familiarly known to her colleagues and friends) returned to her home in Victoria. She worked tirelessly for the establishment of the Nurses’ Memorial Centre in St Kilda Road which was to become the headquarters of the College of Nursing, Australia. Her post-war nursing was at the Military hospital at Heidelberg and country hospitals in Victoria and NSW,

Suffering from very poor health, she was incapacitated for some years and died on 4 April this year.

VICTORIA HOBBS

SUBIACO

Our Sub-Branch was formed in May 1918 and the first meeting was held in the old Kings Hall, Subiaco. The first president, Mr Cliff Sadlier VC who was employed by State RSL as an organiser, was later a State Secretary. Subsequent meetings were held in the old Subiaco Fire Station, next door to the Council Chambers, and continued there until the station was demolished. The Sub-Branch then acquired and restored an old two-storied hall in Townshend Road.

Membership, initially about 45, rose to 130 in the thirties with about 25 attending meetings. During the depression meetings, those who could afford it put in a coin to buy cheese and biscuits. This practice later changed to buying charity tickets but no big prizes came our way. Meetings have always been monthly except for two years in the late thirties when they were held weekly: the Women’s Auxiliary provided refreshments and various activities were organised by the Sub-Branch. Strong teams were entered in the ARMS sports and we had our own rifle tunnel, quoits and darts.

The Sub-Branch had its own monthly publication, “Subiaco RSL Review”, which continued until “Percival Publishing” changed its business and could no longer assist.

An invitation was tabled at a Subiaco Council meeting in which the Sub-Branch invited the Mayor and councillors to the laying of the foundation stone by the Governor, Sir Frances Alexander Newdegate KCMB. The builder was F.E. Sedicle, the Architect was E.H. Hamilton and, as far as I can tell, the stone was laid 17 December 1922. A finance committee was formed but the amount raised fell short of the required sum and the Subiaco Council came to the rescue with the balance. It has been very difficult to trace the former secretaries. Mr F.C. Shand who was the President in 1920-1 changed places and became Secretary in 1922, his is the earliest name I can find. Bill Wilkins DCM of the 11th Bn. and AFC and Syd MacNamara MBE, JP, of 112 Howitzer Battery were to follow. Joe Newman seems to have been Secretary on and off for so long that it seems he was always available. Joe was still Secretary in 1971 when he went for a trip to England and became ill. Jim Gazey filled in till 1972. It appears that W. Wolfe gave Joe a rest for a while in 1964. In 1972 it was W. Taylor, 1973-6 J.A. Allen, 1976 till the present time M. Hogg.


Membership of the Sub-Branch rose after World War II to 1,100. However, as new areas opened up members moved to Doubleview, Scarborough, Joondanna, Yokine and Manning and membership declined to 250 in 1963. Along came TV and age, and we now have just over 50 members, but the attendance is still very good. The sub-branch went through a very bad time about 25 years ago. Attendance dropped to three or four a meeting and the financial position was rather bad, in spite of the wonderful work of our Women’s Auxiliary who worked very hard to try and raise funds by catering for functions, assisting the men collecting bottles after sporting events and running stalls selling cakes, pickles, fancy work etc. But the hall had to be sold in 1967, and after paying off the mortgage and other outstanding debts, the sub-branch was left with about $4,500.

The sub-branch made good use of its limited funds over the years. The War Veterans' Home has been the main beneficiary with a shade house, a TV set and later we assisted with equipment for hot meal transport.

The War Memorial Restoration fund was well supported, the welfare section of the RSL has benefited as well as a decoration display board in Anzac House.
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Sub-Branch News

It was not until 1950, at an annual reunion of the sub-branch, that its Charter was presented by Mr T.S. Edmondson, State Representative, to President E.R. Moore. It listed battles in which Australians fought in both wars. Responding to a toast of the Sub-Branch by Mr W. Richardson, Mr Lonnie spoke of the importance of the Sub-Branch and how much present members owed to men such as Joe Newman, who had given 25 years service, and other long serving members: N. Kelly, S.M. James, G. Wilson and J. Burgess.

Joe Newman proposed a toast to the Women's Auxiliary, the first one in Australia, thanking them for the work and support over the years. It was appropriate that the foundation President of the Auxiliary, Mrs W. Richardson was present.

L. PREEDY

GASCOYNE

Anzac Day began with a well-attended Dawn Service at the Carnarvon War Memorial where prayers were offered by the Reverend Peter McArthur, Padre of the Sub-Branch. Later, Anzac Day marchers assembled outside the Court House and proceeded to the Carnarvon War Memorial for a Service that was held in bright sunshine, with many visitors joining in. A number of beautiful wreaths were placed on the Memorial by relatives and friends, organisations, schools and the Shire Council. Prayers were offered by Father King, the RC Chaplain, and the address was given by President Terry Donnelly.

After the service refreshments were enjoyed at the local Army unit establishment headquarters.

BOB CHARLES

DARLING RANGE

VALE
JOHN DONELLAN BALFE

The death occurred on Saturday, 31 August of John Balfe, a valued and respected member of Darling Range Sub-Branch, Perth Legacy, Kalamunda Probus, and long service with the Employers Federation. His funeral on Tuesday, 3 September was attended by many community leaders including Sir Charles Court, Sir Thomas Drake-Brockman, Sir Frederick Chaney DFC and a large contingent of mourners.

Eulogies were read by his son Peter, Mr Robert Powell on behalf of Perth Legacy and Mr Keith Watts on behalf of his former RAAF colleagues. An RAAF fly past saluted the funeral cortège as it approached the chapel in Karrakatta Cemetery.

Squadron Leader John Balfe AFC was born in Tasmania in 1912. After education at Scotch College Melbourne and Melbourne University, he joined the literary staff of the Argus newspaper. Before World War II he represented the Argus, the Sydney Morning Herald and syndicated international newspapers as their staff correspondent in Darwin, covering from there the northern Australian and southern Indonesian regions. John Balfe held a pilot’s licence from 1934 to 1952 and logged a total of 5000 flying hours. He was a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve prior to the war. He spent its first year in the Army as a captain, serving in Darwin as GSO 111 (Intelligence) to Colonel H.C.H. Robertson, the famed 'Red Robbie' of Australia's 6th Division.

Before the first Japanese air raid on Darwin in February 1942, John Balfe returned to the Air Force. He served in it for the next eight years, first as a flying instructor, then as a transport pilot in the Pacific theatre of the war against Japan. He was commanding officer of Nos 34 and 38 Squadrons in the early postwar years. During that time his squadron was engaged on Australia's military transport airline from Sydney to Tokyo. John Balfe's 38 Squadron was the first to be awarded the Duke of Gloucester’s Cup for the most proficient unit in the RAAF. He returned to civilian life in 1948 and for his role in ex-service and community affairs since then was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal in 1978.

VALE

DOUG BRUCE, OAM, JP

An era in the history of the RSL in Western Australia ended when former Senior Vice President and Past State Secretary of the League, Doug Bruce, passed away recently. He had been in indifferent health for some time and prior to his passing had been a patient in RGH Hollywood.

Doug served in the 30th Infantry Battalion in New Guinea during the World War, rising to the rank of
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A TRIBUTE TO "MONGER"

How does one say goodbye to the most important man in one's life?

Thomas McCulloch (or "Monger" as I knew him) has been the one constant in the lives of four generations of family members. His always being there to have a chat with us has been something many of us have taken for granted. There was a certain agelessness and timelessness about "Monger".

Most people have to read books or watch television to find out about historical periods and events such as the Kalgoorlie goldfields at the turn of century, or how life was for pioneer wheatbelt farmers who had to sleep in tents amongst the scorpions as they cleared the land for farming or what the "Red Baron" looked like as he flew over the allies lines, dog fighting with other planes. Our family, however, has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear about those times through the lens of a wonderful man — "Monger".

Born in Victoria, "Monger" moved to the goldfields when he was six years old. He spent some of his childhood assisting his father with mining and gathering sandalwood. He also worked as a stable boy, a messenger for a pawnbroker and at Mills' pottery works.

During World War I he saw battle at the Somme, saw the "Red Baron" and had the dangerous job of runner.

After the war he cleared and farmed land at Nungarin and Kununoppin, but life was hard and income was poor. In the end things were so tough he left the land and moved to the city with his wife and two children. "Monger" worked on the original Royal Perth Hospital building and built his own house in East Victoria Park from bricks he had made. In retirement he was incessantly busy in fixing things, walking and keeping the garden maintained. "Monger" was a loving husband, a wonderful father, a superb grandfather and great grandfather. It is easy to think of words to describe him. Words that come to mind include: modest and unassuming, generous, and friendly.

He was a man of high principles, loved cats and was always pleased to see people and share a yarn about the old days. He always looked for the good in people and focused on the positive things, rather than let obstacles or problems get in the way.

He was a resourceful man. This is illustrated by two incidents that come to mind:

- "Monger" had one of the first model "T" Fords in the rural areas. It was known as "Lizzie" and he maintained the car. In order to reduce the cost of licensing it he decided to modify it to a tray-back and cut off the back half.

- He used to tell me that he had a really bad reputation around Kununoppin for his camp site cooking. It seems that the main food available was rabbit or parrot and that his cooking was so poor that no-one shared his camp site cooking more than once. He always told the story with a laugh — I think he was actually quite proud of his reputation.

His toughness and resilience showed right through to the end. He knew and accepted that his time was up and was ready to go. His positive outlook on life was clearly reflected in the events of his last few days. On the Sunday when he was very ill and couldn't speak, he waved his hand to acknowledge his bedside visitors, then on the Wednesday night (29.5.91), when he knew Mum's hair had been done since he saw her that morning, was doing in and out of consciousness but still wanted to acknowledge her hair so raised his hand and put it gently against her hair.

"Monger" will be sadly missed. We are thankful for the pleasure of knowing him and use his life as an inspiration for our own, for his essence can continue through all of us.

God be with him.

CHRISTOPHER GOSTELOW

(Footnote: Mr Thomas A. McCulloch died, RGH Hollywood, aged 99 years and 8 months)
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The stage was now set for the next forward move towards Salamaua. The American “breakout” resulted in heavy fighting for a topographical feature known as Roosevelt Ridge - the first attack was stalled, but after much pounding by Australian and American artillery, the ridge was taken. Most of the Japanese troops who were south of the Nassau Bay landing area escaped to the north to fight again, but some went into the jungle, became lost and eventually starved to death.

In late June, the Australian 15th and 17th Brigades were made ready for their follow-up participation in “Cartwheel”. The 2/5th and 2/6th Battalions were to attack Mubo and an American battalion Bito Ridge. The enemy fought bitterly to retain Mubo after the attack commenced. By July 10, however, the Australians were holding the Mubo/Komiatum track. This effectively controlled the enemy line of retreat and the defenders were forced to withdraw towards Mount Tambu along Bui Kumbul Creek. Less than 50 of the large original enemy force survived to fall back to Tambu.

The enemy became aware of the projected attack on Mubo. A special order had been issued by the Japanese, telling of the capture of a marked map, and other records, which indicated that the Allies were in position and preparing to attack. The Intelligence information was later found to have come from a sketch book and map taken from a Lieutenant of the 2/6th Battalion, who was killed on a patrol. All luck had not deserted the Japanese. By June 28 the Australians became aware that the enemy intended a counter attack against an unknown forward position. The attack when it came was in the Lababia Base area, where there were only 80 troops initially but, when reinforced, the defenders totalled 180 men. Against this small force the Japanese hurled 1500 troops and lost 171 dead. The Australian casualties were 11 killed and 12 wounded.

The Commander of 17th Brigade (Moten) was to say of this heroic defence that it was a classic example of how well dug in and determined troops can resist heavy attack from a numerically superior enemy. This knowledge was not new to Anglo-Saxons: the commanders of the battles at “Agincourt” and “Rorke’s Drift” could have expounded this wisdom. Captured documents later revealed that the Japanese commander of the attack had told his troops that “Tomorrow we will begin mopping up the enemy, he appears to be not aware of our plans, he is sunbaking.” Unfortunately for this enemy officer, documents containing plans for the specific attack were found on a dead Japanese soldier. This meant that both the Australian build up for the attack on Mubo and the Japanese counter attack, were detected from captured documents.

Field intelligence staff of both sides had been very proficient.

The capture of Mubo allowed General Savige to push nearer to Salamaua and by continual small scale attacks he drew a tighter ring around the area. The struggles for mountain ridges and for Mubo had introduced place names into Australian Military history which will not easily be forgotten: the Pimple, Garrison Hill, Mat-Mat Hill, Vickers Ridge, Bitoi Ridge, Old Boldubi, Rough Hill, Sugarcane Ridge, Timbered Knoll, Lambabia Ridge, Kunai Spur, Observation Hill, Bobdubi Ridge, Western and Eastern Knoll, Mount Tambu, Old Vickers, Davidson Ridge and Komiatum Ridge.

During May of 1943, the Australian designed and produced Owen Sub-machine Gun was tested by patrol groups of the Seventeenth Brigade as they harassed the Japanese positions around the feature known as the Pimple. General Savige reasoned that the best judges of the effectiveness of this new weapon would be the troops facing the enemy. He was surprised, when reports began to come in to his headquarters, that the Owen Gun was a preferred weapon to the Thompson. The reasons were that the gun was easier to use, had greater hitting power and range, also 130 rounds of 9mm ammunition was about the same weight as 100 rounds of the .45 cartridges used by the Thompson. Although considerably lighter, it also proved to be more rugged and less prone to stoppages than the Thompson. From May onwards the Owen began to supersede the American produced Thompson for front line use; the new weapon was destined to become a legend among Australian servicemen.

The cat and mouse game that was being played out in the ridge area would have surprised the Commander of the Japanese 51st Division had he known. Brigadier Hammer (15th Brigade) had been signalled on August 15 by General Savige to the effect that Divisional Headquarters was most satisfied with the performance of his troops, but on no account was he to undertake any operation which could influence the enemy to evacuate Salamaua. The 15th Militia Brigade had been applying skilful pressure on the demoralised enemy: however, the game was to hold the Japanese force in the area, not push it forward at the moment. Hammer was allowed to continue his cautious advance on August 23.

After his long term in the field, General Savige was relieved on August 26 by General Milford as Commander of the 3rd Division. He also had specific orders to draw the maximum strength of the Japanese away from Lae by guarded offensive operations, but not in such a way as to cause them to withdraw northwards towards the Huon Peninsula. As soon as operations were begun against Lae (by
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The landing of the 9th Division at Lae commenced at 5.50am on 4 September 1943 and General Milford ordered his troops to move on Salamaua. The bitter campaign of the ridges was to end in an anticlimax. Interrogated prisoners revealed that when it became obvious to General Adachi that the 51st Japanese Division could not hope to hold Salamaua in the face of the 9th Division landing at Lae, he ordered his troops to withdraw from the area. Other prisoners stated that 5,000 enemy troops were transported to Lae by barge and 600 Naval troops were taken to Rabaul by submarines. A further prisoner said that he had left Salamaua with a rearguard of up to 250 men; these troops walked up the coast to Lae.

The first Allied troops to enter Salamaua at 2.30pm on 11 September 1943 were men of the 42nd Militia Battalion, who occupied the battered airstrip area. The Battalions of the 15th Brigade continued to attack the flanks of the enemy troops making for the Lae area. American troops entered Salamaua on September 12, just a day too late to claim its capture.

The terrain leading up to the Salamaua area is very mountainous and covered with the same thick wet jungle experienced by the troops who fought through the Papuan Owen Stanley Ranges. Mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects attacked the combatants incessantly as they fought up the valleys and along the ridges. There were many deaths from scrub typhus and cerebral malaria. The fighting, through necessity, had consisted mainly of offensive patrolling, interspersed with fierce battles for ridges and heights, in which the excellently manned and handled mountain guns (1st Australian Mountain Battery) and 25-pounder guns (2/1st Field Regiment) played a decisive role. As soon as the enemy was driven, or blasted, from one ridge, he dug in on the next. Violent hand-to-hand fighting was a frequent occurrence of the whole campaign. No major battles were to occur in the campaign to be recorded in Australian or American military history. To the troops of the 15th, 17th and 29th Brigades (15th, 24th, 47th, 57/60th, 58/59th Militia Battalions and the 2/5th, 2/6th, 2/7th AIF Battalions) the scars on their minds and their bodies would stay with them into old age.

The enemy had learned some lessons from the campaign. Although renowned for aggressive fighting, the Japanese had re-learned the lesson taught them earlier at Milne Bay and elsewhere in Papua. The Australians, they now had to acknowledge, were fast learners and must be considered at least their equal in jungle conditions. The Germans and Italians had previously acknowledged the Australian soldiers' aptitude for desert warfare. Sir Winston Churchill had predicted the Australian soldiers' eventual superiority over the Japanese troops in jungle warfare: he wrote: "For my part, I did not believe that Japan would send an army of one hundred and fifty thousand to begin a major struggle with the Australian nation, whose men had proved their fighting quality on every occasion when they had been engaged. (Chapter IX, Volume IV of his memoirs).

General Blamey was later to write that "all troops endured the rigorous conditions of the campaign with a fortitude worthy of the highest praise". He was praising the actions of the Australian 3rd Division, the majority of whom were Militiamen (only three of the eight battalions engaged in the campaign were from the Imperial Force).

The Australian ground troops in the ridge campaign from 23 April 1943 until the enemy evacuation of the Salamaua area had suffered 1134 casualties (358 lives lost). An interesting fact of the casualties of the campaign was that the Militia Battalions represented five-eighths of the troops engaged but only incurred about 42% of the overall casualties; whereas in Papua they had suffered the highest casualty figures of the Allied ground forces engaged (Militia, AIF and American). The Militia units had either been lucky, or had become more proficient jungle fighting units. It could have been that in the Papua Campaign, the Militia troops were involved earlier, when the enemy had overwhelming superiority of numbers and weaponry, and that the Militia units were also involved for longer periods. (At the beginning of September 1943, Australian Military Force enlistments totalled 462,725 — of these 312,285 [67.5%] were Militiamen). The United States 1/162nd and 11/162nd battalions incurred during this period a total of 327 casualties (59 killed). The Japanese Army was reliably estimated to have suffered over 8,000 casualties, of these 2,722 were counted as killed. (Confirmed by postwar interrogation).

On September 16, a padre who had been an Anglican Minister at Salamaua prior to the Japanese occupation, arranged for an Australian flag to be re-flown above the town. This same flag was removed hurriedly when the enemy arrived in 1942 by men of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

The Japanese in just one year of occupation had turned the township into a ruin: it was described by the Americans as a "filthy, rat ridden, pestilential hole". The town had formerly enjoyed a "Mecca type of image" for the attacking troops during the long and bitter fighting along the ridges. The airstrip, built partly on a swamp, was found to be useless for large Allied aircraft, so Salamaua was quickly dismissed as a possible Allied base.

The next objective of the Allied High Command was to remove the capacity of the Japanese Air Force to have an impact on the Huon Peninsula offensive. Massive raids were continuously carried out on the air installations at Japanese-held Wewak, where the enemy had recently moved a further 200 aircraft. During August 1943, the Allied air forces destroyed up to 180 enemy planes on the ground. By the date of the invasion (September 4) Wewak base was to have no impact on coming infantry battles: it had been effectively destroyed.
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The Holding War.. Cont.

Four American destroyers were ordered to move in and bombard Finschhafen, on the tip of the Huon Peninsula. The destroyers fired 540 shells into the Japanese base without opposition on the night of August 22/23.

General Blamey was mindful of the outcome of the last invasion of a hostile shore by an Australian Division. This was at Gallipoli in 1915. The New Guinea landing had to be better planned and much more successful. Wharf labourers in Australia by stop-work meetings and careless handling of equipment, together with the weather, had caused some delay in the movement of the 7th and 9th Divisions to Buna and Milne Bay. In these two areas, men ships and equipment were gathered to form the largest Allied amphibious force yet seen in the South West Pacific theatre of operations.

General Blamey's orders were that "New Guinea Force in conjunction with the U.S. 5th Air Force and United States Task Force 76, will seize the area Lue-Nadzab with a view to airfield facilities therein. The 9th Division would establish itself in the Markham Valley, by overland and airborne operation." Intelligence staff estimated that there were 6,240 enemy troops in Lue. (This was lower than a previous estimate).

The landing of the 9th Division would be preceded by a six-minute naval bombardment by five destroyers. The 20th Brigade, supported by the 26th Brigade, would land at 6.30am on 4 September 1943. The 2/13 Battalion would land at the same time to the east of the main force to protect its eastern flank. A second group, consisting of about 2,400 troops, with vehicles and stores, would land at 11pm on the same day, and the third group of about 3,800 troops would land during the night of September 4. The area of advance consisted of a flat coastal plain, stretching about five kilometres from the coast to the rising hills of the Peninsula.

The 7th and 9th Australian Imperial Force Divisions were about to enter the next phase of General MacArthur's overall campaign for the elimination of all Japanese troops from New Guinea.

Last Post

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them. LEST WE FORGET

MAY

AYRE, A.H., W6290, Canning Dist-Victoria Park, 4th Div Hq, Sigs
BEER, B., 18478, Central, ACS Coy.
BROOKS, H.R., WX32482, Kalgoorlie, 2 Aust 3rd
BURNS, J.K., 53267, Wembley-Floriat, CMF/Regular Army
CAMPBELL, R., WX18640, Highgate, 2/28th Aust Inf Bn
CARTER, D.J., WX29607, Riverton, Army Press
COLLIUS, G.P.W., WX14120, Albany, 2/8th Inf Bn
CONNELL, W.O., WX38659, Scarborough, WAAW
DONALDSON, A.K., 557883, City of Perth, RAAC
DOUGALL, J., WX7401, Belmont, 2/24th Aust Inf Bn
GALLAGHER, D., WX32496, Bedford-Morley, 135 AA Bty
HALL, M.C., WX31976, City of Rockingham, AASC
HAWKINS, A.E., P208695, Returned Sisters, QAIMNS
HAYLOCK, G.T., WX28537, Mandurah, HQNT Force
HEAD, J.A., 29088, Bunbury, RAAC
HEALD, G.F., WX3463, City of Perth, 2/3 FD
JONES, F.E., WX14414, Nollamara-Nth Perth
LARSON, A.J., 5/400247, Northam, 3rd Bn RAR
LORD, R.J., WX115420, South Perth, HQ 2nd Aust Army
LOW, D.R., F5308, Applecross, RAN
LUCAS, J.N., WX66436, Nannup, AIF
LUCAS, C., WX8102, Northampton, 2/16th Aust Inf Bn
McCULLOCH, T.A., 3519, Millen, 16th Aust Inf Bn
MOLDRICH, A.E.G., S/267037, Nollamara-Nth Perth, RASC
MONEY, G.T., 5400052, Bicton-Palmyra, 3rd Bn RAR
O'BRIEN, C.G., 38116, Claremont, RAAC - 77 Sqn
PEAKE, E.G., 45485, Bellevue, RAAC
RALPH, LL., WX40723, Geraldton, 41 Wireless Coy
RICHARDS, C., WX26142, Albany, 10th Light Horse
ROBERSON, A.A., WX39397, Cockburn, 2/6 Transport Coy
SARGENT, R., F3548, Wyndham, D.E.M.S.
SCHULTZ, J.G., WX19756, Gosnells, 2/28th Aust Inf Bn
SORENSEN, R.O., WX27202, Scarborough, 5 Nato AMB
TOLMIE, J.L., 415366, Bicton-Palmyra, RAAC
WALSH, N.G., WX12390, Onslow, 2/1 ABC
WEBB, J.L., FV 335, South Perth, RAN
WHITEHURST, F., WX573, South Perth, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
WINFIELD, E.W., WX41309, Geraldton, 47th Bde/29th Bde

JUNE

CASEY, A.L., 139553, City of Perth, 315 Radar
CHRISTIE, F., WX19892, City of Rockingham, 16 BTN AIF
CLARKE, W.A., WX8696, Mandurah, 2 R'way Corps
CRISPIN, T.E., W55176, Belmont, 9th Inf Bn

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DOHERTY, R.J., WX27634, Manning, 13th BDE
DUBERLY, J.A.G., NX156801, Nollamara-Nth Perth, 13 ACS Coy
DUFF, G., B3927, Busselton, Flot Force R/C
EVANS, A.C., WX12883, City of Perth, 2/32 Inf Bn
FULLER, E.J., 2310, City of Perth, RAN
GERATHY, G.C., NX151340, Scarborough, 1st Aust Air Mount Coy
HANNA, R.D., 2934, City of Perth, 10th LH
HARRIS, R.A., WX27634, Manning, 13th BDE
HAYWARD, W.G., 14087201, Nollamara-Nth Perth, 23rd Fld Regt RA
HAYWARD, W.G., 14087201, Nollamara-Nth Perth, 23rd Fld Regt RA
HEWSTON, E.J., 2310, City of Perth, RAN
HICKMAN, R., WX22254, Returned Sisters 2/6 Eng
HOLDEN, H., 55002, City of Perth, 1 Coy TPT
HURST, E.W., 33589, Belmont, RAN
JULY

BAYLY, B.R., 223046, Applecross, RAN
BELLS, C.C., WX10400, Como, 2/48th Aust Inf Bn
CONNOR, W., WX17903, Busselton, 2/11th Aust Inf Bn
COOK, A.P., WX23256, Mandurah, 7 AJ Coy
COOK, W.C., WX7526, Armadale, 2/3 Fld Rgt
DEWE, P.R., WX5359, Harvey, 2/6 Fld Pk
DICKINSON, J.V., WX9662, City of Perth, 2/16th Aust Inf Bn
FLOOK, R.G., 45804, Mosman Park, RAAF
GABBEDY, J.P., H200161, Highgate, RANR
GIBSON, K.F., 32674, Bicton-Palmyra, RAN
GORDON, A.J., F3267, Bunbury, RANR
HOY, D., WX12248, Bellevue, 32 Inf Bn
JOYCE, H.J.F., WX25691, Fremantle, 125 AGT Coy
KNOX, R.A., WX23156, Fremantle, Transport Coy
MAYS, P.C., WX12853, Albany, 41 DCRE
MCCLAY, W.W., WX23006, Northam, 13-33rd
MCKELLAR-HALL, R.D., M1500041, Mosman Park, RAAMC
McPHARLIN, W.R., 16297, Busselton, Fld Force R/ C
ROLLINSON, J.W., 7902038, City of Perth, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment
RUNDELL, R.L., WX21456, Mandurah, 13RH Field Ambulance
SMITH, G., WX954, Scarborough, 2/11th Aust Inf Bn
SMITH, E.A., WX28190, Narrogin, 2/9 Inf Bn
SMITH, F.H., 45400, Busselton
SNODGRASS, W.J., 45804, Mosman Park, RAAF
TAYLOR, J.W., WX41646, Nedlands, 2/1GD Reg
VUKOVICH, M., 2427, Kalgoorlie, 125 AGT Coy
WALLACE, A.J., WX38030, Canning Dist-Victoria Park, 9 ADV W/S
WELLER, W.J., WX13293, Waroona-Hamel, 2/1 MOB TN

Unit Associations cont. from 79

7 ARMY TROOPS COY RAE ASSOCIATION
President: Jack Benari, 38 Roeluck Drive, Manning.
Tel: 450 3876. Secretary: Alec Wallace, 24/31 East Street, Fremantle, 6160. Annual reunion last Friday of September, about 60 attend each year. Past members most welcome.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF
Meet socially first and third Friday each month. ANZAC Club. 12.00 pm. AGM: Last Friday in August. Secretary and Treasurer: R. Byrne, Unit 29, 16 Bromley Road, Hilton Tel: 314 1961.

11th & 2/11th AIF BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION
President: K.T. Johnson, MBE ED JP, 37 Blaven Way, Ardross, 6153. Secretary/Treasurer: J.C. Watson, 686 Canning Highway, Applecross, 6155. Tel: 364 2126. Meetings: Third Tuesday each month (except January) 10.00am, Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, St George’s Terrace, Perth.

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
For enquiries contact — President: Lt Col O.R. Vodean, 23 Halley Street, Innaloo 6018. Tel: 446 6304. Secretary: Ron Hutchings, 21 Melbourne Way, Morley 6082. Tel: 276 3158. Regular meetings held at 150 Harbouree Street, Wembley.

16th BATTALION, THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WA ASSOCIATION
President: Mr John A.D. Treloar, 6 Bedwell Cres., Bullcreek 6155. Secretary: D.A. Hamilton, 80 Richardson Road, Hilton Tel: 314 1961.

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

48TH & 2/48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: D. McLean, Unit 2/50 Endeavour Avenue, Bullcreek 6155. Secretary: D.A. Hamilton, 80 Stoneham Road, Attadale 6156. Tel: 330 2923. Meetings and luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East at 11.30am on the third Monday of each month.

480 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, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 5405. Members advised re meetings by written letter as required.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: Mr John A.D. Treloar, 6 Bedwell Cres., Bullcreek 6155. Secretary: D.A. Hamilton, 80 Richardson Road, Hilton Tel: 314 1961.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC) WA BRANCH
State President: Mr L.C.W. Hutchings, 66 Kinsella Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4268. Honorary State Secretary: Mrs R. Langan, 60 Kinsella Street, Joondanna, 6060. Tel: 443 1360. Details of sub-branch meetings, please phone 443 1360.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: John Griffith Tel: 246 2961. Secretary: Charley Hunt Tel: 401 6334. Meets first Thursday of each month at Campbell Barracks (The House) Swanbourne at 1800hrs. Social meetings held on the last Friday of each month at SAS Regiment Mess 1800hrs, drinks, snacks etc. Ladies most welcome. All correspondence to: Regimental Headquarters, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, 6010.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, OAM, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6101. Tel: 450 1833. Treasurer: Mrs P. Gilchrist. Tel: 272 8662. Friendship meetings 1st Floor, Anzac House on the 1st Thursday of the even months. 10am - 12 noon.

BCOF ASSOCIATION OF WA

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)
President: C.A. Hines, 68 Bougainville Ave, Forrestfield WA 6058. Tel: 453 2285. Secretary/ Treasurer: Dennis Williams, 38 Langham St, Nedlands WA 6009. Tel: 386 3447. All correspondence to Po Box 66, Maylands WA 6051. Council meets second Tuesday of each month at Anzac House at 1.30pm.
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DCM LEAGUE
President: Mr Percy White DCM, 7 Netley Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 9360. Secretary: Mr Bill Ellwood DCM, 39 Weaponess Road, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 2959. Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 12 noon at Anzac House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

EX-FORTESS ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Harold Smith, 58 Napier Street, Nedlands, 6009. Tel: 386 3305. Secretary: Mr Reg Kidd, 261 Holmes Road, Forrestfield, 6058. Tel: 453 2393. Meetings: Mid-year general meeting and Christmas 'get together' and barbecue on a date and at a venue to be decided. All enquiries to the Secretary.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mr J. Duncan, 40 Kennedy Street, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 2174. Treasurer: Mr Dan London, 25 Glencoe Parade, Hills Head, 6210. Tel: 581 2869. Meetings first Wednesday of each month (except January) at 1.30pm at Anzac Club, Perth.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF WA — LADIES AUXILIARY
President: Mrs M. McDonald, 47 Wasley St, Mt Lawley WA 6050. Tel: 328 5927. Secretary: Mrs F. Duncan, 40 Kennedy St, Melville WA 6156. Tel: 330 2174. Meetings: Same time and place as men.

EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mrs Glory Loughton, 3A Nola Avenue, Scarborough, 8019. Tel: 341 5532. Secretary: Mrs Val Tometini, 34 Bourke Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 6758. Treasurer: Mrs Freda Andrews, 23 Wilcock Street, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2269. Meets the second Monday of each month at Anzac House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth. (Unless otherwise advised)

FEDERATED TB SAILORS’ SOLDIERS’ & AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Frank Hamilton, 35 Clement Drive, Karinyup, 6018. Tel: 271 4703. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer, 16 Dowell Place, Bibra Lake, Tel: 417 9598. Meetings last Monday of each month except January. Address for correspondence: GPO Box T1729, Perth.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: Mr R. Pattenden, 13 Hawkesbury Drive, Willetton, 6155. Tel: 457 1798. Secretary: G.H. Smith, Unit 1/5 Haigh Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 344 4416. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth. All correspondence to PO Box 3866, Stirling Street, Perth, WA, 6000.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President/Treasurer: Mr Peter Mulrennan. Secretary: Mr A. Britton, Tel (W) 409 1144 (H) 409 9468. Address for correspondence: 31 Backhouse Rd, Kingsley, WA 6026. Meetings to be held on the 1st Monday of every month in December and January when in recess. Venue: RSL Club, Anzac House, Perth at 7.30pm.

HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION
President: Mr R.J. Linto, 10 Wongan Ave., Hilton 6163. Tel: (09) 335 6802. Secretary: L.S. Degrussa, 43 Pitt Street, Dianella 6062. Tel: (09) 276 7253. Social meetings held every month (ladies welcome). Further information please contact the Secretary.

HMCS HOBART ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)
President: Mr Jack London, 6/80 Homer Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 275 6366. Secretary: Mr Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Road, Shenton Park, 6005. Tel: 381 8705. Treasurer: Mr Jack O’Connell, 25 Stuart Street, Maylands, 6051. Tel: 271 6787. AGM and Reunion held February and social functions held about four times each year. For further information please contact any of the above.

HMCS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
President: Mr K.T. (Keven) Johnson, 10 Nicholas Ave, Quinns Rocks WA 6030. Tel: 305 1573. Secretary: Mr T.E. (Tom) Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont WA 6010. Tel: 384 3042. Treasurer: Mrs P.D. (Pat) Ingham, 13/55 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley WA 6050. Tel: 271 1826. For any further information please contact any of the above.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meets second Saturday 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: 381 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, 1.30pm.

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 6155. Tel: 332 5723. Treasurer: Mr D. Sweetman, 8/44 Davies Road, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 384 4485. Details of venue and times of meetings please contact Peter Rumble on 448 6639.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President/Secretary: Mr A.D. Needham, 16 Warragoon Crescent, Attadale, Tel: 330 3411; Treasurer: Mr S.G. Thomas, 91 Coleman Crescent, Melville, 6156, Tel: 330 3427. Meetings 8.00pm last Monday each month at the Navy Club, Marine Terrace, Fremantle. Tel: 335 3015.
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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 3598. Secretary: R.E. Hobbs, 32 Purley Street, Bayswater, 6053. Tel: 279 7387.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC.
State President: Mr V. Gibson, 33 Monaco Avenue, North Lake, 6163. Tel: 337 1469. State Secretary: Miss Ann Winton, 42 Bernard Manning Drive, Duncraig, 6023. Tel: 448 8381. All correspondence to Hon. State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling Street, Perth 6849.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
President: Mr H. Westhoff, 56 Weston Drive, Swanview. Tel: 294 1575. Secretary: J. te Loo, 11 David Street, Mullaloo. Tel: 401 7727. Meetings: Tuesday, 10.30am-2.30pm, Sundays 4.30pm-8.30pm. Held at the Coolibin/Yokine Amateur Football Club, Wordsworth Terrace, Yokine. Entrance to building opposite No 27. All Correspondence to: Secretary, PO Box 99, Belmont, 6104.

NORMANDY VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
President: Mr J.E. Mayers, 15 Finlay Court, Rivervale, WA 6103. Tel: 476 2071. Secretary: Mr F. Heath, 268 Hood Terrace, Sorrento, 6053. Tel: 476 3995. Meetings to be held on 1st Tuesday each month at Anzac House at 11.00am.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH INC.
General meeting held at Anzac House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth at 1.30pm first Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: Mr Maurice, John Rinaldi (Maurie), 35 Weaponess Road, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 6151.

PEGASUS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: Mr John Hatley, 14 Purley Street, Bayswater 6053. Tel: 279 8626. Secretary: Mr Bert Harris, 54 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale 6103. Tel: 362 2224. (W) 458 9111. Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, noon at Anzac Club, Perth. Ladies welcome.

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SUB-BRANCH No. 9.
President: Dr W. Gorski. Tel: 332 4324. Hon Secretary: S. Zalewski. Tel: 274 6280. Hon Treasurer: S. Marcinkiewicz. Tel: 274 3111. All correspondence to 33 Eighth Avenue, Maylands, 6051.

RAAF 467-463 LANCASTER SQUADRONS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: A.C. (Gus) Belford D.S.O., 59 Sulman Road, Wembley Downs, 6018. Tel: 341 5484. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Jim Quinn, 9 Redcourt Road, Attadale, 6156. Tel: 330 4151. Meetings: Four times a year at the Royal Australian Air Force Association, Bull Creek.

RAEME VIETNAM ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Garry (Snow) Whykes, 33 Kanimbla Way, Morley 6062. Tel: 276 1920. Secretary: Don Horsley, 11 Celestine Street, Wanneroo 6065. Tel: (09) 306 2946. Meetings held as required at the Swan Barracks Sergeant's Mess.
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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (WA)
State President: A.E. Reed, 88 Matheson Road, Applecross, WA 6153. Tel: 364 5302. 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 SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Peter Lofdale, 31 Croxdale Crescent, High Wycombe, 6057. Tel: 457 4985. Secretary: Bert Lane, 6 River Avenue, Maddington. Tel: 459 3032. Treasurer: Bruce Jeffis, Carine Gardens Caravan park, 234 Balcatta Road, Gwelup 6021. Tel: 447 6270. Meetings: Anzac House, first Thursday of each month at 7.00pm except January.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS ASSOCIATION
Chairman: Mr P. Norris, 72 James Street, Gosnells, 6010. Tel: 398 4508. Secretary: Mr S. Kent, Unit 21/99 Otwram Road, 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. Jobson, 290 Morley Drive East, Eden Hill 6054, 278 8714. Secretary: M.E. Pearson, 19 Barelack Court, Armadale 6112. Tel: 399 6157. Meets at the Leederville Bowling Club second Wednesday of every month, at 7.30pm (December excepted).

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TOTTALLY AND PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED EX SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN LIMITED WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH INC.
T.P.I. Memorial Estate, Bag Lot 2, Post Office Como, W.A. 6152. President: Eric J. A Hern. Secretary: H. Davey. Tel: 450 1893 or 450 1921. AGM second Tuesday in December.

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, WA BRANCH
President: Mr Jack Patterson, 15A Greville Way, Girrawheen. Tel: 342 0142. Secretary: B. Thomas, 9 Queens Road, Mount Pleasant 6153. Tel: 364 3008. Meetings first Monday each month (except January) Anzac Club 1130, when Monday is a public holiday the first Tuesday. All ex Water Transport welcome.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brigadier N.E.G. (Tony) Manuel (Ret), 398 Belmont Avenue, Kewdale. Tel: 277 2367. Honorary Secretary: Rupert Pratel, 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 AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)
President: Mr Solle Stolf, 70 Canada Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 276 7633. Secretary: Mr J.R. Hamilton, Unit 2 No 1 Kemp Place, Rivervale 6103. Tel: 479 1286. Meetings are arranged for six times in the year on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact either of the above for more information.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Ken Barrington. Tel: 446 4227. Secretary: Kevin Trent. Tel: (h) 367 7794, (o) 323 4485. All correspondence c/- 3 Broad Street, Kensington, WA 6151. Meets second Wednesday of each month (except January) — Contact the Secretary for details of venue and timing.

THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH
President: Mr N. Bell, Unit 2/14 Joseph St., Maylands, 6051. Tel: 370 4775. Secretary: Mr J.G. Buxton BEM, 2 Nangetty St., Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 4320. Meetings: Committee meets at Navy Club Inc., 26 Marine Terrace, Fremantle at 1900hrs second Monday of each month. General Meeting: at 2000hrs, last Monday of each month, same place.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) BRANCH
Chairman: Mr Denis Roy Porter, Lot 4, Connell Avenue, Martin 6110. Tel: 490 2136. Vice Chairman: Mr George Cooke-Willis, 7 Pinafore Court, Duncraig. Tel: 448 9896. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy V. Rawe, 20 Elmslie Terrace, Orelia 6067. Tel: 419 4749. Hon. Treasurer: Mr C. Elkington, 26 Dryandra Crescent, Greenmount 6056. Tel: 294 3652. Meetings are held at Anzac House, 28 St. George’s Terrace, Perth on the 3rd Wednesday of each month commencing at 7pm.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION (ROCKINGHAM AND DISTRICTS) BRANCH
Chairman: Mr David Wiseman, 7 Andros Road, Safety Bay, 6169. Tel: 592 1458. Hon. Secretary: Mr Frank McGinn, 9 Castile Street, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 527 4344. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Lorna Boyes, 42 June Road, Safety Bay, 6169. Tel: 528 2575. Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at the Headquarters of the Naval Association of Australia, 301 Rockingham Road, Kwinana Beach.

THIRTYNINERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Meeting dates as follows: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, 4th Wednesday March, May, July, September and November. All enquiries to the Secretary. State President: Mr Z.T. Kwiecinski, 255 Mt Lawley, 6050. Tel: 370 1579. State Secretary: Mrs F.E. Johnson, 38 Renwick Street, South Perth. Tel: 367 5949.

V.A. & A.A.M.W.S. (A)
President: Glyn Coay, 138A Karrinyup Road, Karrinyup, 6018. Tel: 341 3323. Secretary: Ena Pearson, 15A Greville Way, Girrawheen. Tel: 342 0142. Honorary Secretary: Rupert Pratel, 49 Banksia Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4914. Meets second Tuesday of each month at the Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sylvia Street, Nollamara at 7.30pm.
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VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH INC.

President: Rob Cox 332 4964, Secretary: Ian Hunter 341 4621, Welfare Officer Joe Cox 332 4964. Meetings are held three-monthly, Red Cross Hall, Verdun Street, rear RGH Hollywood.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)
President: Miss Claire Brody, 25A Maree Street, Hamersley WA 6022. Tel: 342 5482. Secretary: Mrs Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Road, Lynwood WA 6155.

Phone: 457 3984. Address all correspondence to: Box 6149, East Perth WA 6892.

WRAF BRANCH — RAFA ASSOCIATION
President: Mrs E. Southern, 31 Larrissa Road, Willetton 6155, 457 8628. Secretary: Mrs J. Bland, 2 Graphic Court, Beldon 6025. 401 8296. Meetings held at 8.00pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Meg Olive Room at the Air Force Memorial Estate at Bull Creek.

Z SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

Ph: 271 1406. Meetings as arranged by committee.

'Z' SPECIAL UNIT (AUST) INC.

1ST AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION
President: Mr Bill Rose, 19 Jukes Way, Wembley Gardens WA 6016. Tel: 444 6858. Secretary: Mr Ron Waters, 5 Catesby Street, City Beach WA 6015.

Tel: 385 9140.

2/1—2/2 PIONEERS W.A.
Chairman: L.A. Preedy, 152 Keightley 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 OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr D.K. Turton, 29/44 Marmion Street, Myaree 6154. 330 7485. Secretary: Mr J.W. Carey, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman 6155, 332 7050. Meetings held on second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am at Anzac Club.

2/3RD FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mr John Ripp, 3 Cashel Way, Waterford 6152, 450 2449. Secretary: Mr M. Davidson, 1 Kitchener Road, Melville 6156, 330 3033. Address for correspondence: PO Box 198, Palmyra 6157. Meets second Wednesday each month, Anzac House, 11.00am.

12/3RD LT.A.A. REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)

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

2/4TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: G.C. Mackinnon C.M.G., 38/87 The Esplanade, South Perth WA 6151. Secretary: C.J. McPherson, 24 Rosemead Avenue, Beechboro WA 6063.

Tel: 377 5838. Meetings third Tuesday each month at 10.00am.

2/7TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
President: Mr S.D. Bishop, 5/136 South St, Beaconsfieldfield, 6162. Tel: 335 7380. Secretary: Mr Bill Woods, 4/2 Lewington Gdns, Bibra Lake, 6163. Tel: 417 3989. Meets in the Pure Steel Room, Gloucester Room at the Air Force Memorial Estate at Bull Creek.

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

2/16th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION

Tel: 276 2146. Editor Pigeon Post: M.T. Jervis, 432 Cambridge Street, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 4419. Committee meets Anzac House on first Wednesday each month at 10.30 a.m.

2/28 BATTALION & 24TH ANTI-TANK COY ASSOCIATION
President: M. Williams, 17 Kimberley Road, Hillarys, 6025. Tel: 307 1563. Secretary, W. Carlton, 190 Coode Street, Como, 6152. Tel: 367 4016. Annual re-union to be advised.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mr Fenton Smith, 184 Shaftesbury Ave, Bedford, 6052. Tel: 271 6492. Sec/Treasurer: Mr Colin Edmiston, Unit 3 456 Main Street, Balcarra, 6021. Tel: 349 0799.

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DATE | PORTS OF CALL | ARRIVAL | DEPART
Thu 30 April | DEPART PERTH | |
Fri 1 May | SYDNEY | 5pm |
Mon 4 May | WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS** | 8am | 10pm |
Tue 5 May | TOWNSVILLE | 8am | 6pm |
Thu 7 May | SAMARAI IS., PAPUA NEW GUINEA | 8am | 3pm |
Thu 7 May | MILNE BAY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA | 6pm |
Fri 8 May | MILNE BAY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA | 4pm |
Sun 10 May | HONIARA, SOLOMON IS. | 8am | 6pm |
Tue 12 May | CHAMPAGNE BAY, VANUATU | 8am | 6pm |
Wed 13 May | VILA, VANUATU | 8am | 6pm |
Thu 14 May | HAVANNAH-BOULARI PASSAGE | Cruising |
Sun 17 May | SYDNEY | 7am |
Sun 17 May | RETURN TO PERTH |

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THOMAS COOK
SHOP 22/23 WESLEY CENTRE
760 HAY STREET, PERTH
TELEPHONE 321 2896

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So much Fun for everyone

Thomas Cook
Lic. No. 9TA 00655
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50 AND OVER BONUS PLAN

* Discounts on your accommodation account from 10% up to 30% depending on the season.
* Extra pillows and blankets should you need them.
* Breakfast served either in your room or in the Restaurant — the choice is yours.
* Special budget priced dinners and picnic lunches on request.

* Convenient fully equipped laundries available for your use.
* Handy parking for your car or camper van at all of our Inns.
* Ground floor accommodation except at Town House Perth where there are lifts.
* Free computerised reservation system covering the whole of Australia.