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Deadlines
for Listening Post Contributions
31 January for Autumn Edition
30 April for Winter Edition
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31 October for Summer Edition

If possible submissions should be typed, double spaced.
Photographs can be black and white or colour glossy.
This is your journal and contributions are welcome and
should be addressed to:
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Cover:

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See: Tribute to the SASR on page 31
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STATE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The commencement of a new term of office, and the beginning of another Congress year, provide a convenient opportunity to express thoughts to our members of a wide ranging nature.

It is my belief that no person has been elected to the office of State President with a greater awareness of the task ahead, based on a general knowledge of the League and past experience.

The office of State President is time consuming and brings with it considerable responsibilities in promoting the aims and objects of the League with little reward financial or otherwise, but with the belief that collective endeavours link all ex-service personnel and their families and that each of us in our respective ways can render, through the League, assistance to those less fortunate than ourselves and give quality of life to all.

Basically, to achieve this and further the League’s aims and objects, it is essential to maintain and if possible increase membership, which is the life-blood of any organisation. Strong membership generates endless possibilities such as increased finance, new ideas and ventures and most importantly the people to bring anything to fruition.

During the 1970s in an exercise over a number of years involving each State Branch of the League, membership was widened to encompass the rules at present in vogue, thus maintaining a strong membership base and the viability and relatibility of the League generally.

Perhaps the time has come when a further widening of membership rules, or a different and new class of member, be seriously considered.

In thanking the Sub-Branches, through their delegates for having elected me at the 80th State Annual congress, I’m mindful of the work and dedication attributable to my predecessors who, without exception, brought to the position their own particular style applicable to the era and the circumstances existing during the time they were in office. Fortunately many were and are known to me and I have benefited considerably as a result from their knowledge, work and experience.

Included in the executive panel elected at the State Congress were some new members, who I hope will find the work rewarding and from which they will derive great satisfaction. To both new and continuing executive members, thank you for electing to be part of the team, which in common and together can achieve a great deal.

To those who did not stand for re-election, thank you for a job well done. Your time was well spent and no doubt in some instances you will be seen in other capacities serving in the cause and helping ex-service personnel.

Conjecture and rumours are currently expressed as to the viability of the WA Branch’s present operations. Be assured that prior to and since Congress, positive steps were and are being taken to correct any perceived anomalies in the short and medium term. As to the longer term problems, these will be addressed with a range of possible new initiatives.

The League has the same problems as other similar organisations, namely a more or less static income with ever-increasing costs.

While the State Executive Committee may appear to be extensive and perhaps cumbersome, from time to time co-opted members are invited on to a number of boards and committees. Their help and guidance is invaluable.

Across its operations in WA, the League relies heavily on the dedication and loyalty of staff members with the State Secretary as its chief executive officer. Co-operation is desirable at every level, as the League has to depend on both voluntary and paid help.

LEN TURNER
State Secretary's Notes

Maintenance and expansion of our membership is proceeding very well this year. The figures are at approximately 11,000 and continue to improve day by day. This is due to an overall team effort starting with Mr Jack Babbage, Chairman of the Membership Committee and his dedicated team and ending at Sub-Branches where much has been done to improve our standing in this vital area.

The Listening Post editorial staff has also assisted by sending copies of the magazine to members who have become non-financial. This has resulted in many former members returning to the League.

In spite of the above it is vital that we all take part in the recruiting drive seeking out friends and workmates who are eligible to be members and have not as yet joined the League. DVA figures indicate that a vast resource of ex-service personal are out there waiting to be accessed in both the country and metropolitan area.

Every one of you is a potential recruiter; go to it and help the League and your mates.

JOCK GELDART.

Calling all Vietnam Vets ...

The Vietnam Veterans' Trust can help if you are financially stressed.

The monies are intended to help those veterans who find themselves in necessitous circumstances and are looking for a "hand-up, not a hand-out". Assistance is normally in the form of a grant and usually for payment of debts, medical, dental, orthodontic bills, necessary house or car repairs or essential household items. The Committee consists of volunteers who are all Vietnam Vets, so feel reassured your case will be scrutinised and assessed fairly by your peers.

For further information/application forms etc.

Regional Secretary
AVWVT Ltd
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East St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6832
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Education Assistance

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State EXECUTIVE 1996

Left to right: Rear; A. Hutcheson, A. King, P. White, J. Surridge, K. Morrison, T. Kent
Centre: K. Littlejohn, J. Babbage, G. Tanner, M. Hall, F. Verdi, M. Cole. Z. Kwiecinski, J. Holman
Front: J. Brigden, R. Stone, J. Geldart, K. Murphy, L. Turner, J. Hannah, B. Clinton, J. Dowson.
Inset: K. Broadhurst

COMMITTEES - JULY 1996 to JUNE 1997
In accordance with State Rule 14.4.1 the State President is ex-officio of all Committees.

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Sub-Branch Representatives x 2,
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T. Dowling

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D.V.A. Veterans’ Health Week ....................... M.C. Hall
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Listening Post – Spring 1996 – Page 7
Hollywood’s twenty million dollar refurbishment in Stage One is now well underway. The demolition of wards 9, 10, 11, and 12, is nearly complete making way for The New Hollywood Clinic. The slab will be completed by the end of August and is well on target for the March 1, 1997 opening.

The new accommodation block and the main foyer area is also taking shape. It will not be long before the atrium effect will start to show.

The date for admitting patients to the new block on May 1, 1997, is running to schedule. The Specialist Medical Centre plans are also underway.

Call Catherine Archer with any queries on 346 6716 about the redevelopment. Meanwhile it’s business as usual with minimal interruption.

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL
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Telephone: (09) 346 6000 Facsimile (09) 389 8470
When Mrs Joan Dowson MBE was awarded the Order of Australia it recognised her selfless contribution to numerous community service committees, particularly the Returned and Services League, Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch, Australian Red Cross, Girl Guides and the Cancer Crusade of WA.

Mrs Dowson, the recipient of the RSL Meritorious Medal and Life Membership, is a Life Member of the Australian Red Cross and an Honorary Life Member of the United Services Institute WA.

Joan is a fearlessly patriotic citizen who has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to the community. Her interest in the welfare of servicemen and women started during the early years of World War II when she assisted her mother in welcoming into their home interstate servicemen on embarkation leave. At that time she was a member of a Red Cross-sponsored Voluntary Aid Detachment. In 1941 she enlisted as a VAD nursing orderly and served in Gaza, Syria and Egypt. As a member of the AAMWS, she served in the New Guinea campaign. On her return to Australia and after discharge, she joined the Red Cross Field Force, was posted to Red Bank and later saw service on the aircraft carrier HMS Formidable.

Mrs Dowson is a foundation member and first Vice President of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch, she has served as President on two occasions and is currently Membership and Liaison Officer. Her many fund-raising functions have resulted in substantial donations to the State War Memorial Maintenance Fund and War Veterans’ Homes.

Joan initiated the Sub-Branch magazine Light Diet: circulations now includes Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branches throughout Australia. By her personal example she has had a marked influence on the recruitment of new members. She has been a member of RSL State Executive for 20 years and has acted on many occasions as proxy or observer at meetings of National Congress.

For many years Mrs Dowson was the motivating force in seeking health and medical benefits for Returned Ex-Servicewomen. Following years of lobbying a motion was finally passed at RSL National Congress in 1987. Subsequently the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs ordered an enquiry into the health and welfare of Returned Ex-Servicewomen. As a result, health and medical benefits were granted to Returned Ex-Servicewomen from January 1985.

To many she is best known for organising the pre-Congress breakfasts at the Ansett International Hotel, the monthly sandwich lunches at Anzac House and the Remembrance Poppy Day lunches. She chaired the grand concert A Day to Remember with special guest Douglas Bader and also chaired the week of functions run by the RSL Bi-Centennial Committee.

Joan Dowson has a talent for leadership and is sincere in everything she does; her personal generosity, ability, tact and wide experience is always given unstintingly. Joan Dowson, the Ex-Service community congratulates and salutes you.

BARRBAR CLINTON

Australian Red Cross
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If you would like a free copy of the Red Cross Wills booklet and a list of participating solicitors contact Wendy at Red Cross on (09) 325 5111.

Listening Post – Spring 1996 – Page 9
THE ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARD

This is an award that recognises outstanding efforts by Australian citizens who give service to their fellow Australians and the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner. Seven awards are made each year within the Commonwealth and the Australian Capital and Northern Territories.

This year one Western Australian was the recipient of this prestigious award: Mr Robert Bryce Hayes-Thompson BEM.

The legendary spirit of Anzac was forged by ordinary men and women who overcame many obstacles to achieve their goals. Since his return after serving in the Army for six years in World War II, Robert Hayes-Thompson has exemplified this spirit; his wartime experiences made him value both his country and his community. After being stricken with polio at a time when he was supporting a wife and family, whilst trying to develop a virgin farming property, he determined to do all he could to enhance the medical services in the district as well as contributing to the quality of life for his neighbours.

The geographical position of the farm enabled him to input four local communities: Doodlakine, Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin and Merredin. For more than 50 years Robert has extended his voluntary work to State and National level throughout many areas, including civic, agricultural, sporting and RSL activities.

In 1983 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his service to sport and the community. He continued this work and drove long distances to give time and energy from his busy life on the farm.

Robert is forever a builder, keen-of-mind and one who can grasp an objective and achieve a positive outcome. His advice is constantly sought as a mediator and councillor and his voluntary activities range from sounding the bugle for 50 years at Kellerberrin Anzac Day Services to leading regional delegations to the Premier in an effort to obtain adequate water supplies for country homes. Robert's accomplishments in fact cover the whole gamut of civic and philanthropic duties.

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

The medal is worn on the right breast and displayed whenever service decorations are worn, on official RSL duties and 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 we are pleased to announce that three West Australians have received the award.

Mr Vivien Mervyn Simpson (Northampton Sub-Branch)

Mr Simpson joined the League in 1946 and has been an active member ever since. He has held the office of Sub-Branch President five times since 1952 occupying the position for a cumulative total of eight years.

Mr Simpson has been an active fundraiser for welfare and a regular visitor to hospitalised veterans in the district. His services to youth are long-standing and he has been a school delegate for the Northampton-Chapman Valley for 20 years.

Mr Simpson's civic awareness is well known and he has served a total of nine years as a Shire Councillor. He has been a Legatee for 20 years and has successfully pursued many pension claims for widows. Mr Simpson was a member of the original committee which raised funds to establish the memorial hall in Northampton.

Lt Col Rolf Jocelyn Nyman (Applecross Sub-Branch)

Col. Nyman joined the league in 1949 and has served with distinction since that time. He has filled the positions of Sub-Branch President, which he occupied for a cumulative total of 14 years, State Junior Vice President for several years and as a State Executive member for 11 years. Col. Nyman fulfilled the duties of Welfare Officer of the State Branch, was delegate and sponsor of the 50th Army Cadet Unit and is the Warden of the Melville City War Memorial. He was also a Councillor of Melville City and served as representative on the TB and Chest Committee from 1951 to 1990. He is an active member of the Army Museum Committee, a position he has occupied since 1977.

Mr Norman Edward Hewett (Wongan Hills Sub-Branch)

Mr Hewett joined the League in 1948 accepting the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Wongan Hills Sub-Branch where he committed 29 years of diligent achievement. He built up declining Sub-Branch membership by actively pursuing and recruiting members by enlisting local Vietnam Veterans as World War I and World War II members passed on. Mr Hewett single-handedly undertook the conduct of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Commemorative services ensuring that the local community remained aware of the sacrifices of the men and women of the district in time of war.

After 15 years research, he produced a comprehensive list of local people who had provided wartime service and through great effort arranged for their names to be recorded on the Honour Boards in the local Civic Centre. Mr Hewett was sole Sub-Branch Welfare and Pensions Officer for many years and participated actively to support many worthwhile youth activities.
These commemoratives for Patriotic Service are available to all British Commonwealth and allied ex-servicemen and women, both regular and reserve, and to Civilian Volunteers (Police, Fire Service, Essential Services, Emergency Services, Officers of Cadets, Coast Guard, Merchant Navy, Home Guard, Womens Land Army, Ambulance, Red Cross, etc.). These superb medals and their miniatures are STRUCK (not cast) and have a high grade bright nickel finish that will not require polishing. The medals and suspender bars are a two-piece assembly. (This is not some inexpensive casting.) The design is deliberately reminiscent of the by-gone days of "Empire" in civilian dress these commemoratives should be displayed after or below Official Awards.

Cost - Medal @ $95. Clasps @ $40

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His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery AC, MC, Governor of Western Australia, delivered the following address when he formally opened The WA Branch 1996 Annual State Congress.

Over the past 80 years, the RSL has made a tremendous contribution to Australia's national life but more particularly in its support of veterans, service people and their families. Last year, as part of the Australia Remembers Campaign, the RSL had great success in getting the Anzac message across to our young people. This was evidenced by the huge attendances at Anzac Day ceremonies around the country. This Congress, I am pleased to see, is looking to the future through its emphasis on youth. I am also pleased to see the RSL actively promoting school-based cadet organisations such as the Police, Army, Navy and Air Force Cadets and the soon-to-be State Emergency Service Cadets.

Many of our young people grow up with a combination of opportunities and resources to help them, such as family, peers, religious and youth organisations, social agencies and schools. But this is not always the case; some youths may not have enough social and personal resources available to them or opportunities for that matter. Nevertheless I think there are ways in which we can do something in this regard.

I have strongly encouraged the government to expand school youth groups and this, I am pleased to say, has been started with the Pilot Cadet Schemes in 10 schools.

In my view, if every youngster from 9-19 years was strongly encouraged to participate in a well-programmed, well-resourced and well-lead group, such as St John Ambulance, SES, Army, Navy and Airforce Cadets, it would do much to help improve youth self-esteem and personal confidence and to develop a strong ethical base: not just in WA I might add, but Australia-wide. I note with pleasure that Victoria is now looking at the WA example so perhaps we are on the way.

But successful youth groups need plenty of good youth leaders and to this end I hope to see the establishment of a youth leader school late this year or early next.

The youth leader concept is designed around courses of 11 days for 14-15 year olds and 23 days for 16-19 year olds. There is also to be a four-day adult leaders' course designed to assist those who have taken up voluntary positions within various youth and community organisations.

Early in the teenage years is when many youngsters experience problems with low self-esteem, difficulties in communicating, dealing with emotions and relating with their parents. A number of families find themselves facing divorce or separation at this time. Youngsters whose emotional and physical maturity is undergoing drastic and rapid change often find themselves at a loss when trying to deal with these pressures and find themselves becoming involved with substance abuse, petty crime and truancy. It is also true to say that without the proper skills to deal with these pressures, the problems can become much more severe.

The junior course concept therefore concentrates on aspects of personal leadership, communications and team skills. These youngers would also be involved in bushcraft, abseiling, survival skills, communications and basic first-aid, before being thrown into a number of “emergencies” to test their retention capacities. The basic emphasis of this course is for the participants to develop a more rounded and confident image of themselves, using the principles of adventure-based learning and outdoor education.

The seniors' course, though in some aspects similar to the junior course, is much longer and would assist
participants to develop a more confident and capable image of themselves. Through various activities and workshops, participants would receive firm grounding in leadership, group control, first-aid, communications, bush skills and so on. Course graduates would be expected to be able to take up positions as youth leaders within a variety of youth and community organisations, as well as the school itself.

The third part of the program would be aimed at adults involved in youth and community organisations as youth leaders. Quite often they lack some of the necessary skills concerned with the planning and execution of major activities or indeed experience or knowledge to call on when dealing with some of the major issues impacting on youth.

But the main aim would be to impart the principles of leadership to youngsters who have shown some leader potential, with a view to producing a graduate who can instruct, organise and control a group activity and who has a sound understanding of the ethical requirements of being a junior leader.

The course concepts place great emphasis on leadership. In my view, there are some leaders (very few) who are born that way. They have the presence, the command ability and inspirational qualities to be naturally accepted in a leader role.

For most of us, however, we need to be trained and developed as leaders and this is of course part and parcel of the process that participants will go through in their training with the leader’s school. They would be taught the fundamental principles of leadership: physical and moral courage; example, loyalty up and down; individual and group discipline and subject-based skills; combined with the desirable attributes of a tidy appearance; a sense of humour and strong faith.

It would complement, rather than compete with, the training given by youth groups such as scouts, guides, Duke of Edinburgh, Rotary. I suggest that both the cadet movement and leader school proposals are areas where the RSL could play a helpful role in the future.

The third area of youth support in which you may be interested involves the drug issue. It is a huge problem.

In Western Australia alone, we are now issuing 4,500 syringes a day for people to give themselves a clean shot. That equates to about five Senior High School equivalents per day and does not include youngsters who use dirty needles, smoke or swallow illegal substances. So what can be done?

I am trying a concept that might be termed the “Governor’s Pledge”. In it I make a pledge to groups of youngsters that never will I knowingly take part in illegal substance usage. I then ask the youngsters to make a similar pledge to me and to write to me in 12 months time telling me how they have gone. It has had a positive response in so far as it has gone.

It seems to me that, if we could expand this notion to include every school-teacher, football-team and basketball-team captain, every scout and youth group leader, young aboriginal role models etc., to take the pledge with the Governor, and then to ask their school classes, teams and groups to do the same, it may lead to peer group pressure working in a positive way. That is to say “no” drugs as a group, rather than “lets try it”.

I intend to follow this up with the drug task force to see what we might be able to do.

Well so much for youth matters. Might I now turn to other RSL aspects.

With the gradual passing away of those who served in World War II, the RSL is now drawing on a much smaller veteran membership base, so it is vital that members play an active part in the organisation to ensure it remains a powerful articulator of not just the needs and views of veterans, but importantly makes a useful contribution to national defence debate.

That is very important because we are now entering a period in Australia’s history where the Pacific Rim and the Indian Ocean are going to be critical to our future survival, particularly with the emergence of China as a super-power in 15 or 20 years time.

The 1990s are proving a time of immense change in the global security environment. The countries within our region of greatest strategic interest – South East Asia and the South West Pacific – are strongly committed to peace and stability. No country currently presents a threat to Australia and we have good security relations with all our neighbours.

However, military capabilities are generally growing in the Asia-Pacific which Australia cannot ignore. There are many potential flash-points in the Asia-Pacific. China-Taiwan, the Korean peninsula and sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea are the most frequently mentioned areas where there is potential for military conflict. In addition to these, there are many disputed border areas, competing territorial claims over land and sea, piracy, internal insurgency conflicts and historical enmities and suspicions, often arising out of religious or ethnic differences. Further, I think we will see problems of food shortages and environmental damage in many areas of Asia. These matters could impart on Australia in a quite serious way.
The collective wisdom of the RSL can provide valuable input to the Government and keep the public interested and aware of the importance of public debate on such matters. But, in articulating your views, you must speak with knowledge, wisdom and balance if you are to be credible to governments.

I would like to interpose another thought here, and that is to encourage you to look at ways and means to establish an Institute of Strategic Studies at one of our universities. We badly need a centre of learning in Western Australia to provide the public and the government with informed opinions and ideas on strategic and defence matters, particularly as it pertains to Western Australia. I have had some preliminary discussions with Vice Chancellors and there is positive interest from two universities.

In conclusion, the RSL has always been a backstop for its veterans, their families and service people, but it needs your help individually and collectively to carry on its good work. This Congress will see the renomination of office bearers for half of the State Executive Committee, so please get behind your Executive Committee, offer your support — join a Sub-Committee or take an office. It is your Association and it will only be as good as the members who support it.

The past success of the RSL has been provided by people with strong beliefs and extraordinary commitment. By working together you will maintain the RSL’s position as a powerful voice in the nation’s affairs. The RSL needs leaders with vision and wisdom, who are articulate and can present, convincingly, the views of its members to the public and governments.

The RSL has achieved wonders over the years and its credibility is second to none in the veteran community. Congratulations on a job well done and keep up the good work.

It is now my pleasure of officially open the 80th State Congress of the Western Australian Branch of the RSL.

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The RSL Cash Accident Programme provides up to $75,000 if you have an accident, or a $1,000 Cash Benefit if you survive ten years of continuous cover and don’t make a claim!

For over a decade, thousands of RSL members have come to depend on the comprehensive accident protection offered to them by Oceanic Life Limited, the RSL’s official insurance provider, through the RSL Cash Accident Programme. For this reason we are pleased to announce that those members not already protected under this highly popular accident insurance Programme will shortly receive an offer to enrol.

Members and their spouses aged 21 to 80 who enrol by the specified deadline of 30 November, 1996 will be guaranteed automatic acceptance for a wide range of benefits, including the following:

- Up to $75,000 for loss of use of limbs or sight as a result of an accident;
- $37,500 for fatal accident;
- up to $17,500 for a serious fracture of the hip or pelvis;
- up to $15,400 for over 40 types of accidental injury, from fractures to burns;
- $1,000 lump sum cash benefit if you survive 10 years of continuous cover and have not made a claim.

A full list of benefits, terms and conditions will be provided to eligible members when they apply, allowing examination of the complete Programme, without risk or obligation, before enrolling.

The popularity of this Programme over so many years confirms that it has become an essential service to thousands of RSL members, and Oceanic Life has responded to our requests by continuing to guarantee eligible RSL members and their spouses acceptance into the Programme when they enrol by the 30 November deadline.

No medical examination is required; there are not health questions to complete. The Programme is available to individual members at the exclusive RSL premium of $14.95 a month, with premiums further reduced to $11.95 a month each when two people enrol in the Programme together — a saving of $3.00 a month each.

Full details, along with a personal invitation to enrol will be posted to eligible RSL members during October, with an Enrolment Deadline of 30 November, 1996.

We know what great value this service has been to those members who previously enrolled in the Programme, and we are certain it will be equally valuable to you and your family.

So if you haven’t already enrolled, take a few moments to review the comments from fellow members in the announcement regarding the Programme in this issue, and watch your post for details. Don’t forget, to qualify, you must return you Enrolment Form by the deadline specified.

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“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 lump sum no-claims survival benefit 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 V. A. Proposch
Cheltenham, Victoria

I enrolled in the RSL Cash Accident Programme because “of the low cost cash cover. I think the RSL Management has done a very good service to all RSL members in negotiating this policy.”

Mr William Anderson
Lewisham, Tasmania

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

Mr Charles I. Midford
Osborne, S.A.

“It supports the RSL Movement and ideals and at the same time gives the needed coverage that I feel we require.”

Mr R. Hindmarsh
South Grafton, N.S.W.

“My wife and I studied the policy and thought it was good value because of the volume of traffic on the road today. I would say any one thinking of joining will be doing themselves a great service.”

T. E. Smith
Noble Park, Victoria

Most appealing to me “was the savings and the fact that Pensioners are looked after under Medicare, but extra cash is needed.”

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

“The Free Period of cover without cost helped us to decide to enrol plus the fact that after a ten year period without a claim we have a nice little nest egg to collect.”

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

The features that most appealed to me were “1) very reasonable cost; 2) payment convenience. The home is where most accidents occur, and as a Pensioner and home owner, one is more prone to slips and falls in do-it-yourself jobs.”

NEW ENROLMENT PERIOD OPENED!

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 register for this essential cover now.

If you are not already enrolled in the RSL Cash Accident Programme, look for this envelope in your mailbox soon.

THE RSL CASH ACCIDENT PROGRAMME:

- Pays up to $75,000 in benefits for loss of use due to accident.
- Pays $37,500 for a fatal accident.
- Pays you up to $17,500 in cash benefits for over 40 types of specified injuries, from fractures to burns to more serious injuries.
- Provides benefits that protect you anywhere in the world.
- Guaranteed acceptance for eligible RSL members and their spouses who enrol during the Special Enrolment Period – no medical examinations or health questions to answer.
- Pays you a $1,000 lump sum if you survive 10 years of continuous cover and haven’t made a claim.
- Low premiums are guaranteed not to increase for this cover for the first 10 years of your policy.

MEMBERS AGED 21 TO 80 MAY ENROL:

If you are not already enrolled in the RSL Cash Accident Programme, watch your post for your special invitation including all terms and conditions of the policy. To qualify, simply return your Enrolment Form during the Special Enrolment Period ending on 30 November, 1996. If you have any further questions, please call us, free of charge, on 1 800 022 566. Policies can only be effected upon the completion of the Enrolment Form.

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Listening Post – Spring 1996 – Page 17
Since 1970 Korean War Veterans from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Great Britain have gathered in Seoul during the final 10 days of April. These tours are co-ordinated by the Republic of Korea (ROK) Veterans’ Association (KVA) which has five million members. It is said to have strong links with the Government and operates several businesses. It has recently been granted the franchise to conduct all Korean Battlefield Tours.

In his message of welcome, KVA President Major-General Tae-Wang Chang reminded us of the chaos, destruction and despair that prevailed in the Republic more than 43 years ago. On behalf of the Korean people he invited us to witness the economic miracle our sacrifices have helped make possible.

Our party of 33 veterans and wives gathered at Sydney Airport early on 18 April. Soon we were joined by more than 300 Koreans, mostly tired honeymooners returning home. The non-stop flight and landing formalities were uneventful.

Next day at 7am in the ballroom of the Sofitel Ambassador Hotel in down-town Seoul we met the remainder of our Commonwealth touring veterans. The group was now about 160 strong and while we consumed a strange but pleasant Korean breakfast we were briefed on the situation between North and South Korea. Two matters were alarming; while South Korean equipment was claimed to be superior to the North’s, theirs was much more numerous in all departments. Secondly, the North Koreans were thought to be driving up to ten tunnels under the 4 km wide DMZ. Three had been discovered, the latest in 1978 near the Armistice village of Panmunjom 44 kilometres north of Seoul. It was capable of passing one division with its equipment each hour.

At 0840, right on schedule, the group boarded buses and headed for Panmunjom. Entering the busy six-lane street from the hotel car park was achieved with difficulty. We crossed the Imjim River via the Freedom Bridge where we saw the only defence works, which consisted of barbed wire and anti-tank obstacles, during our entrance visit. Soon we arrived at Panmunjom and the joint security area. We stayed on our side of the line dividing North and South except when we went into the MAC building where we stepped over the line just to say we had been to North Korea. Outside we stared at North Korean guards and tourists, about 50 yards away, while they stared at us.

After lunch at the Sanctuary Club, the touring party headed east, generally along the line of the Imjim River, to observation post Typhoon to view Maryang San (317) taken from the Chinese by 3RAR late in 1951. This is extremely rough terrain. We then headed back to Seoul over the Teal Bridge and down the Gloucester Valley Road, now a sealed double carriageway. Apart from about the first 10 KM, it is built up all the way to Seoul.

That evening we were guests of the Korean Club who entertained us with a traditional meal while we sat on the floor. Getting up was quite difficult as everyone was very tired.

Saturday was quite. The touring party went to the National Museum which contains many valuable examples of ancient Korean art. This excellent polished stone building is soon to be moved. It is situated next to the Kyongbok Palace and as it served as the headquarters for the Japanese during their brutal occupation between 1910 – 1945, it is to be located further away. We were to visit the place but, as it was crowded with school-children, we stayed outside and enjoyed the passing parade – brides-to-be, in hired wedding outfits, being photographed. One had her jeans on underneath – rolled up of course.

Sunday 21 April our four-bus convoy took the touring party to Kapyong, about two hours drive to the north-east. At this time in 1951 the British Commonwealth Brigade repulsed a savage attack which was part of a major Chinese offensive to capture Seoul as a Mayday present for the Communists. (To the west, 29 British brigade was also attacked and the 1st Gloucester Battalion was almost completely destroyed).

The Touring Party being marched to the British Commonwealth War memorial, Kapyong

Our ladies alighted at the entrance to the British Commonwealth memorial and we continued about 200
metres. We were “marched” to the memorial by a shouting Coldstream Guards RSM who, with a piper, had been flown from Hong Kong for the occasion. When we reached the memorial quite a crowd of locals had gathered — no doubt attracted by the noisy RSM and our buses identified with our national flags. After speeches by national representatives, wreathes were laid.

The Australian War Memorial, Kapyong. The Forward positions of the 3RAR Company were sited on the peaks in the background.

Further north at the Canadian Memorial and minus RSM, we repeated this action on a smaller scale. The party then proceeded to what had been “the sharp end”. Here the Australian Defence Attache in Korea, Colonel G.M. McCormack, described the tactical situation that existed 45 years ago. He pointed out 3RAR Company positions on the peaks surrounding us and described the progress of the battle over the next 48 hours where 31 Australians died. After a wreath-laying service we stayed and had lunch.

At each memorial, presentations were made to selected school-children in appreciation of the fine condition in which they maintain the lawns and gardens. Among the New Zealand presentations were two return flights to New Zealand while the Australians included two cash grants from the RSL. The standard of the Guards of Honour provided by the ROK Army was exemplary. (And yes! the Chinese were forced to withdraw with 11,000 casualties. They never took Seoul.)

Next day we visited a Korean folk village of a bygone era. Tiled and thatched cottages for the rich and poor were centrally heated by a chimney running under the floor from end to end. Nearby famous Celadon inlaid pottery was being made. Even the smaller pieces were too expensive for most of us to purchase.

That night we were guests of the KVA at a reception and dinner at a five star hotel. After General Tae-Weng Chang welcomed us, there were speeches by official representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. A message of greeting from Prime Minister John Howard was read by the Australian Ambassador, Mr. H.E. Mack Williams. Presentations of boxed Korean Veteran medals and miniatures, and Certificates of Membership of the DVA to each of us then followed. The dinner, served on Royal Doulton china, with Korean wine was magnificent. Finally each group had to sing. We Australians gave a splendid rendition of Waltzing Matilda and Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major — just for the RSM at Kapyong.

Tuesday, our last in Seoul, saw us at the National Cemetery for another wreath-laying. Within its 351 acres are enshrined the remains of 163,000 martyrs and war dead. This cemetery was established in 1955 and has to be seen to be believed.

Next at the War Memorial, better described as a War Museum, we were obliged to march to the entrance past TV cameras. This was shown on national television that evening and featured in the press next day to remind young people that, but for the sacrifices of United Nations troops, they could now well be part of a Communist regime. That evening we Australians attended a pleasant reception at the home of our Ambassador.
This ended our stay in Seoul and our association with Honey, our attractive hostess and interpreter who had joined us at the airport. Each day she informed us of some basic statistics. In 1960 the nation began to rebuild its economy and by 1965 the growth rate was 8.4%. The unemployment rate is now 2% and there is no social security. The population of Seoul, now 13 million, is expected to exceed that of Tokyo by the turn of the century.

Next morning the Australian party headed for Cyongju, 360km south-east. Farmers were busy planting and we observed that farming is now quite mechanised – except for scores of bent over old women hand-planting rice and weeding. We noted that the forests were re-generating. During the Japanese occupation they felled the timber and transported it to Japan to make paper. In 1950 it seemed that soil erosion would ruin the land, but the new growth seems to be winning. Japanese are now continuing to remove forests in other countries. It is now called wood chipping.

At about 1230 we were obliged to make a compulsory safety stop at a roadside parking area with excellent facilities. We enjoyed our boxed lunch and arrived at Cyongju mid-afternoon. Thanks to the preserved civilisation of 2,000 years, not common elsewhere in the world, it was declared by UNESCO in 1979 to be one of the world’s ten historic sites. It was the capital of the nation from 57BC to 1377AD.

Within its boundaries are the tombs of past leaders. These are symmetrical grassed mounds about 80 metres in diameter and 20 metre high, grouped in clusters of 10 or 20. One has recently been opened and in a nearby museum are displayed many artefacts made of precious metals or other durable material. The standard of craftsmanship is unbelievable. Outside is the suspended copper Emile bell weighing over one tonne and more than 3 metre high. It was cast in the sixth century and was a perfect tone. Most of the main buildings are of granite which is in plentiful supply close by. Obviously this is the basic reason why the city has withstood the elements and Mongol and Japanese invaders so well.

Next day, Anzac Day, the touring party went to the summit of Mt Y’ohamsan to view a Buddhist temple carved from the virgin granite, a magnificent example of stone masonry. The Japanese tried to remove it to Japan but it was too heavy. The magnolia, peach and apple blossoms that we saw during the drive were most spectacular. That night, back at the hotel, Mr Frank Sachse, our tour co-ordinator and good shepherd since leaving Sydney, organised and conducted a memorable Anzac Service.

En route to the major industrial city and port of Pusan, we saw tops of hills being levelled and mountains being terraced to provide space for dwellings. Probably less than 20% of the Republic is arable and space for apartment blocks, super highways and agriculture is at a premium.

We checked into the Commodore Hotel, built in the Chinese style, and then headed to the fish market. At ground level we saw hundreds of fish of many strange varieties, alive in aerated tanks. The upper level was loaded with a bewildering assortment of dried and smoked sea-food. We wondered how the oceans are going to continue to provide this bountiful harvest. From the balcony the panoramic view of the fishing boat enclosure and busy port beyond was spectacular. After wandering through the adjacent shopping area to discover that we could buy better at home, we returned to the Commodore to an excellent buffet meal with a wide choice of Korean and European food.

Next morning we visited the only United Nations Cemetery in the world where all the UN war dead, less those who were returned for burial in their native land, are at rest.

Near a memorial identifying those missing in action we laid a wreath. Again the standard of the ROK Guard of Honour was outstanding. Colonel McCormack had come down from Seoul to be with us for the occasion.

At the Australian section we held a memorial service and then moved along the lines of grave-sites. Two of our party found the final resting place of a mate. They had enlisted and been through rookies with him and he left them at the Battle of the Hook late in 1952. Very few of us had dry eyes. That afternoon the touring party went to the international shopping area which is a maze of little streets crammed with shops and stalls. Prices were high but, when our Korean hostess Julie, who had been with us since leaving Seoul, bargained for us, they reduced prices by about 50%. You have to know the glue. Few of the streets are identified in English so we stuck to Julie like glue. In the jostling around we would have soon become lost.

Next morning we began the 450km return trip to Kimpo Airport near Seoul. About half way we reached the eight lane divided super highway with inside lanes reserved for tourist transport carrying eight or more persons, except at peak periods. Traffic police and radar cameras were very evident. We parked in a pleasant river bank rest area for our compulsory safety stop and ate our lunch. Loaded tourist buses were passing about every 15 seconds in each direction. Except for a couple of consular cars we didn’t see one vehicle that was not made in Korea.
Our group gathered in the departure lounge where our trip ended as it began; in came some 300 excited Korean honeymooners. Some appeared to have come direct from wedding ceremonies and most of the brides were stunners. One old digger was heard to remark “they never looked like that when I was here before!”

Our tour leader Frank Sachse looked after us very well. None of us became ill, got lost or held up the bus. There will not be a Korean re-visit in 1997 as Frank has been appointed to take a group of school cadets to Korea in June. They will visit Panmunjom, other defence establishments and armament factories and will spend a couple of nights at the old company positions at Kapyong.

Further reading, all in the “Can’t put it down” class, includes:
The Last Call of the Bugle Jack Galloway, 3RAR
One Man’s War in Korea Lofty Large, 1st Gloucester Bn Korea – Beyond the Hills, H. Edward Kim
These books are available from public libraries.

Submitted by:
FRANK PARKER

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Members of HMAS Sydney Forum 1996, recently formed to convene this November’s forum on 1941 sinkings of the Australian cruiser HMAS Sydney and the German raider HSK Kormoran, believe that the ships’ positions have been generally known at most senior military levels since November 1941, they intend to present their own independent supporting submissions to the forum.

“Ric” Bourne, Ean McDonald, John Doohan and Gordon Laffer – all World War II Australian Servicemen – will lead the forum.

Background research, including Allied High Frequency Direction Finding tracking of Kormoran and radio signals intercepted from both ships, together with a large floating patch of linseed oil, plus other calculations based on depth of water and speed of northerly-flowing water-current, will bring searchers to a close proximity of both vessels.

The committee expects there will be wide-ranging submissions and discussions at the forum to be held at the Stella Maris Centre in Fremantle on November 23 and 24. A short Ecumenical Service in memory of HMAS Sydney and her 645 company will precede the forum. All are invited to attend.

T.K. LLOYD

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The President and Members of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch invite you and your friends to the

Remembrance – Poppy Day Lunch

All proceeds to the RSL Welfare Fund
in the presence of
His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia Major General Michael Jeffery AC, MC and Mrs Jeffery

12:15pm, Monday 11 November 1996
The Fremantle Sailing Club, Success Harbour, Marine Parade, Fremantle

Special Guest, Teenage Yachtsman David Dicks
Prebyterian Ladies College Band
Bandmaster Mr Brian Underwood
Scotch College Pipes
Pipe Bandmaster Mr Norman de Grussa

Convenor: Mrs Joan Dowson MBE, OAM Tel: 384 6712
Enquiries: Mrs Iris Gawthorn Tel: 300 0583

Application for Tickets RSVP by 1 November 1996

Cheques to made payable to “RSL Poppy Day Lunch’ and forwarded to:
Mrs Joan Dowson, 3 Bay Terrace, Mosman Park, WA 6012

I wish to apply for tickets at $33.00 each to the Poppy day Lunch to be held on Remembrance Day, Monday 11 November 1996 at the Fremantle Sailing Club

Name: 
Telephone: 
Address:
MEMBERSHIP

Criteria of Eligibility for membership to the RSL

- Six months service in one of more of Australia's Defence Forces on either a regular or part time basis.
- Service in one of Australia's Allied Armed Services.

How The League Evolved

The RSL evolved as a direct result of the camaraderie, concern and mateship shown by the "Diggers" for the welfare of their "Cobbers" during, at the end of and after World War I. That ethos of service remains as the driving force that continues to motivate the League.

Infrastructure of The RSL

The RSL is a national organisation operating through National, State and where applicable, District, Regions and Sub-Branches.

RSL Mission Statement

"To ensure that programmes are in place for the well being, care, compensation and commemoration of Serving and Ex-Service Defence Force members and their dependants; and promote Government and Community awareness of the need for a secure, stable and progressive Australia."

The Objectives and Role of the RSL

The League in serving the interests of its Members, Veterans and the Ex-Service community, as well as that of serving Members of the Australian Defence Forces, executes its role by effectively implementing the following objectives that are in accord with the League's mission statement.

Note: The League has and accepts, as a result of its charter, a moral obligation to help all veterans and Ex-Service Members regardless of whether they are Members of the League or not.

- Welfare
- Advocacy and Representation
- Commemoration and Remembrance
- Committed adherence to the implementation and practices of democratic principles and philosophies, both within the League at all its levels of management also in Australia's institutions as well as the three tiers of Government.
- The League provides a network with venues that allows its Members, Veterans and Ex-Service members to enjoy camaraderie, fellowship and mateship.
- The League provides effective and efficient management of ALL RSL assets and resources for the benefit of its Members, Serving Members of the ADF and the Veteran and Ex-Service Community overall.
- The League acts as an effective lobby group by monitoring all government policies in portfolios of interest to, or that impact upon the interest of, League Members or those eligible to be League Members.
- The League provides support for, to and of the ADF.
- The League is pro-active within the community and Australian society overall.
- The League practises and endeavours to instil in the Australian people the patriotic loyalty and pride that the League has for the Nation, its people, the Crown and the Flag.

J.R. (JACK) BABBAGE
Chairman Membership Committee

Veterans’ Affairs and Ex-Service Organisations are JOINING FORCES to bring you a NEW SERVICE

From 4 June 1996 veterans and their families will have the choice of consulting with representatives of Ex-Service Organisations or with DVA staff on Veterans' matters in DVA's city office.

An office on the 12th floor of the AMP Building, 140 St Georges Terrace Perth, (adjacent to DVA’s enquiry area) has been made available for use by the various ex-service organisations for private interviews.

Telephone (09) 366 8261 for an appointment
The organisation which later became known as the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service had its beginning in Sydney, when Captain Blackwood RN (Retired) founded the Volunteer Coastal Patrol on 28 March 1938. The service consisted of patriotically minded yachtsmen whose aim was to encourage a volunteer service of yachtsmen to undergo a course of training so that, in the event of a national emergency, their services would be of value to the defence authorities. The members worked in a completely voluntary capacity and supplied their own boats and uniforms.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 the Service received a large influx of recruits, mainly men whose age prevented them from enlisting in the regular services. The patrol was granted no official recognition by any of the services, but was looked upon by the Military Eastern Command as a useful adjunct to their service. The Volunteer Coastal Patrol co-operated with the army in testing beach defences, coastal reconnaissance work and assisting with military surveys. The Patrol was highly regarded by GOC. Eastern Command who did its utmost to have the Patrol recognised by the government, but without success.

In June 1940 when the NSW Police were entrusted with the security of Sydney harbour, they approached the VCP for assistance, which was readily forthcoming. This resulted in the Patrol receiving official recognition by the NSW State Government. The members, in addition to the Patrol's own instructional programme, were trained by police instructors for a period of 13 weeks in police procedures, first aid and ARP duties. At the end of this training the members were sworn in as Special Constables.

An early recognition of the value of the VCP was made in 1940 by a grant of $2000 to defray the cost of petrol.

When war began against Japan in 1941, the Volunteer Coastal patrol spread around Australia. The service was open to all men who were not of military age, knew something about boats and the vagaries of the sea and were prepared to give up their spare time to perform patrol duties. Instructional parades were held twice a week where members were taught musketry, first aid, navigation and signalling. They supplied their own uniform, which consisted of a blue shirt, grey slacks and a cap with the Coastal Patrol Service badge. Every night a number of boats were detailed for patrol duties. When the boats were outfitted with ordinance, such as small depth charges, rifles, revolvers, hand grenades and machine guns, a naval rating accompanied each vessel on patrol to discourage the crew from blowing themselves up. Most of the men on patrol duty had to return to their civil occupation at 9.00 the next day, but they had the satisfaction of knowing that their night's work had contributed to safeguarding our harbours and shipping.

In June 1941, the Naval Board approved, in principle, the formation of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service. Mr RH Power was entered into the RANVR as Liaison Officer with the rank of Lieutenant to implement the service.

An official warrant for the formation of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service was granted on 28 March 1943 and the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service (P) was transferred to the RANVR as a unit. The compartment was entered into the RANVR as Liaison Officer. The same uniforms and rank badges of the RANVR were worn, and all personnel came under the same regulations and received the same medical compensation and repatriation benefits as the RAN.

All members were physically examined and fit men were mobilised. Candidates considered not fit for mobilisation could be enrolled as unmobilised members.

On 1 November 1943, the RANVR (P) was transferred to the RANVR. Officers transferred to the RANVR with seniority of rank, and ratings were given rank according to their qualifications.

Any period of service in the RANVR (P) was regarded for all purposes as time served in the RANVR. At this time, the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service had reached a peak strength, Australia wide, of 662 vessels and 3185 personnel.
Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service Cont.

Unfortunately, very little has been recorded of the NAPS in Western Australia. It had its origins in November 1939, when members of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club and the Royal Perth Yacht Club combined to form a unit similar to the CVC in Sydney. The unit paraded on The Esplanade, conducted camps and training facilities and associated in a loose way with the army’s Volunteer Defence Groups. According to Navy Office records, the WA force reached peak strength of 105 vessels and 419 personnel. They recorded the highest number of ship hours on patrol for any state in Australia, the figure being 14,902 hours.

The NAPS took on a more warlike footing in August 1942, when the Navy took over the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club and commissioned it as HMAS *Leeuwin* II as a depot for the patrol service. *Leeuwin* II remained in commission until March 1946. The first Commanding Officer was Lt Cdr Roland Smith and the vessels became policemen and messenger boys for the naval ships in Fremantle. The patrols included the prohibited area of the river which was used by seaplanes, the harbour itself, the inner and outer booms, Gage Roads and Cockburn Sound. They ferried mail and relief crews to naval vessels.

The naval Auxiliary Patrol Service performed sterling service all around Australia during the war years, releasing thousands of young men for the more strenuous duty of active service at sea. Those who served in the NAPS have every reason to be proud of the service they rendered to Australia in her hour of need.

D.J. McCLELLAND

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Reservations, whether for restaurant, function room or general purpose, will be warmly welcomed and full assistance in whatever capacity will be given by phoning Ian on 325 9079.

JOCK GELDART.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RAAF CATALINAS

The Catalina Flying Boats have been described as the RAAF’s ‘Maids of All Work’ in the war against the Japanese. In early 1942 when the Allied air strength was non-existent in the face of the Japanese onslaught, the Catalinas in and around the new Guinea area were used as bombers attacking enemy bases and shipping and contributing to a “hold the fort” operation which allowed Allied air power to develop.

At one stage, only eight Catalinas, assisted by the remnants of a Hudson Squadron, were alone left to hold off the might of the Japanese forces until the arrival of the Kittyhawk Fighters at Port Moresby early in March 1942.

Catalina aircraft shadowed the Japanese Fleet sailing down to the Coral Sea Battle and lost several aircraft in the operation.

On the arrival of the American Flying Fortress and Liberator Bombers, the Catalinas (being reinforced by additional planes from America) were then used for other duties such as flying AIF troops out of Japanese occupied islands – Timor etc. – supply-dropping to troops and spotters stationed behind enemy lines, conveying of troops and supplies for such as the Milne Bay landings and from then on to Lae, Salamanka, Morotai and Borneo.

The next phase of the operation was the hazardous mine-laying. The “Black Cats” mined practically every port from Surabaya to the Phillipines and others in the China Sea, bottling up Japanese shipping. Air sea rescue was a very important part of their duties and many sailors, soldiers and airmen owe their lives to the aircraft and crews landing hundreds of miles from home bases, at times in very rough seas.

Their final role was the repatriation of prisoners of war from Singapore and Japan itself and landing some of the sick and under-nourished servicemen right here on the Swan River at Crawley Bay.

Whilst the RAAF was carrying out operations in the northern areas, the American Catalina Squadrons were performing similar duties from their base at Crawley.

Qantas in 1943 also commenced flying Catalinas from Nedlands to Colombo in the longest non-stop flights ever carried out in the world at that time, averaging 30 hours one way. This became known at the “Double Sunrise Service”.

We have many members of our Catalina Club who took part in all these operations.

Thirty-two of the aircraft of the first 50 delivered to Australia were lost by enemy action, or accidentally and each carried a crew of nine. Most of these men lie in unknown graves in the islands and seas north of Australia.

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RSL War Veterans’ Homes Video Library

The residents of the War Veterans’ Homes at Mount Lawley and Meadow Springs, Mandurah, have been given video recorders through the generosity of Highgate Sub-Branch (for the Mt Lawley recorder) and members of the Mandurah RSL Social Club (for the Meadow Springs recorder). We now seek support in the form of donations of old or new video tapes for our libraries in both homes for the benefit of our residents.

Further information may be obtained from Jill Van Blommestein on (09) 370 0200 during office hours.

The RSL War Veterans’ Home
51 Alexander Drive, Mt Lawley 6050
or to: The RSL War Veterans’ Home
62 Oakmont Avenue, Meadow Springs, 6210

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For further information see page 50
THE GREATEST SECRET OF THEM ALL

Did the Japanese hierarchy attempt to open negotiations on a peace settlement in 1944, only to be rebuffed by the Australian and American Governments?

Did some talks take place but lead to nothing?

The official Australian view is that no overtures were made by the Japanese at such an early stage of the war.

But writer and historian Bob Piper believes that the evidence points overwhelmingly to the message above, obviously one of a series, being genuine and that senior Japanese in the military attempted to talk peace in September 1944 – 11 months before the war ended with the dropping of atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The message, if true, is obviously one of a series, and has ominous historical, political and diplomatic implications, including use of atomic bombs.

If some Japanese wanted peace, why was this hidden from the Australian public?

Dozens of secret war documents remain in archives in Canberra and Washington. This would be among them. Bob Piper, the RAAF Historical Officer for 15 years, reveals details of the peace offer in his latest book The Hidden Chapters.

"2 September 1944 – Tokio/Brisbane – special envoy will arrive Merauke 0200 hours local time 7 September 1944 to discuss terms of honourable surrender."

These words are just part of a top secret message that may have been concealed from the Australian, American and Japanese people since World War II. Copies of the document first resurfaced in Canberra in 1990 and since then it has been quietly and carefully examined and discussed by a few selected and specialised military historians, in both Australia and Japan.

All have provided details which give substance to the message’s authenticity.

If this message is a fact, then the possible implications almost defy latter-day comprehensions. Did our political and military masters have the opportunity to discuss a surrender with Japan before the Impending Philippines campaign commenced, before atomic bombs were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima? Were MacArthur, Roosevelt, Churchill and Curtin determined to push on to the Japanese homeland, despite the casualties that would continue to mount on both sides?

Could this intended Japanese peace flight in 1944 be likened to that of Germany’s Rudolf Hess, Hitler’s deputy, to Scotland on 10 May 1941? Hess deliberately abandoned his aircraft and parachuted at night, apparently in an attempt to alight near the Duke of Hamilton’s residence and arrange through him, to Churchill, a negotiated peace. The British government has ordered its archives on this affair closed until at least the year 2001.

The political turning point for Japan occurred on 18 July 1944 when General Hideki Tojo resigned as Prime Minister, taking with him his entire cabinet, which had been in power since October 1941.

The recent loss of Saipan, the jewel of the Japanese Pacific Empire, to American forces, had prompted Tojo’s replacement. The additional loss of the Philippines, with its flow of abundant raw materials, would be the beginning of the end for Japan’s survival.

For MacArthur, a return to the Philippines was an obsession. Who shall ever forget his famous promise ... I shall return. A victory there, to wade ashore as its liberator, would add to his fame and restore his prestige. It would also have been financial debt repaid because, as historian Carol Petillo first revealed, MacArthur had received a half-million-dollar gift from President Quezon (of the Philippines) on 3 January 1942. By September 1944, MacArthur had an extremely strong force of 18 divisions, whereas a year earlier he had only seven. Why should MacArthur halt his accelerating thrust towards Japan at this stage when, from his already considerable experience of the Asian psyche, he knew that nothing less than total humiliation of the Japanese warlords would permanently deter a renewal of South East Asian expansion? For President Roosevelt back at home, there was his country’s bitter losses at Pearl Harbour, before the war had even been declared, to be remembered.

There would also now be no political mileage to be gained in the impending elections for a victorious, and now strong American force that suddenly stopped short, in the Far East, with a conditional surrender.

For the British and Churchill, a former First Lord of the Admiralty, the loss of their magnificent battleships, Repulse and Prince of Wales, followed by Singapore’s surrender, had been their greatest military disaster.

A conditional surrender would also rob them of a victorious return and some restoration of national pride in the Far East. Australia and Curtin, as in the past, would contentedly follow the American and British flags now that lost territories had all but been regained.

By September 1944, Japan’s position had become quite precarious. American forces had cracked the outer
The Greatest Secret Of Them All Cont.

defensive ring of islands, leaving in their wake some 200,000 impotent troops on bypassed islands. The Pacific Ocean had become a US Navy lake where American ships, aircraft and submarines virtually roamed at will. With the capture of Saipan, Guam and Tinian, the US Air Force, especially with its new B-29 Superfortresses, was within striking distance of Japan proper.

Meanwhile, back in Japan, Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai had become Navy Minister and appointed Vice Admiral Shigeyoshi Inoue to the position of Deputy, which he assumed on 5 August.

Vice Admiral Inoue, it should be recorded, had earlier been banished to the naval Academy in October 1942 because he had considered that ...our (the navy's) cooperation with the Prussian-like Imperial Japanese Army will destroy our nations. It should also be remembered that Yamamoto and many other senior Japanese naval officers had argued against participation in World War II from the beginning and there was no love lost between them and their army.

The new prime Minister, General Kuniaki Koiso, spoke only of continuing the war in August 1944 while Japanese historians record that the Imperial Navy opposed the Prime Minister and began preparing the ground for peace. Inoue, as the new Vice Navy Minister, listened for 10 days to the morning battle reports and was dismayed at how desperate the situation had really become. He is recorded as having said to his minister "...There is no use in continuing this war any longer. May I be permitted to begin preparing for peace henceforth?" Admiral Yonai replied: "It is quite all right. You are permitted."

The stage was thus set, in late August 1944, for peace initiatives by the Japanese navy, on behalf of its nation.

It is now pertinent to return to the 'peace message' and examine its unedited and full text.

CONFIRMATORY MESSAGE RECEIVED 2 SEPTEMBER 1944 0315 HRS GMT TOKIO/BRISBANE 23987 MHZ. MESSAGE BEGINS. SPECIAL ENVOY WILL ARRIVE MERAUKE 0200 LOCAL 7 SEPTEMBER 1944 (REPEAT 70944/0200L). AIRCRAFT WILL BE UNACCOMPANIED HEISEN GEKKO UNDER COMMAND W/O SHIBUSAWA DIRECT TRACT HAROEKOE/ MERAUKE. AIRCRAFT WILL REQUIRE SUFFICIENT 100 OCTANE FUEL RETURN HAROEKOE (IN ADDITION TO) RUNWAY LENGTH 2000 FEET WITH FLARES.

ENVOY HAS AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS TERMS OF HONOURABLE SURRENDER AND WILL SUBSEQUENTLY REPORT IN (FIRST INSTANCE) TO COMMANDER ELEVENTH AIR FLEET.

AS AGREED, WE REQUIRE ENVOY CONFERENCE DIRECTLY WITH (EITHER) AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER OR GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE ACCEPTANCE OF ABOVE CONDITIONS BY SAME TIME 4 SEPTEMBER 1944 GMT (REPEAT 40944/0315 GMT). MESSAGE ENDS.

Merauke, mentioned in the message, was the former West New Guinea base operated by the Dutch and located a mere 300 km north west of Thursday Island and the tip of Cape York Peninsula, an ideal place for a discreet night time rendezvous between the Japanese Navy emissary and an Allied representative. Haroekoe, from where the peace flight would depart, was 2,000 odd km north west of Merauke, off Ceram (Indonesia). Haroekoe is usually spelt by us as Haruku.

Australian World War II communication experts have advised that the radio/morse frequency 23987 MHZ for the peace message would have been correct at that time of day for long distance transmissions between Tokyo and Brisbane.

The Octagon Conference held in Quebec, Canada commenced on 13 September 1944 and was attended by Churchill, Roosevelt and their combined chiefs of staff. On September 15, the Halsey-Nimitz-MacArthur agreement, which included the invasion of Leyte (Philippines) on October 20 was presented and accepted within a mere 90 minutes of its receipt. Of particular significance is the fact that the attack date on Leyte had now also been advanced, and approved, by two months. The conference concluded on 19 September with one of the overall objectives being to force an unconditional surrender which included the "ultimate invading and seizing of objectives in the industrial heart of Japan".

Was the Japanese extended hand of peace rebuffed? Were only a select few privilege to the message's existence? It appears to have arrived at MacArthur's headquarters in Brisbane. Who made the decision not to continue or ignore the negotiations? An official Australian airforce diary for 120 Squadron at Merauke records on 7 September 1944 that ...General Van Oyen, of the Netherlands East Indies Forces, and staff visited Merauke. Perhaps this was just a coincidence.

In retrospect, it appears that perhaps the war against Japan could have been terminated a year earlier with the subsequent saving of countless lives. Or was it a wise decision to press on because it has resulted in a peaceful co-existence with Japan for nearly half a century and instigated a theme of non-aggression which remains a central core of their society, even today. As it happened,
an American B-29 Superfortress dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 killing some 60,000 people. On 9 August a second atomic bomb was dropped, this time on Nagasaki. The following day Tokyo Radio reported that Japan was willing to surrender. On the night of August 9-10, the Japanese Emperor called an imperial conference, announcing: "I have decided to accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration". On 14 August President Truman announced the end of the war and the formal surrender of Japan took place on the US battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay on 2 September.

Nevertheless, after the passage of all these years, indeed people.

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TRIBUTE TO THE SASR

The Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) is normally a unit that eschews publicity; however, on 12 June 1996 the unit received national prominence in the most tragic circumstances possible. In the greatest peacetime training accident since the Voyager disaster, two Blackhawk helicopters collided killing 15 SASR members and three aviation crew from 5 Aviation Regiment in Townsville. The accident, which occurred at night while the troops were engaged in Counter-Terrorist (CT) training, serves to emphasise the dangerous training routinely undertaken by men and women of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), particularly the SASR, unseen and unnoticed by the majority of Australian.

The SASR was first established as a company in 1957, based in the Perth suburb of Swanbourne. In 1964 the unit was expanded to regimental strength and shortly after saw service in Borneo during the confrontation with Indonesia. Between 1966 and 1971 the three operational SASR squadrons rotated through 12 month tours in Vietnam, mainly conducting reconnaissance and ambush patrols. On 31 August 1979, SASR was formally directed to raise a CT force, which has since developed into a CT force the equal of any in the world. The modern SASR employs high technology and specially selected and superbly trained soldiers. The loss of such select soldiers is keenly felt. The regiment maintains the capability to conduct war role patrol tasks as well as CT and recovery tasks. SASR soldiers are likely to be involved in providing security to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

SASR prides itself on its operational record and its realistic training; however, this has not been without cost. Inside the gates of SASR is a memorial known as ‘The Rock’. The recent tragedy brings to 41 the number of names inscribed on ‘The Rock’ of personnel who have died on active service or in training. Three members were killed in Borneo and a further six in Vietnam, although only one death is attributed to wounds received by the enemy. The majority of deaths have occurred whilst undertaking realistic training involving inherent risks. Two members have died during training river crossings; two have died whilst on diving operations in Bass Strait; and five have been killed in parachute accidents, the most recent being in May 1996. Until the Blackhawk tragedy, the largest number of SASR soldiers killed in the one incident had been three members in a aircraft crash in the Philippines in 1981.

The recent deaths have caused SASR to pause and mourn for all their fallen comrades and share in the grief felt by families and loved ones, but it has not deterred SASR from its responsibilities. The specially selected men of SASR stand prepared at immediate notice to carry out their duties. The members of the Returned and Services League offer their heartfelt tribute to SASR and extend their condolences in this time of sorrow.

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.”

LEST WE FORGET

Authorized by:

J SURRIDGE,
Editor.
On the way to reinforce its hard-pressed troops grimly defending Finschhafen, in New Guinea, the Japanese invasion force simply didn’t see the little Australian corvette in Driga harbour that day in October 1943.

The reason was that HMAS Benalla, her unique chocolate and olive-green camouflage, was invisible against the background of the New Guinea jungle.

Supply vessels, tenders, destroyers and submarines sailed past without firing a shot, while for two hours successive flights of bombers escorted by Zeroes droned overhead at little more than masthead height.

But no bombs disturbed the Benalla, for the airmen evidently thought the brown-green smudge in the middle of the bay was only part of the scenery.

When the armada finally left the area the corvette’s survey team quietly continued operations like sounding depths and dropping marker buoys for the AIF landing to follow shortly.

The survey work of the 650-tonne Benalla, her sister-ship HMAS Shepparton and the other, mainly smaller craft that made up the Royal Australian Navy’s Survey Group, was too hush-hush to gain any wartime headlines.

But the United States Navy to which the group was attached knew the value of the little vessels that went steaming impudently ahead of their massive invasion fleets to chart the way.

SUCCESSFUL
Without the Australians, said Vice-Admiral Kincaid commanding the U.S. Seventh Fleet, the landings on islands from New Guinea to the Philippines would have been impossible.

Following the successful invasion of the Philippines in 1944 eight DSCs, one DSM and eight Mentioned in Despatches were the greatest number of awards ever made to one small service simultaneously.

Laid down at Williamstown, Victoria and entirely Australian-built, the Benalla had been intended primarily as a minesweeper.

Then early in 1943 the demands of Pacific strategy decided she was more urgently needed as a survey vessel.

In the space normally occupied by the minesweeper’s winch, the Benalla was equipped with a chartroom.

Other special gear included a taut-wire machine with 650kg of piano wire. This was her measuring device when employed on night-time operations.

The taut-wire machine was standard equipment on survey vessels but the Benalla’s chocolate and green colour scheme was the idea of her captain, Lt-Cdr George Tancred.

That particular combination, experience had taught him, would enable the Benalla to melt invisibly into virtually any Pacific background.

Often shore parties returning from the job of erecting triangulation masts on top of prominent natural features ashore would arrive back at the beach puzzled. The vessel they knew to be anchored close inshore had seemingly vanished.

Meanwhile in June 1943 the Benalla had arrived in Milne Bay as part of a survey group that was to operate in conjunction with the U.S. Seventh Amphibious Force.

Already the strategy of leap-frogging the Japanese—that is of landing forces behind the enemy’s lines instead of pushing him back on a broad front—was being successfully evolved in the Solomon Islands farther eastwards.

However it couldn’t succeed in New Guinea until 100 little bays and inlets in enemy hands had been thoroughly surveyed and made navigationally safe beforehand.

For the next nine months the Benalla’s job would be to chart the north coast of New Guinea and nearby archipelagoes in minute detail.

It was a task not previously attempted in peacetime because of the obvious navigational risks.

The mudbanks and occasional niggerheads of new Guinea’s surrounding coral outcrop were certainly a never-ending hazard. But the crew of the Benalla was more concerned about enemy warships and Zeroes.

The corvette’s camouflage didn’t fool sharp eyes ashore when she began a survey in the Trobriand Islands.

A small enemy force there was reluctant to reveal its strength by opening fire on the surveyors but it was able to radio a message to one of its airstrips on nearby New Britain.

That evening an enemy bomber arrived to plaster the spot pin-pointed by the spotters ashore. However the Benalla had left her anchorage by that time and was on the way to the next little bay.

Actually the crew of another Australian survey vessel working well clear of Japanese territory was even more fortunate.
Once at Biak, a Catalina did appear but joy at sighting her was short-lived. Close behind the plane and below, where they were immune from the flying-boat’s guns which couldn’t fire downwards, were two Zeros.

Approaching the corvette the Catalina signalled desperately for gunnery assistance but received absolutely no response.

Reason was the Benalla’s crew had strict instructions never to open fire and give away the ship’s position unless the vessel herself was in peril.

Cursing the Australians the pilot then headed for a small island nearby.

There, with superb skill and flying at no more than treetop height among the palm groves, his crew machine-gunned the Zeros out of the sky.

Flying-boat and corvette were safe and soon after, having completed the chartwork necessary for a successful invasion of Dutch New Guinea, the Benalla returned to Manus.

The progress made by the Americans on Manus while the corvette had been absent was staggering.

Seeadler harbour, virtually nor more than an open roadstead ringed by various reefs and islands, had become the site of a vast naval base.

Already the strategists envisaged it as a major staging-point for the invasion of the Philippines. Scores of buildings, warehouses and hospitals reached down to the water’s edge while the floating dock was capable of handling battleships.

Steadily the American build-up continued.

The Australians knew something big was impending as they watched the magnificent harbour, 55 km long and 5 km wide, slowly fill with battleships, aircraft carriers and vessels of every imaginable description. On 7 October 1944, the plan was revealed. Leyte Island in the central Philippines was the objective and the Benalla was to form part of the amphibious attack force under the overall command of Vice Admiral Kincaid.

Leyte, one of the 7000-odd islands comprising the Philippines, was a mountainous, densely-forested island offering very few harbours and almost no facilities for the handling of big ships.

Until preliminary surveying was completed vessels would have to be unloaded by barges on to open beaches with a tidal range of up to three metres.

In addition Leyte was in the track of the frequent typhoons of the area. Nevertheless American technology was capable of overcoming all these problems. When the Benalla sailed from Hollandia that October she was only one of an armada of 554 Allied ships converging on Leyte from three different directions.
RAN Vessel Played Major Role In Pacific Campaign Cont.

HMAS Benalla showing the unique camouflage devised by her skipper, Lt-Cdr George Tancred. This is the only photograph available of the vessel – perhaps our readers have a better one!

The Australians had a grandstand view as the heavy ships lifted their massive bombardment of the enemy’s shore positions and the first wave of landing craft hit the beach. From the bow ramp of each a tank roared ashore.

These tanks clawed their way across the beach and headed into the jungle followed by bulldozers. Only then did the first infantry men, backed up by intense mortar and rocket fire, appear from the heavily armed landing craft.

KAMIKAZE

Overhead, Japanese kamikaze pilots, flying battle-weary Zeros loaded with bombs, circled the skies before screaming down to blow themselves and their chosen targets to destruction.

Meanwhile a shore party from the little and insignificant HMAS Benalla was performing one of the bravest deeds of the entire campaign.

On their way to set up a triangulation mast the group of eight Australians, which included the coxswain Ted Lewis and a survey rating, Jack Kidd, was subjected to constant sniper fire.

Carrying their heavy equipment up a mountain-side and then down again took all day. Then they had no sooner set out to return to the ship when a typhoon blew them to the other end of Leyte Gulf. They had done their job however. The reward was a DSM for Jack Kidd and four more DSCs to add to the one already earned by the corvette’s second skipper, Lt-Cdr “Windy” Gale for his work around New Guinea.

Leyte marked virtually the Benalla’s last contribution to the war effort. Soon the gallant little ship was to return to Australia deemed to have outlived her usefulness.

Eventually on 25 April 1958, Anzac Day of all days, she sailed out of Sydney harbour and from Australian shores forever. By an irony of history she was being sold to the Japanese for scrap-iron.

Courtesy: Corvettes Association and Vic Jeffery, Navy Public Affairs Office (WA).

BUT YOU DIDN’T

Remember the time you lent me the car and I dented it?
I thought you’d kill me ... BUT YOU DIDN’T
Remember the time I forgot to tell you the dance was formal and you came in jeans?
I thought you’d hate me ... BUT YOU DIDN’T
Remember the time I’d flirt with other boys just to make you jealous, and you were?
I thought you’d drop me ... BUT YOU DIDN’T
There were plenty of things you did to put up with me, to keep me happy, to love me, and there are so many things I wanted to tell you when you returned from Vietnam ... BUT YOU DIDN’T

KRISTEN TESSMAN
Yandina, Qld

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Wally Dennison, Member of Nollamara/North Perth RSL
The Match Committee has reconciled the Social Bowls programme for 1996/97 and the Chairman, Max O’Loughlin and his Committee – Reg Axford, Les Webb, Ian Gardner and Ray Ridley have introduced new venues this year.

The Northam Carnival on Friday 25 October is again sponsored by Purslowe Funeral Homes. Monty Scott, Northam Sub-Branch, assured the Match Committee that he will raise sufficient members from the surrounding Sub-Branches to field at least 12 teams.

Friday 8 November is a date for your diary. Lancelin Bowling Club will be host on this occasion and local member Norm Skoglund promises an excellent day out with the ‘Crayfish Bowling members at Lancelin; book early, this trip is bound to be popular. Bruce Rock Tuesday 15 October, 1996 and Darkan Tuesday 18 February, 1997 will be the only long trips scheduled on the calendar this Bowls year.

The committee has introduced a new venue; by request, Dudley Park Men’s Fours to be held on Friday December 6 1996.

The social bowls programme is currently with the printer and copies will be available to members in the very near future.

The national Carnival Committee under the leadership of the National Secretary, Dudley Docking, has had several meetings discussing the programme and seeking sponsors for the carnival. The major sponsor Healthways, in association with the Arthritis Foundation, has confirmed its support for the Carnival, the motto being “Fitness Fights Arthritis”.

Most of us are aware that smoking is a health hazard and the theme that Healthways will be promoting is smoke-free areas. To assist the committee to comply with the conditions under which the sponsorship was achieved, Yokine Bowling Club, venue for the National Round Robin has declared a smoke free area in its clubhouse. Members will be requested to comply with the non-smoking signs at the various venue clubs during the period of the carnival.

Closing date for nomination in the Sir Arthur Lee National Fours is 25 October 1996; the National Secretary requests that an early nomination by members will assist the Carnival Committee in finalising the carnival programme in early November.

The Social Committee Chairman, Jim Middleton, reports that his Committee will be organising a major raffle from September to December, the draw to be made at the half-yearly meeting. Prizes for the winners are currently under discussion with various sponsors; tickets will be circulated to members in early September and your support will be appreciated to make the Committee’s hard work worth while.

The Social Committee will also conduct a raffle at the various venues during the National Carnival. Eagle Sports, in association with Henselite Bowls, has provided a set of lawn bowls as the major prize and again we seek your support. It is estimated that we shall be hosts to 200 plus visitors from the five States – 85 from Tasmania.

The Ladies’ Committee (Edna Piggott, Joy O’Loughlin, Ella Reynolds, Val Clark, Alma Ardaugh, Beryl Ferguson, Dolly Middleton, Thelma Evans and Fran Docking) is finalising arrangements for the hospitality of visiting Ladies from the various states; a trip to Mandurah and surrounding scenic areas on 29 December, with lunch at Dudley Park Bowling Club will be the main event.

ALF PRICE.

RSL SOUTHERN DISTRICTS BOWLING CLUB PRESENTS
RSL DIGGERS ARMISTICE DAY

Venue: Armadale Bowling Club
Date: Friday, 15 November 1996
Time: Report 0930 for 1000 start
2 games of 17 ends
Teams of fours & single entries accepted
Nomination Fee: $48 per team – $12 per head
Dress: Creams or whites – no coloured shirts to be worn
Lunch: Will be supplied at Armadale

Service and Ex-Servicemen only and all other bowlers as applicable

Nominations: Close Monday, 11 November 1996
Telephone: Armadale Bowling Club 399 2532
C. Pickering 399 6890
R. Axford 450 5852

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ENTRY FORM

NATIONAL FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP
2 - 6 January 1997
(Please print clearly – add given or preferred name)

Lead __________________________
Sub-Branch ____________________
Second _________________________
Sub-Branch ____________________
Third __________________________
Sub-Branch ____________________
Captain _________________________
Sub-Branch ____________________

TEAM CONTACT:–
Name __________________________
Address ________________________
State ______ Post Code _________
Telephone No. __________________

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND RULES

1. All contestants must be financial members of the RSL of Australia.

2. All contestants must be affiliated with Bowls Australia or the appropriate Governing Body.

3. Nominees of any team must be affiliated with the same State Governing Body but need not be members of the same Club or Sub-Branch.

4. All nominations must be accompanied by an entry fee of $20.00 per team.

5. Players are responsible for their own transport and accommodation.

6. All teams will play five games of sectional competition. Winners will continue with knock-out games.

7. All games will be of 21 live ends.

8. All players are required to pay for their luncheon for three days prior to the commencement of the first round of sectional play.

ENTRIES FOR NATIONAL FOURS CLOSE 25 OCTOBER, 1996
(Requested as soon as possible.)

Entries To:-
DUDLEY DOCKING
National Secretary
44B Colin Road, Scarborough 6019
telephone (09) 341 1795

SPONSORS
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Sponsoring Sport in Western Australia
EAGLE SPORTS – HENSELITE.
Australia
by Keith Martin

Australia, Australia so fine and so fair,
No other land with thee can compare,
With your sunny beaches and nice lovely hills,
I love you, I love you and I always will.

Your folk are so gentle, so kind and so true,
It is no wonder that I adore you.

The waves pound your shores in a long gentle roll,
While the beaches resound to the screech of the gull.

The fishermen sleep at night with no danger in thought,
For they have their light on both starboard and port,
And leave in the mornings with sails all set,
Whilst towing behind their dinghy and net.

They’re off to the Bay of New Orleans,
The best fishing ground that I’ve ever seen.

They set their nets with a prayer and a wish,
And never come home without a boatload of fish.

The shearing’s begun at Thomas River shed,
Led by an old ringer, a chap they call Ned.

The mustering on the station is now in full swing,
The stockmen they shout, they laugh and they sing.

While the cattle are yarded again in the pen,
Waiting for the branding to begin again.

The kangaroos, emu and koala bear.
Whilst our on the desert and sandplains we see,
The kangaroo paw and the wild Sturt pea.

All these good things the good Lord has us given
And the things we’ve spoilt may we be forgiven.

Our Servicemen went away to the war,
To keep the enemy from Australia’s shore.

They fought the battles, did their best,
Played the game and passed the test.

They came from city and country town,
To give Australia a name renowned,
And wherever the Australian flag was unfurled,
They shouted Australia to the world.

And, although I have wandered all over the world,
Have seen many flags furled and unfurled,
There’s no other country as fair as thee,
Australia, Australia the land of the free.

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47 KING STREET PERTH 481 1905
THE YANGTZE INCIDENT

The following extract is from a letter recently received and dated 19th May 1996:

"By now you will probably have received the minutes of the AGM and read the reference to the Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorations of the Yangtze Incident to be held in 1999, and I am writing to ask if you could help by spreading the word in Australia.

Steps have already begun to publicise the event as world-wide as possible. A notice will be sent to Royal Navy Association branches in the monthly circular from HQ in London, and will include branches down under. We know that members from all four ships have emigrated from this country; however, not all will belong to the RNA. I have already written to other Naval Veterans' clubs in Canada and wondered if it would be possible for you to circulate the enclosed notice through Australian RSL and Naval Veteran's clubs."

I have already approached the South Australian body and they are willing to print and distribute for me.

KEN HARTLEY
SA Four Ships Association Representative
11 McKinna Road
Christie Downs SA 5164

Yangtze Incident 1949 - 1999
Four Ships Association
Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary
Shipmates from HM ships Amethyst, Black Swan, Consort, London, their kinsfolk, friends, or anyone involved with the Incident, please contact the Secretary of The Four Ships Association,
S/M John Dunstan,
47 Abbotsbury Rd, Newton Abbot, Devon, UK, TQ12 2NS

We appreciate your contribution to The Listening Post.

However, we ask that you please observe our deadlines as late material cannot be accepted. This is a quarterly magazine and failure to get your notice in the correct edition could lessen its impact on our readers.

ALL IS WELL

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other
That we still are.
Call me by my old familiar name
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference in your tone,
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me,
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect,
Without a trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolutely unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you
For an interval,
Somewhere very near
Just around the corner,
All is well.

The above lines were written by Henry Scott Holland who was Canon of St Pauls, London, from 1892 to 1918. A card with this poem on it is used to comfort the bereaved in the aged ex-service British Community.

EDITOR
BLESSING CEREMONY HERALDS REBUILDING

A blessing ceremony for the foundations of the new wing of Hollywood Private Hospital marked the official start of major works for the redevelopment of the hospital recently. The Governor of WA, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, unveiled the foundation stone at the ceremony which was attended by more than 200 guests, including Ramsay Health Care Chairman, Mr Paul Ramsay.

Hollywood is the former Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, and was sold by the Commonwealth Government to Ramsay Health Care in February 1994.

Speaking at the blessing ceremony, His Excellency said Hollywood remained committed to continuing the care for our veteran and war widow community.

"Over the many years that the veteran community has been cared for at the hospital, veterans have become well known to the nursing staff," His Excellency said. "Their needs have been identified and met with respect, compassion and excellence. This redevelopment will ensure the continuation of well-resourced, high quality services and I commend the hospital and staff accordingly."

Transfield Construction Pty Ltd are the builders for stage one, which includes the building of new accommodation, an intensive care and coronary care unit and a new admissions-reception area, to be completed by early 1997.

The accommodation will feature 120 beds in four wards, containing mostly single rooms, and will be commissioned in May 1997.

Construction of Hollywood’s new Emergency Department will follow and is to be commissioned in October 1997, in turn to be followed by additional operating theatres, day procedure and day surgery facilities and catheterisation laboratory.

Meanwhile, demolition of the old wards 10, 11 and 12 has started to make way for the Hollywood Clinic, the new 30-bed psychiatric unit to be opened in March 1997.

No patient care areas will be affected. A shuttle bus has been introduced to “ferry” visitors and patients to and from parking areas to other areas of the hospital during redevelopment.

PACKAGE TO HELP WITH AFTER CARE PATIENTS

A nationwide discharge planning kit for veterans and war widows was launched at Hollywood Private Hospital recently. The package has been developed by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Mr Bruce Scott.

General practitioners (LMOs) will soon receive brochures and wall charts on discharge planning from DVA which stresses the importance of veterans and war widows participating in the process. The brochures will also be distributed to all veterans and war widows.

The Hospital Resource Kit is a compendium of information. It outlines definitions and standards and includes comprehensive information on available services and how to access them. It supplements programmes being developed by many hospitals to ensure high standards and efficient procedures for discharge planning.

MINISTER LAUNCHES BOOK TO CARE FOR THE CARERS

A new publication designed to help carers with the prevention of back injuries has been launched at Caboolture War Veterans’ Home by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Mr Bruce Scott. The book, Back To Basics – Handy Hints For Carers to Help Prevent Back Injuries, has been specifically written to bring together all the physical aspects of caring and to provide clearly written instructions for carers, supported by photographs and handy hints.

“Carers play a vital role in allowing veterans to enjoy quality life,” said Mr Scott. “We know that most of our careers – almost 90 per cent – are spouses who live with the veteran and they are not getting any younger themselves. It is therefore very important that we do everything we can to help the carers avoid injury, as well..."
as encouraging effective techniques for all the situations that occur day-to-day when caring for someone. The book is one positive step in that direction,” he added. “The Government believes that carers make an untold contribution to the life of our community. Their contribution equates to millions of dollars that, but for their efforts, would be spent on residential care.”

Mr Scott added that Back to Basics would form part of the information and advice strategy outlined under the Government’s National Care Action Plan.

For more information about Back To Basics – Handy Hints For Carers To Help Prevent Back Injuries contact the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM WAR VETERANS’ TRUST

THE AGENT ORANGE FUNDS 1995

The Trust started to distribute the Agent Orange out-of-court settlement in Australia in 1989. Since then nearly $5,000,000 has been given as financial assistance to Vietnam Veterans’ Trust Education Assistance Scheme and grants to projects supporting groups of veterans, the total distributed was almost $6,000,000 by the end of 1995. $963,000 was paid out in 1995, down 6.2% on 1994.

To be eligible for assistance from the Trust a person must:
• have served in or near Vietnam with a unit of the Australian Defence Force at any time between 1961 and 1972, or be a dependent of such a veteran;
• affirm that, to the best of his or her information, knowledge and belief, the veteran was exposed to Agent Orange; and
• be in necessitous or deserving circumstances.

Help With The Cost Of Education For The Children Of Vietnam Veterans

The Vietnam Veterans’ Trust Education Assistance Scheme (VVTEAS) provides help with the costs of post-secondary education for selected children. Each year, the scheme offers a limited number of new grants. These give $3,500 per annum for those selected and grants are paid for the duration of their approved courses provided conditions are met.

To be eligible to be considered for a VVTEAS grant a person must be:
• The child of a Vietnam veteran and under the age of 12 when applying;
• Enrolled or planning to enrol in a full-time, post-secondary course up to first qualification level.

Courses may be at University, TAFE, Business College or a recognised private institution in Australia;
• Within the VVTEAS means test. This is eligibility on financial grounds for Austudy.

The course must be of one or more academic year’s duration. Step-children are eligible, provided they have lived with and been supported by the veteran for five of the last ten years. There is only one VVTEAS award allowed from amongst the children of the same Vietnam veteran.

Applications open on 1 September and close on 31 October. Forms and more information will be available until the end of 1996 from the Trust’s Regional Office. The address is in the telephone book. Telephone (09) 221 1159 or alternatively the VVAA, RSL or Legacy.

BARBARA CLINTON
VETERANS’ AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CITY OF PERTH SUB BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER
SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1996
ANZAC HOUSE AT 6.30 PM
PRE – DINNER DRINKS AT 6.00 PM
$10 per head includes beer, wine and soft drink.
Members wishing to attend, with partners, please notify the Hon. Secretary 388 Hilarion Road, Duncraig, with payment before 16 November 1996. 448 3812
D.J. McCLELLAND
HON. SEC

REUNIONS

118 AUST. GENERAL (MILITARY) HOSPITAL – NORTHAM 1941–1945
Members are invited to a reunion to be held in Saw Avenue, Kings Park (opposite Rokeby Road) on Sunday, 3 November from 11am to 4pm. Bring your own picnic lunch.

For further information contact: Sue on (09) 328 5952

CAN YOU HELP

VICTORIA PARK HONOUR ROLL: Ex-servicemen and women who listed their next of kin at the time of their enlistment as living in Victoria Park during World War II are asked to forward their name, service number and approximate date of enlistment to: Secretary, East victoria Park and Vietnam Veterans’ RSL Sub-Branch, PO Box 1003, East Victoria Park 6101. Telephone (09) 451 3764.
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In this way the advertisers know that their advertisements are working and will continue their support of the RSL in this way.

*It makes sense, doesn’t it?*

So please remember to tell the person you are dealing with

“I saw your advertisement in The Listening Post”.

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THE FURNACE FOR GOLD
by Geoff Garne

Geoff Garne's book on the Boer War is a very lively tale of a colonial war and its aftermath. He weaves an interesting plot that links together Australians, South Africans and Englishmen with particular emphasis on the interaction between the Australian soldiers and their colonial cousins.

Geoff Garne was painstaking in his introduction of the main characters, particularly the Boer families who played such a central role in his story. I found the early chapters difficult to follow but was rewarded as the story unfolded and was grateful that Geoff had been so thorough in his historical research and that he had taken the time to fully acquaint the reader with not only the background to the Boer War but also in introducing the major characters.

The Furnace for Gold will delight WA readers as the lifestyle and difficulties faced by the Boer families were very similar to our own history and left a similar impact on our culture and character.

My only criticism was the use of Afrikaaner language along with its English translation throughout the text which, to me, didn't appear to add value to the story but rather left me with a feeling that the story slowed down each time the dual language text was used.

I found the story extremely timely as Australia comes to terms with Republicanism at the end of the twentieth century; the South Africans of all nationalities were struggling with this issue almost 100 years ago.

The Furnace for Gold will leave all readers with the author’s message that human nature and basic common good will overcome the horror of war. The real life story of Emily Hobhouse, the Englishwoman who did so much to ease the pain and suffering of the Boer families, is carefully woven into the story and used as a clear example of Garne's message.

Geoff Garne has not only written but also published the book and copies can be ordered direct by sending $14.00 to PO Box 356, Alstonville, NSW 2477. Orders of more than one copy can benefit from a reduction in postage and handling and need only send $12.00 per copy.

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BOOK REVIEWS

STAFF WALLAH AT THE FALL OF SINGAPORE
by John Wyett, AM

This entertaining and easy to read soft-covered book is the story of the war of Major John Wyett. It includes his attempts to enlist, his sojourn at the prestigious Indian Army Command and Staff College, his time on the staff of General Gordon Bennett and his capture and imprisonment by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore. All through the book he states in a matter of fact manner his view of important and controversial events (even to this day), especially the command and control style of General Bennett. He also covers the horrifying experience of being tortured and left to slowly starve to death in the same way. Wyett must be a remarkable man.

This is not a book for readers who want meticulous and probing detailed analysis of a military campaign and I suggest it was not written for that purpose. It is a book about people at all levels and from all backgrounds, plus demonstration that “staff wallahs” have an absolutely vital place in the military scheme of things and that criticism over the years has not, in the main, been justified. It also shows the value of good training – in the writer’s case, going directly from Quetta to the middle of the Malayan campaign where he immediately put the theory into practice.

If I have an criticism, it is that there is a paucity of maps and no photographs at all. For instance, a map of India showing the places he went on his travels both before and after Quetta would have been useful and made the descriptions just a little more entertaining.

In summary, I recommend this book to those who want a good read and are interested in people more than dry statistics of military campaigns.

This book is published by Allen and Unwin and has a recommended retail price of $29.95.

JL HOLMAN

WESTERN MEMORIES
History and Recollections of the Western Australian WAAF 1941-1946
by Doris Ferry

As a consequence of the Australia Remembers year, Mrs Ferry has extensively researched and compiled a book about the establishment of the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force and the role played by those who served in the WAAAF in WA during World War II.

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The publication is not only a vital record of the work done by the women during the national emergency, but a valuable educational reference book for students and the public alike.

Published by the author, the book records historical data on the establishment of the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force and conditions of service, and describes the work carried out by women who served in the Air Force in WA during the period of the conflict, thereby releasing men for active service elsewhere. Varied experiences of former WAAAF are included and these contributions bring the reality of wartime service to the reader with humour, frankness and thought-provoking reflections.

Cost is $23 (plus postage and packaging $3). Available from Mrs Doris Ferry, 15A Landor Gardens, Woodvale, 6026. Telephone (09) 309 5612.

DORIS FERRY

SILENT VICTORY

When I was a boarder at Wesley College during World War II, the air was shattered daily by the sound of Catalinas that turned over the school oval before descending to their base at Pelican Point in Crawley Bay. As the war was constantly in our thoughts, we often wondered what exploits the great black planes and their crews had been engaged in.

This book describes graphically, and in some detail, all the unanswered questions of 50 years ago.

After the Japanese cut the air routes to Europe in 1942, the only alternative route was from WA across the Indian Ocean to Ceylon and India. Few aircraft of the day could make such long flights of up to 32 hours duration. There were no electronic navigation aids, the weather was probably bad with possible enemy interception and there was little prospect of rescue if forced down in the ocean. Qantas, assisted by the RAAF, undertook this secret passenger service with these Catalina Flying Boats from Perth.

Silent Victory is a history of those flights, the longest over-the-water service in the world at that time.

Well illustrated and superbly written, it is an excellent book for readers of all ages. Because of the relevance of Perth to this unique service, there is an added appeal for locals. The publication is available from Banner Books, PO Box 937, Belconnen, ACT 2616, and it costs $35 post free within Australia.

BOB MERCER

COOMALIE CHARLIE’S COMMANDOS

by Kenneth Neal McDonald DFC

In Coomalie Charlie’s Commandos, the author recalls his experiences and those of the 31st Beaufighter Squadron RAAF while based at Coomalie Creek airstrip south from Darwin in the Northern Territory.

The story tells of the drudgery and frustration in appalling conditions, the tragedies and the mental strain, and the difficulties experienced by the ground staff in keeping maintenance of the aircraft. The pilots and navigators carried out numerous successful strikes against the Japanese in Timor and surrounding areas that involved long flights over the sea with no radio contact and most guesswork navigation. It was a very onerous task and they did it with great distinction. This book details their story and is a tribute to their dedication and courage, as well as honouring the memory of those who did not return.

The book is available from the publisher Banner Books, 122 Walker Street, Maryborough, Qld 4650 for $35 post free within Australia, and from aviation and military bookshops.

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Mobile: 018 09 9760 Pager 09 480 9715
PEGASUS (AIRBORNE FORCES) ASSOCIATION

For almost 30 years the Association has held an annual dinner-dance to commemorate Airborne Forces Day.

This year, for various reasons, we changed the function from evening to lunch time and the venue to the Anzac Club, St George’s Terrace. The unanimous verdict of all attending the Club was most complimentary. The food was excellent, the tables well laid out and decorative, the staff helpful and courteous and, perhaps most importantly, very good value for money. Judging by our experience we have no hesitation in recommending the club to any Sub-Branch or Kindred Association for similar functions.

J. HATELY
Hon Secretary

ATHERTON TABLELAND CAMPSITES

Recently whilst the Atherton Tableland I met Mr Don Locarnini who owns the property on which 17 Bde, 2/5 Bn, 2/6 Bn, 2/7 Bn, 2/2 Field Regt and the 2/3 Field Regt were camped.

Mr Locarnini has retained the sites as he found them and he is most in their history. Of particular significance is an old army mug with the name “Blue” and WX27692 very plainly marked on the bottom. Perhaps Blue is still out there somewhere, or perhaps someone who remembers him?

This campsite is five km south of Wandecla. There is still quite a lot to be seen there. The 2/9th Aust Armd Regt is on the south of this site. I had a sign erected for the 2/9th while I was there.

Don Locarnini can be contacted at Box 212, Malanda QLD 4885.

NEIL PUCKRIDGE
PO Box 1
Jurien Bay, 6516

VJ DAY

The Australian Remembers year has now passed: the commemoration of 50 years of Victory Over Japan – VJ Day, not VP Day.

As an Australian ex-serviceman from 1940 until 1946, I am very incensed and annoyed at the media and others referring to the Japanese surrender on 15 August, 1945 as VP Day. This term is erroneous and the day should be correctly referred to as VJ Day. It must be remembered the against Japan was not only confined to the South West Pacific area but to other regions as well – such as the Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Java Sea, Bay of Bengal and similar areas.

I know from my own experiences the Americans would like to think World War II was confined only to the Pacific region.

I am very surprised the RSL has not seen fit to take action to have this blatant anomaly corrected. Perhaps its current hierarchy were not around when hostilities against Japan ceased. We in the services always knew the surrender date as VJ Day.

I and many of my ageing mates feel unless something is done with some degree of urgency the designation VP Day will remain with us and become a part of our history. It must be VJ Day and nothing else!

ERIC N MCNABB ex RAAF
3/18 Clearview Avenue
Yokine 6060
NB: It is WA State Branch policy to use the symbol VJ Day, when referring to the Japanese surrender on 15 August 1945.

EDITOR

WORLD WAR I MEDAL

We have a medal that is engraved around the edge: 3982 Pte. S Randell, 16 Bn AIF. We have no idea how it came into our possession, apart from the fact that my husband’s uncles, George and Tom (Bernard) Jennings, both served with the AIF in World War I.

The uncles are now deceased and we did not think to ask them about the medal at any time, so we have had it for more than fifty years. We don’t like to throw it out as it may mean something to someone – the attaching-ring tells a story of having seen ‘battle’.

I would be very happy if someone could locate a relative or friend who would be pleased to have this medal.

MRS MELVA POWELL
15 Leonora Street
Wagin WA 6315
(originally of Bruce Rock)
Let me congratulate you on printing My Flag is your Flag, in the Listening Post, Vol. 19, No 1 and Our Australian Flag, and the poem by Carol L Mitchell (nee Mettam) Unsung Heroes in the following issue.

I served in the Navy from 1965 – 1985 and found her piece very moving. Enclosed is a copy of a poem about “Dad”, who died in 1951 due to his service in the war. This was given to me about 20 years ago and, framed, it is now next to a photo of my own father. I don’t know the name of the sailor’s aunt who wrote it.

My vote will be NO to any change to our Australian flag and I hope anyone one who has served or is serving in the Services will do the same.

DR NIXON
PO Box 2584
Palmerston
Darwin NT 0831

NB: The poem printed below expresses the sentiments of so many who experienced the tragic consequences of war.

DAD
A stab of pain went through my heart
The blow far too severe,
For what is meant to lose you Dad
No one will ever hear.
I lay awake long, lonely nights
I cry myself to sleep.
No one knows my heartache
No one sees me weep.
To hear you call me son
To see your gentle smile,
To clench that bony hand of yours
To walk with you a while.
But no longer do I walk with you
No longer do we talk,
I only go to visit you
Place flowers where I walk,
Alone I sit and think of you
I have a silent cry,
But the hardest thing to take the most is,
We never said goodbye.

Anon

NEW WAR MEMORIAL

The new war memorial service went off beautifully in Wanneroo-Joondalup at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day that was attended by some 2,000 VIPs, boys, girls, service people, RSL members and civilians.

Unhappily, the medals I wore on Anzac Day have been stolen, together with my blue beret (aviation type), from our house. I take this opportunity to warn everyone about the danger to their precious possessions in their homes.

KEVIN EGAN
33 Poseidon Road
Heathridge 6027

HMAS BATAAN

Please find enclosed two photos of HMAS Bataan in dry dock in Kure, Japan, during the Korean War 1950. These are believed to be the only photos of the ship in dry dock after it collided with a cement fishing boat between Japan and Korea. At the time of the collision the Bataan was doing 20 knots. I had just come off night watch when the collision occurred.

GEOFF JOHNSTON
(Ex-Leading Seaman)
346 Belgravia St
Cloverdale 6105
Tel: 277 3830

in 1942 by the Japanese. Such items are rather difficult to come by as the Perth spent only a short time in Australia before she was lost.

We are interested in any photos of the ship and also of the crew going about their daily activities or on visits ashore. Photos of her time in the Caribbean in 1939 – 1940 and her trips to Port Moresby and Fiji prior to her loss are proving very difficult to obtain.

Any memorabilia may be sent direct to: Sue Thompson, Curator, Navy Museum, Garden Island NSW 2000.

Any photos may be sent to me at my address in Sans Souci; they will be carefully copied and returned.

I also have a personal interest in the Perth as my father, uncle and uncle’s brother were all part of her crew. I feel this is a wonderful opportunity to place on record for future generations the story of this fine ship and her crew. I hope this letter might jog a few memories and unearth some of those old items and photographs that may have been gathering dust for many years.

BRUCE CONSTABLE
46 Brantwood St
NSW 2219
LOST TRAILS

EX-UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL

I wish to contact any ex-United Nations personnel with the intention of forming an association in this State so we can get together and, perhaps, march on Anzac Day as a group rather than being scattered throughout different units as we are now.

If any member knows of someone or is interested themselves could they please contact:

WES GLIDDON
2 Mindyah Court
Mundaring WA 6073
Tel: 295 3015

KEITH WARD

I am trying to locate a member of my husband's air crew during World War II, Keith Ward, who was in an Australian crew attached to 36 RAF Squadron. His former address was Bruce Rock.

I would dearly love to contact him as I have found the skipper and now hope to find the rest of the crew.

JUDY BRACKEN
22 Maculata Circuit
Dalmeny NSW 2546

WORCESTER AND SHERWOOD FORESTERS REGIMENT

On Saturday, March 23, at Korumburra, Victoria, 29 members of one of the oldest English regiments held a reunion - ex-servicemen from the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, first raised in 1964 by Col. Thomas Farrington.

The reunion was preceded by an Association meeting where Association representatives were elected for various Australian states that had, for the past 14 years, been represented by Frank Frodsham, who hosted the reunion. State representatives elected are Dennis Reynolds, Victoria; Don Cheeseman, Western Australia; John Cox, Queensland; and Harry Hatful, Tasmania. New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory, still being with out representation by state resident members, are being looked after by Frank Frodsham.

High points in its long and proud history have included fighting the French in Europe, the West Indies and Central America and the Scottish Jacobites at Culloden; the Indians and French in North America, and firing the first shots at the Boston Tea Party which started the America War of Independence.

In 1974 they won a battle at sea against the French, which gave the regiment the right to have the Naval Crown above the regimental badge.

In the 19th century, the regiment fought Napoleon in Spain and Portugal, in the Crimean War, and in India, Ethiopia, Egypt and the Boer War.

In World War I, the regiment raised 55 battalions which fought in Europe, Italy, Gallipoli, Macedonia and Mesopotamia; 18 of its members were awarded the Victoria Cross.

In World War II the men fought in Norway, Europe, El Alamein, Tobruk, Italy, Palestine, Ethiopia, Singapore and Burma. Since World War II, the regiment has been involved in Malaya against the communist terrorists in the 1950s and, since then, in a wide variety of peace keeping operations under the UN Blue Beret.

There are many ex-members of the regiment living in Australia, and the regimental association is trying to contact them all so that old friendships may be renewed.

As Frank Frodsham commented regrettfully: "I discovered, too late, that many of my old mates were in Australia when I read their funeral notices. One of the saddest days of my life was when I read of the death of the man who saved my life in Malaya 40 years ago. He'd been living in Australia for years and I didn't know it."

Enquiries from ex-servicemen who served with this regiment may be directed to:

DON CHEESEMAN
12 Annerley Street
Hamersley 6022
Tel: (09) 447 4769

Left to right: Frank Frodsham, ex-sgt, Malaya 1950 to 1967; Eric Cooper, ex-Band WO; Larry Trotter, CO 1964 to 1967; Don Cheeseman, ex-RQMS. These men all served under LT Col Trotter at Minden, Germany, in 1964
VETERANS' HOME – MT LAWLEY
ANNUAL FAIR
SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER FROM 12:00 NOON

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Plant Stall White Elephant
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and much, much more

All proceeds will support rebuilding of the $3,000,000 Howes Wing Frail Aged Care Facility

For further information please contact Jill Van Blomestein on 370 0200

RSL War Veterans' Homes Providing a quality of life for retired ex-service personnel, the aged and disabled through access to a range of accommodation and care.

'LONE EVADER'
ONE OF THE CLASSIC ESCAPE YARNS
THE ESCAPE FROM FRANCE OF RAAF PILOT SERGEANT TED COATES. FLYING WITH 115 SQUADRON RAF HE WAS SHOT DOWN IN 1942 AND BEGAN THE LONG WALK AND BIKE RIDE ACROSS FRANCE TO SPAIN. HE BECAME THE FIRST MAN TO ESCAPE WITHOUT THE AID OF THE FRENCH 'UNDERGROUND'. SOFT COVER. - $20 (INC POSTAGE)

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'NOT A CONQUERING HERO' - 2/9th Bn AT WAR (ALL INC POSTAGE) $40

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NAME: ................................................... PHONE: .......................
ADDRESS: ..................................................
PLEASE SEND MY CHEQUE $............ ENCLOSED
PLEASE SEND YOUR FREE BROCHURE

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will be held at
ANZAC CLUB

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER
from 2.00pm to 4.30pm

Music of Yesteryear by Musicians of Yesteryear
Master of Ceremonies
MIKE HALL (Ex M.C. Anzac House Dances)
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ADMISSION FREE
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PHONE 325 9079
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WAR VETERANS' HOMES

RAFFLE

Congratulations to the winner of our raffle, Mr Ray Prindiville of Wembley Downs, who will be using part of the $20,000 to travel to a Vietnam Veterans' reunion in Tasmania. Mr Prindiville has kindly donated $1,000 of the prize to the War Veterans' Homes. The Board sincerely thanks Mr Prindiville for his generosity and courtesy in making this gift which will be used to refurbish the entrance to the main dining room.

Special thanks are also due to our raffle committee this year who once again overcame more than the usual challenges. The overall result was a net profit of $98,000. The proceeds will be directed exclusively to resident facilities at the War Veterans' Homes in Mt Lawley, Meadow Springs and Geraldton.

FRAIL-AGED CARE

Department of Health and Family Services has approved the architectural plans for the redevelopment of Howes Wing – the frail-aged care-facility at Mt Lawley. The current wing will be demolished and replaced with clustered units and core facilities for recreation, dining, occupational therapy, hairdressers and medical and care support. Each bedroom will have en-suite toilet and shower facilities and each cluster will have lounges, laundry facilities, verandah and patio. The design has a bright, cheerful aspect and the central core will have raked ceilings and multi-purpose potential for concerts and recreation because of movable dividing walls.

Demolition of the existing facility is planned for January 1997 with construction completed and occupation planned for October 1997. Work has already begun to upgrade existing facilities to permit resident transfer within the Mt Lawley complex and ensure minimum disruption. A donation from the Women's Auxiliary will be used to upgrade the Rolfe Lounge for occupational therapy use during the transition period.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Members of the Board and State Executive did duty as waiters and bartenders at the Christmas in July dinners held at Mt Lawley and Meadow Springs. Traditional fare, with hats, gifts and entertainment was enjoyed. The new sound system provided by the RSL Women's Auxiliary was put to good use with a combination of opera, folk and instrumental numbers. The residents' raffle raised more than $450 for amenities.

ANNUAL FAIR

This year, the fair will be held at Mt Lawley, beginning at 12 noon on 10 November. Donations will be gratefully received for the cake, white elephant and book stalls and prizes for the chocolate wheel. If you can assist, either individually or as a Sub-Branch, please contact Jill Van Blommestein on 370 0200 during office hours. Most importantly, your attendance and support will be appreciated. All proceeds will be used to furnish the new Frail Aged Care facility.

KEN MURPHY
BELMONT

Our annual dinner was a great success, attended by some 100 members and guests. Amongst the guests were the Mayor of the City of Belmont, Cr Peter Passeri, and his wife; the State Senior Vice-President Mr Ken Murphy and Mrs Murphy; Mrs M Taylor, Women’s Auxiliary, who was accompanied by the State Secretary, Mrs M Fisher; Mr Michael Hall from the State Executive, (he is our Sub-Branch Liaison Officer) and Mrs Hall; Major John Blylevens, representing the Australian Army; Lt Commander David Plummer, representing the RAN and Mrs Plummer. Unfortunately, Group Captain D Green of the RAAF was unable to come due to the Base celebrating the RAAF’s 75th Anniversary. Other guests included Councillors Alan Richardson, Mike Godsell and Lynne Coops.

The State Executive Senior Vice-President, Mr Ken Murphy, presented Certificates of Service to Norm Fairhall and Bobbie Leggett and a Certificate of Appreciation to Brian Wake, for the work and assistance these members have given to the Sub-Branch.

Dad’s Army and our Women’s Auxiliary (what would we do without them?) contribute so much to this Sub-Branch and we don’t know how to thank them enough. Also, we thank the many other volunteers such as the bar staff etc., for the many hours they put in. Visitors (and we have many) express their surprise at what these volunteers have produced over the last couple of years, including the installation of new airconditioning and heaters, thanks to the Women’s Auxiliary members.

Our membership is also increasing, and we suggest that former and past members should pay a visit, or attend our monthly meeting on the third Sunday of the month (time 10.30am), which is followed by a complimentary hamburger luncheon.

We lost some dear members in Bill Craig, Ivor Northcott and Frank Arbon who have passed away in recent months; our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

A full report of our Social Bowling Club is in the July/August edition of our Bulletin, The Bugle; it has had an extremely successful year with members winning many trophies. The financial results were also a credit to the work done by approximately 10% of the club membership; a very pleasing result.

The Belmont RSL Recreation and Sport Fishing Club, with Mitch Cadden at the helm, has also been very active and is looking for more members for future fishing ventures.

President Bill Sharpe and his wife Lois and numerous other members have left the winter weather and are travelling around Australia in search of sunshine.

Every fourth Friday of the month, a curry and casserole night is held, followed by a dance with oldtime music from Peter Williams; book through Liaison Officer Wendy Jackson on 277 9173 for the best evening in the month.

CARL F CAUBO
Publicity Officer

BICTON-PALMYRA

A very successful sausage sizzle, in conjunction with Applecross Sub-Branch, was held to commemorate the updating and refurbishment of our Honour Board. We thank the City of Melville for all the help, both financial and record-wise, which they afforded us. Under the guidance of Eddie Mueller, our memorabilia display has become an outstanding feature of the Sub-Branch and well worth seeing.

Membership, especially on the social side, is increasing and it’s good to see the ladies taking an active part in branch functions. A recent games night was well attended and a good time was had by all. Future events include a ladies’ formal dinner in which male members wait upon the ladies. October 26 is the date of the annual dinner, followed in November by our Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

Visitors to the Sub-Branch are always welcome; trading hours are: Friday 1600-2030 and Sunday 1000-1530.

ROGER WILLIS
PRO

COCKBURN

The spirit of Anzac is alive and strong in the City of Cockburn. This was evident with the Anzac Day Parade and Service, where Forrest Road and Carrington Street residents applauded the veterans and other marchers.

The march, under police escort, was led by a 1942 Jeep and trailer, and cars carried veterans unable to march. Then came the Colour Party with the armed escort provided by the local cadets, followed by veterans, Royal Australian Navy and school cadets. Other marchers included local
Sub-Branch News cont.

Scouts, Cubs and Girl Guides. Stirring music was provided by the Armadale Pipe Band.

A the Memorial Hall, a large crowd gathered for the Service and wreath-laying ceremony. Among the warrant-officers were the Mayor of the City of Cockburn, Mr Ray Lees, and Mr Bill Thomas, MLA.

Anzac Day 1997 will be bigger and stronger and will include more of the youth of the district; while they are not veterans now, they are the Youth of Australia, who proudly march to show their respect and honour their forefathers. It is obvious they realise that one day they may be called upon to defend this great country.

ARTHUR STANTON

COMO

Monday, 1 July 1996, marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Como Sub-Branch and, to pay tribute to our founder members, a commemorative luncheon was held in the Park Room at the Freeway Hotel, South Perth, attended by nearly 100 people. Mr and Mrs John Surridge, our special guests at the luncheon, joined members, wives and widows on this special occasion.

It was exactly 50 years ago to the very day, that nine returned ex-servicemen convened a meeting in the home of Mr and Mrs Bodinner to discuss the formation of a Como Sub-Branch of the RSL. During that now historic meeting, the following were elected as office-bearers, president, until such time as a general meeting was held. They were Mr AH Panton (President), Mr LJ Thompson (Secretary) and Mr H Bodinner (Treasurer). These were confirmed at a general meeting held later that month.

Sad to say, only one member of the original nine is still living - Mr Thompson. Unfortunately, illness prevented Mr and Mrs Thompson from being present; happily, Mrs. Phil Bodinner was able to join us.

Since those early days, quite a number of members have occupied the various offices of honour and trust, and looking back over those 50 years, we find our longest serving President, for at least nine consecutive years, was Mr Dave Watson. Without any doubt, the longest serving Secretary was Mr Bill Carlton, and the longest serving Treasurer Mr Ray Stewart, both of whom served in those respective positions for more than 20 years. (Ray was in hospital and unable to be present.)

Quite a number of members have received recognition for their services to the Sub-Branch. In February 1967, Dave Watson was awarded a Certificate of Service; in February 1983, Cyril Cribb was made a Life Member (Cyril was also absent, due to ill health), and Bill Carlton and Ray Stewart were awarded Life Membership in March 1987. Other members no longer with us were also similarly honoured for their service and dedication to the Sub-Branch.

In paying tribute to our founder members, I am sure that had they been watching over us at our Commemorative Luncheon, they would have been pleased to see that, from humble beginnings, their Como Sub-Branch 50 years on is still very much alive and healthy - a Sub-Branch we are all proud of and, during this historic year, a Sub-Branch of which I am honoured to be the current President.

TOM WALDRON
President

COTTESLOE

We soldiered on in the winter weather which took its toll. President Rex Stoker is laid low with a chest complaint and had a suspected heart attack.

Sadly, Alf Gillies left us on Friday, 19 July, a stalwart of many years, a Life Member and convenor of our Poppy Day sales over a long period of time, Alf will be sadly missed. Condolences were offered to Madge and the family by the numerous members who attended the funeral; the Ode was recited by Vice-President Doug Hill.

Meeting numbers have been down a shade but we have had afternoon social gatherings to enjoy some indoor bowls, darts and quizzes, followed by refreshments arranged by our “Quartemaster”.

At the July meeting we honoured one of our stalwarts with a Certificate of Appreciation. In making the presentation, Doug Hill paid tribute to Jim Campbell who, as the “Quartemaster”, has catered for many functions over many years. A World War II veteran who served in the 28th Battalion AIF in Palestine, Egypt and New Guinea, Doug’s cheerful disposition is a tonic to all.

We look forward to seeing more members and their ladies and our lady members at the afternoon socials which are held on the third Friday of the months we do not go to the Anzac Club for lunch and attend Anzac Day.

JOHN MCGUIRE
Secretary
Tel: 385 1974

DONNYBROOK

Our Anzac Day Service was well attended, followed by a sausage sizzle which was kindly donated by the Lions Club.

The Sub-Branch has welcomed three new members, and we wish David Brown a speedy recovery after his serious accident.

Our Shire is still awaiting permission from the Main...
Roads Department as to when and where we may plant the trees - a project from last year.

Long time residents Glen and Betty Anderson will be leaving us and going to Perth for health reasons. Glen has been our Legacy delegate for many years. We wish them well.

President Damien is our new welfare officer, assisted by Kevin.

Membership can now be paid at DS Nelson and Associates in Central Arcade; any tax queries and free advice will be given by Darryl, Tom or Willy.

The club's next big event will be in October: Golf and Bowls Day for Legacy. See you all there.

SECRETARY FRED AND ASSISTANT TOM.

Stare Secretary Jock Geldart presents the Sub-Branch Charter to President Steve Caroll

EXMOUTH

The RSL again has an official presence in Exmouth.

On Saturday, 13 July 1996, at a function at the Truscott Club in Exmouth, Jock Geldart, State Secretary, presented the RSL Charter to Steve Caroll, President of the newly-raised Sub-Branch.

The Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, Mr Jim Dalton, presented the Sub-Branch with a framed poster of Australian Victoria Cross winners and stressed the need for close co-operation between his Department and the League.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Mr Doug Barthgate, AO, and Mr Kerry Graham, who had maintained the spirit of the League in Exmouth since the dis-establishment of the old Sub-Branch 15 years ago.

Other dignitaries attending the Charter Night were Chris Mills, Bunbury Sub-Branch President and GWN personality, who spoke on conducting a successful Sub-Branch, and Wally Fletcher, a local World War I veteran, who provided copies of historical World War I letters for the Sub-Branch. In 1990, Wally returned to Gallipoli as part of the official World War I pilgrimage conducted by DVA.

Steve Caroll accepted the presentations on behalf of the Sub-Branch and expressed his appreciation and that of the members.

The Branch wishes the Sub-Branch well in all its future endeavours.

JM GELDART
State Secretary

GERALDTON

We heartily congratulate Albany on electing its first female President, retired Captain Yvonne Bolton of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, and extend our best wishes for her endeavours on behalf of the RSL and the community generally. It was our pleasure to have our first female President for three years until Lorraine Gilbert moved to the metropolitan area in 1986.

Hearty congratulations also go to neighbouring Sub-Branch member Viv Simpson of Northampton on receiving the Meritorious Medal award; to Bunbury on winning the Collcott Cup; to our Auxiliary on being runner-up to Mt Barker for the Country Cup; and to Geraldton stalwart Frank Stewart on his re-election as Northern Wheatbelt Regional Country Vice-President.

Also being showered with congratulations is Geraldton member Eric Weller on being made a Life Member of the 2/2 Commando Association.

Former Lands Minister George Cash has given our Sub-Branch some good news - the availability of Crown land next to Birdwood House for a Memorial Park. The Sub-Branch will seek to have the land vested in the Sub-Branch for this purpose because Bob Bandy has a plan for a brick flower garden in the shape of a cross with provision for memorial plaques. Bob is to be assisted by landscape gardener Kent Westlake and there has been an invitation for other members to become involved in the undertaking.

Meanwhile proposals are being put together to raise funds for a complete renovation of Birdwood House. This is being done by a Management Group which includes Geraldton Rotary Club, co-user of this establishment for nigh on 40 years.

PETER BARDEN
Public Relations Officer
MANDURAH

The Sub-Branch sent four delegates to Congress, but we still had our six votes.

At a recent meeting, two members, Merv Brown and Wally Holding, received 50 Year Certificates.

It is very quiet here at present – no crabs and many of our members are up north in warmer areas.

Members visiting Mandurah are welcome at the club any afternoon except Wednesdays and Sundays.

WYN HOLDING

MANNING

At the February AGM, Mr Bill McGhie graciously handed over command, after 12 years in the chair, to 2/LC Reg Axford. Des Dufall still maintains a vice-like grip on the purse strings while Ian Rasmussen remains keeper of the records. Committee members are Jack Davies, Alan Davies, Harold Mundy, Ted Philp, George Battye, Ken Park, John Phelps, Peter Burrowes, Burt Quaife, Alan Beeck and Bob Gardiner.

As a result of the above, and now with gardening time on his hands, Bill McGhie, Immediate Past President, ran for – and won convincingly – a place on Council with the City of South Perth in the May Local Government elections.

The Sub-Branch now boasts its own history thanks to the efforts of RSL Life Member and author Bob Gardiner. This painstakingly-researched 100-page publication is a tribute to the people who formed and developed the Sub-Branch. RSL members, especially past members of the Sub-Branch are invited to avail themselves of a copy. A nominal cost of $5.00 per copy will, it is hoped, recoup outlays in time. Those interested should contact Reg Axford on (09) 450 5852. Postage can be arranged.

The Sub-Branch has a strong lawn bowls following. New members are always encouraged.

Approximately 20 percent of the 150 enrolled members attend the monthly general meeting on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at the Manning Memorial Bowling Club, commencing 1900 hours.

HONORARY SECRETARY

NORTH BEACH

We regretfully report the passing of two of our members, Jack Sherriffs and Jack Dyer.

Jack Sherriffs, who was 92 years of age, joined the British Army (Northumberland Fusiliers) as a drummer boy in 1916. After the end of World War I, his father and family migrated to Australia in 1920. Jack joined the 11/44th Battalion as a bandsman in Perth six years later. When war broke out in 1939, he was attending annual camp at Rockingham and was then posted to Northam Camp as an instructor.

On 3 January 1940, Jack left WA as a member of the 2/28th Battalion en route for the Middle East. Not long after reaching the Middle East, he joined the 1st Australian Guards Regiment, a unit set up to guard Army Headquarters, and was a member of this Regiment at Tobruk. At the end of hostilities he was the proud owner of eight medals.

Jack Dyer, an ex-member of the Bristol City Police, was also a member of the Royal Naval Reserve and was called up for full-time service. He served on the cruiser HMS Norfolk, which was engaged on Murmansk convoy duties and he received the Russian Murmansk Medal for this service. He was a 1st Lieutenant on a tank landing craft at Omaha Beach on D Day, 6 June 1944.

Our Sub-Branch salutes these two gallant ex-serviceemen. Lest We Forget

Our main Office Bearers for 1996 are Wally Somers (President), Joe Harris (Secretary), Norm Pearse (Treasurer), Joe Cicala (Snr Vice-President) and Bill Hepton (Jnr Vice-President).

At our meeting on 2 July, a very interesting talk on the new Deeming Rates applicable to pensioners was given by Mr Derek Jacquet from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

FRANK HEATH
12/7 Chessel Drive
Duncraig WA 6023

PORT KENNEDY

We are progressing quite well, and our meat, fish and beer raffles, held each Friday night at the Palm Meadows Tavern, Warnbro Sound Avenue, Port Kennedy, are a great boost to the finances needed to build our own club house.

We hold a “Members’ Draw” each Friday night which, if the member drawn is not in attendance, jackpots each week. Raffles and Members’ Draw are held between 1600 and 1900 hours approximately. It’s a good social get-together and we enjoy ourselves. Come along, all are welcome.

Meetings are held at the Tavern on the last Sunday of each month at 1300 hours, followed by a social afternoon with a sausage sizzle and drinks at the bar, if required.

For further information, please contact Doug Hinkley, Club President, on 09 593 2022.

SHIRLEY MONCRIEFF
Public Relations Officer
Perhaps we tend to think that the opinions of the younger generation don’t matter greatly. I believe there may be those in the League who think this way — if not now, it certainly was the case at one time, perhaps carried forward as a legacy from our founding fathers.

At a recent meeting the view was expressed by one of our younger members that general meetings are too boring. The ponderous matters should be attended to by the committee, he claimed. It would enable the meeting to be finished quickly and more time devoted to interesting activities such as indoor games, entertainment or simply to enjoy the fellowship.

He claimed that our tendency to involve the meetings in boring matters is a reason so few members attend. At the same time he acknowledged that broad involvement should be carried out but could be done by those interested.

The view gives much food for thought. While it is our aim to keep members interested, there is much to be considered regarding the welfare of veterans and their families suffering distress; not forgetting that our organisation must be aware of the news and views of the community.

There is certainly room on the Committee for those who want to engage in welfare or those things thought of as ‘boring’. That is a part answer, but the Committee cannot lose sight of its obligation to carry out open administration.

With the able help of our Women’s Auxiliary, we are continuing our Sunday functions. Our Christmas-in-July, with more than 60 attending, was an unqualified success. Popular music and singing provided by the Three Aces Band was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks are due to the Secretary of the Women’s Auxiliary, and band member, Sybil Jacks.

We regret to report that, due to illness, our long time stalwart Dick Dawe has been forced to resign as hall manager. His services as organiser of the Sunday functions will also be sorely missed.

TOM GRIFFITH
President

SCARBOROUGH

Welfare Officer Dorothy Delaney reported that she had sent birthday cards to Reg Rollings, 90+, and Jim Rice, 83. Marty O’Laughlin is back home after eye surgery; Marty lost an eye, but is recovering well and is playing bowls again.

On June 12, members enjoyed a very pleasant coach trip through the Chittering Valley, with morning tea at Gingin and lunch at the Stringybark Winery. From the time the coach set off there was a happy atmosphere; Doug Piggot kept up the party fun with a raffle of scratch tickets.

The lunch was most enjoyable, and those who sampled the Stringybark wines with the meal found them to be so good that many bought some to take home. These outings take a lot of organising by the Secretary and Committee who feel their efforts are appreciated if more people join in.

At our June meeting, old friend Derek Jacquet of the DVA attended to explain to pensioners the mysteries of the new Deeming Rules. Judging by the number of questions to Derek afterwards, his visit was well worthwhile.

PETER STUBBS

WANNEROO-JOONDALUP

As mentioned in the last issue of The Listening Post, each year the Sub-Branch offers the presenters of floral wreaths at the Anzac Day Memorial Service the choice of presenting a floral tribute or a book. At this year’s Service, some 28 books were presented.
The 69th annual State Conference was attended by guests, delegates and observers. In the President’s absence, Mrs Keynes read his address, thanked all Auxiliaries for their continued support and officially declared the Conference open. On behalf of all the Auxiliaries, I presented a cheque for $5000 to the War Veterans’ Home, plus a cheque for $6000 for the upkeep and restoration of the State War Memorial.

Cup Competition Winners
- Metropolitan Cup Belmont 45 points
- Executive Shield Bellevue 32 points
- Tray Armadale 29 points

Certificates:
- Eastern Regional 28 points
- City of Perth 23 points

Country Cup Mount Barker 36 points
- Geraldton Shield Geraldton 32 points
- Tray Katanning 31 points

Certificates:
- Boulder 29 points
- Bruce Rock 27 points

State Executive for 1996/7
State President: Mrs T Taylor, Senior Vice President: Mrs E Norris, Junior Vice President: Mrs J Spencer, Immediate Past President, Mrs A Cayley, Honorary State Secretary: Mrs M Fisher, Honorary State Treasurer: Mrs K Clark.

Contrary to opinions expressed at the 80th State Annual Congress, where delegates expressed a point of view when debating the incorporation of rules affecting the Women’s Auxiliaries in their rules and standing orders, the Auxiliaries have always worked at every level with the interest of the League in mind. It does appear that many of the delegates do not thoroughly understand the work of the Auxiliaries which has over the years contributed consistently to both Sub-Branch and League funds, quite apart from donating to the War Veterans’ Homes, State Memorial funds and Christmas Cheer plus visiting sick ex-service men and women in hospitals and nursing homes, this being the main aim of the Women’s Auxiliaries.

Best wishes to all Auxiliaries for the coming year - M TAYLOR, State President

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Authorised by J. Surridge, Editor.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC.)
State President: Mr LCW Hutchings, 17 St Johns Ct, Kingsley 6026. Tel: 309 9675. State Council meets 3rd Thursday of even months at 13th Brigade Headquarters, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, at 1.30 pm.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Frank Sykes, Tel: 387 6251. Secretary: John Parrington, Tel: 401 2382. Meets last Friday each month at Campbell Barracks (The House) at 1800hrs. Ladies most welcome. All correspondence to The House, No. 6 Battery Road, Campbell Barracks 6010.

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS AND DEFENCE SERVICES COUNCIL (WA COUNCIL) AVADSC
Chairman: Air Cdre S.W. Dallywater OBE AE (Retd) Tel: (09) 383 3161. Deputy Chairman: Mr L Hutchinsons. Sec/Treasurer: W01 B.F. Cooper CD AI MM, Tel: (09) 409 6577. All correspondence to the Secretary PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meets on the first Wednesday of the even months at the USI Rooms, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta at 10am.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, OAM, Tel: 361 2824. Secretary: Mrs M. Harvey, 1 Bradshaw House AFME, Bullcreek Drive, Bullcreek, Tel: 332 1305. Treasurer: Ruth Franklin, 126B Basinghall St., East Victoria Park 6101. Tel: 361 5157. Meetings: 1st floor, Anzac House on the 1st Thursday of the even months, 10am - 12 noon.

BCOF ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mr J.D. Dowdell, 5 Labyrinth Way, South Lakes 6164 Tel: 417 1164. Secretary: Mr D. Spice, 110 Daglish St, Wembley 6104. Tel: 381 5331. Treasurer: Mr R. Bacon, 11 Robert St, Kalamunda 6076. Tel: 293 1680. Meetings: 4th Monday (If Mon holiday - next day, Tues) 11am - 1pm to Nov, Belmont RSL Hall, cnr Great Eastern Hwy and Leake St, Belmont. Bus 306 new Bus Station or stand 45 cpr Pier St & St Georges Terrace.

BLINDED SOLDIERS OF ST DUNSTANS WEST AUSTRALIA
President: Mr W.A. Walters, RSL Retirement Village, Third Avenue, Mandurah, 6210. Tel: 535 3602. Hon. Sec/Treasurer: Mrs P Deen, 31 Lamond St, Melville 6156, Tel: 330 5458. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday in February, April, June, August and October; 1.45pm, Red Cross House, 110 Goderich St, East Perth.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.
President: Mr D Clarke, Tel: 309 1046. Secretary: Mr K.R. Crane, Tel: 310 9099. Treasurer: Mrs J. Turnbull, Tel: 497 3812. Meetings 3rd Tuesday each month at Anzac House, at 1.30pm. Correspondence to: 35 Westminster Rd, Leeming 6149.

CATALINA CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
State President: Mr Ivan Peirce, 14 Abjornson St, Manning 6152 Tel: (09) 450 1231. Correspondence to Catalina Club of WA, PO Box 866, Cannning Bridge 6153. General meetings 10am second Thursday in March, June (AGM), September and December at Anzac House.

DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

EX-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S LAND ARMY (AWLA)
President: Mrs Phyl Ptoleomy, 84 West Rd, Bassendean 6054. Tel: 276 2276. V/President: Mrs Pat Colburnton, 4 Olford St, Armadale 6112. Tel: 399 6713. Sec.: Mrs Hilda Grey, 21B Elvira St, Palmyra 6157. Tel: 339 5391. Treas.: Mrs Celia Tester, 12 Joden St, Hilton 6163. Tel: 337 1837. Meetings: Anzac House, 4th Thursday each month from 10am-12 noon.

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EX-FORTRESS ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Harold Smith, 50 Napier Street, Nedlands, 6009. Tel: 386 3305. Secretary: Mr Reg Kidd, 257 Holmes Road, Forrestfield, 6058. Tel: 453 2383. 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: Arthur Robinson, 1926 Finister St, Menora 6050. Tel: 271 4733. Vice President: Leslie Price, 3 Forward St, Mandurah 6210. Tel: 535 8741. Secretary: Ruth James, 7B Wenden Place, Willieton 6155. Tel: 457 8727. Treasurer: Fred Skeels, 33 Drummond St, Bedford 6062. Tel: 271 1553. All correspondence and enquiries to the President at the above address. Association meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 1.00pm at Anzac House.

EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION WA
President: Mrs Rena Blackett, Unit 303 Aurelian Street, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 339 5030. Secretary: Mrs Helen Oliver, 2 Dryden Street, Munster 6166, Tel: 434 2084. Treasurer: Mrs Laurine Drew, 13 Thorpe Street, Morley 6062. Meetings: second Monday of each month at Anzac House (unless otherwise advised).

FEDERATED TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS & ARMEN'S ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Frank Hamilton, 35 Clement Drive, Karrinyup 6018. Tel: 448 5204. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer, 16 Dwellow Place, Bibra Lake Tel: 417 9598. Meetings last Monday each month except January. Correspondence to the Secretary.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Hifton Devoreux, 21 Regency Dr, Thornlie WA 6108. Secretary: Theo Bushe-Jones, 26 Baltic Mews, Walikiki WA 6169, Tel: 527 9186. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth. Correspondence to PO Box 3886, Stirling St, Perth, WA 6849.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President/Treasurer: Mr Peter Mulrennan JP, (IG). Tel: 443 8081. Secretary: Mr Andy Britton, 31 Backhouse Rd, Kingsley 6026, Tel: 409 9468. Welfare Officer: Mr Arthur Badgen (HG). Meeting: 1st Monday of the month at Anzac House, at 7.30pm (unless otherwise advised).

HMAS BATAAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Dick King, 89 Empire Ave, City Beach 6015, Tel: 385 9089. Secretary: Mr Jack Le Cras, 10 Kenton Court, Kingsley 6026. Treasurer: Mr Bob Truman, 12 Regent Grove, Morley 6062, Tel: 279 6903. For further information please contact any of the above.

HMAS CANBERRA/HMAS SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Keith Nordahl, 66 Todd Ave, Como 6152, Tel: 367 3102. Secretary: Mr Arthur Carter, 93 Tamar St, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 339 1483. Treasurer: Mr Alf Martin, 12 LeSoufe Drive, Kardinya 6163, Tel: 331 2113. AGM November, Committee Meetings as required. Annual reunion Aug 9, other social functions about four times a year. For further information please contact any of the above.

HMAS HOBART ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)
President: Mr Graeme Purkiss, 14 Hollis St, Samson 6163. Tel: 337 8976. Secretary: Mr Clyde Goddard, 80 Dorby Rd, Shenton Park 6008. Tel: 381 8705. Treasurer: Mr Bob Gee, 23 Sickmokore St, Brentwood 6153. Tel: 364 6264. AGM and Annual Reunion held second Friday in February and social/commemorative functions held about six times each year. Monthly get togethers at Anzac House on the last Thursday of each month from noon. For information please contact the Secretary.

HMAS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
President: Vacant. Secretary: Mr T.K. (Trevor) Lloyd, 48 Nell St, Rockingham 6168. Tel: 527 1817. Secretary: T.E. (Tom) Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont 6010. Tel: 384 3042. Treasurer: Mrs P.D. (Pat) Ingham, Unit 79/96 Guildford Rd, Mt Lawley 6050. Tel: 271 1826. For further information please contact any of the above.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
State President: Mr H.D. Whitehurst, Tel: 361 9062. State Secretary: Mr A. McMorland, 10 Ridgeway Pl, Mahogany Creek 6072, Tel: 295 3459. State Treasurer: Mr Harry Fowler, 11 Mirador Rd, Morley 6062, Tel: 275 1259. Meetings: second Saturday in June, September and December at Belmont Sub-Branch, 22 Leake St, Belmont at 10.00 hours.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)
("Wingies and Stumpies"). President: P.R. Collins. Secretary: C.C. Brown, 80-82 Henley St, 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 Joan Dowson, MBE, 3 Bay View Tce, Mosman Park 6012, Tel: 384 6712. Secretary: Mrs L (Tuck) Fealy, Unit 156, 10 Morrison St, Como 6152, Tel: 313 0456. Meetings as called. Annual reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

"N" CLASS DESTROYER ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Don Griffiths, 8 Radiata St, Riverview 6210, Tel: 535 6454. Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy Higgins, 69 Spigl Way, Bateman 6150, Tel: 330 3427. Meetings: 1130 hrs last Monday of each month at the Navy Club, 64 High Street, Fremantle 6160.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA,
CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President/Secretary: Mr A.D. Needham, 16 Warragoon Cres, Attadale. Tel: 330 3411. Treasurer: Mr S.G. Thomas, 91 Coleman Cres, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 3427. Meetings: 1130 hrs last Monday of each month at the Navy Club, 64 High Street, Fremantle 6160.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA,
CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
President: Mr Ben Haseldine, 71 Lytton St, Mt Hawthorn 6016, Tel: 444 3762. Secretary: Mr John Ross, 1 Benwee Rd, Floreat 6014, Tel: 387 6960. Meets fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 8 pm at 71 West Parade, East Perth. All correspondence to the Secretary.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
(WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC.
President: Mr Jack Appleby, 143 McDonald St, Joondanna 6060. Tel: 444 3598. Secretary: Mr Tom Oakley, 43 Strickland Street, Mt Claremont 6010. Tel: 384 3042. All correspondence to Hon. State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling St, Perth 6849.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
President: Mr E Baints, 154 Wood St, Inglewood 6052. Secretary: Mr J. Kuipers, 18A Dauntless Way, Duncraig 6023, Tel: 448 7178. Meetings: Tuesday 10.30am - 2.30pm, Sundays 4.30pm - 8.30pm at the Coolbinia/Yokine Amateur Football Club, Wordsworth Ave, Yokine. Entrance to building opposite no. 27. Correspondence to Secretary, PO Box 311, Inglewood 6932.

NORMAND VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
President: Mr J.E. Mayers, 15 Finlay Ct, Rivervale, WA 6103. Tel: 478 2071. Secretary: Mr R. Bruce, 2/159 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale, WA 6103. Tel: 362 3597. Meetings to be held on 1st Tuesday each month at Anzac House at 11.00am.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH) INC.
General meeting held at Anzac House at 1.00pm, first Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: Mr Maurice John Rinaldi (Maurie), 35 Weaponess Road, Scarborough 6019, Tel: 34 6151.

PEGASUS (AIRBORNE FORCES) ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: Don Newman, Tel: 246 1738. The Hon. Secretary: John Hately, 14 Purley St, Bayswater 6053, Tel: 279 8626. General meetings held at Riverton RSL first Sunday of every third month, commencing February at 2pm. Informal luncheon meetings first Wednesday of every month 12 noon, Anzac Club, Perth. Ladies welcome both meetings.

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
SUB-BRANCH No. 9.
President: Dr W. Gorski, OAM, Tel: 387 7347. Secretary: S. Zalewski, Tel: 274 6280. Hon Treasurer: Z. Slocinski, Tel: 298 8426. Correspondence to 33 Eighth Avenue, Maylands 6051.
RAAF ASSOCIATION MANDURAH BRANCH
President: Ron Lopaten, Tel: 535 7830. Secretary: Trevor Martin. Tel: 537 7101. Clubrooms: Phone & Fax: 535 8217, 0900-1200 hrs, Tues to Thurs. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 133 Mandurah Tce, Mandurah (May-Oct at 1330 hrs), (Nov-Apr - 1500 hrs). All correspondence: PO Box 1015, Mandurah 6210.

RAAF 47-463 LANCASTER SQUADRONS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: Mr Ron Smith, 63 Camm Ave, Bullcreek 6149, Tel: 332 3318. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Kevin McGrath, 8 Appian Way, Hamersley 6022, Tel: 342 6554. Meetings: Four times a year at the RAAF Association, Bullcreek.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Kevin Scott, 24 Wilberforce St, Mt Hawthorn 6016, Tel: 444 4655, Secretary: Mr W.C. (Bill) Mahar, 272 Marmion St, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 339 2187. Meetings: Committee meets second Tuesday of each month at 1pm Anzac Club.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Sqn Ldr T.F. Agnew. Secretary: WO1 B.F. Cooper JP, AIMM. Tel: (09) 409 6577. Fax: (09) 409 6577. Treasurer: Sgt R.A. Hinton. Tel: (09) 387 2237. All correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meets the second Wednesday of each month at the USI Rooms, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta at 1400 hours. Any member is welcome to observe.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: Mr Norman R.T. Jarrett. Tel: 592 7524. Secretary: Mr Maurice McFadyen, 161B Gibson Ave, Padbury 6025. Tel: 401 5839. Treasurer: Mr John Bridgen, Tel: 247 1302. For further information and meeting details, contact Secretary.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)
Twelve branches and nine affiliated groups. A fully licensed club is open to members daily. For further information and meeting details contact the State Secretary. Telephone: 332 4444.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION WA DIVISION INC. BULL CREEK BRANCH
President: Allan Stewart Tel: 310 7239. Secretary: Tel: 310 9127. Meetings: held at 1930 hours at the Meg Olive Room, Air Force Memorial Estate on second Monday of each month.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION
President: Mr J (John) Williams, 11 Cornish St, Armadale WA 6112, Tel: 399 3452. Secretary/ Treasurer: Mr R.J. (Ray) McMahon, Unit 6/52 Keymer St, Belmont 6104, Tel: 478 2598.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH
President: Mrs Judy Gibson, 19 Carnegie Way, Padbury 6025, Tel: 401 7138. Sec: Mrs Olga Greig, 9 Napier Rd, Moony 6062, Tel: 276 3493.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mr J.A.T. Hobbs, 10 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant 6153, Tel: 364 3568. Secretary/ Treasurer: Mr R.J.Shurman, 40 Carlyle Cres, Duncraig 6025, Tel: 447 1423. Meet on the third Monday each month at 10.00am, Anzac House downstairs. Meetings are open to all members and members of affiliated Associations.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mr M.J. Ryan OAM, Bus Ph: 481 0205 A/H 307 2385, Mobile 015 446 666. Secretary: Mr N J Clark, Bus/Home Ph: 342 5808, Mobile: 019 102 338 Meetings: 2nd Sunday in February, April, June, August and October at 1030am, 13 Fd Sqn RAE Sappers Way, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY – ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS
President: Mr Neville Philip, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount, Tel: 294 1798, Secretary: Mrs B. Philip, same address as President. Meetings and luncheon at Anzac House, second Friday in February, April, June, August, October and December at 11.30am.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVERS ASSOCIATION WA CHAPTER
President: Alex Donald, DSC, 7 Woodley Cres, Melville Heights 6156, Tel: (09) 330 6596. Meetings: Anzac Day (AGM) 1300, Navy Club, High Street, Fremantle. Correspondence to the President.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (WA)
State President: J. Appleby, 143 McDonald St, Joondanna 6060, Tel: 444 3598. State Secretary: J. Shephard, Unit 45, Ocean Gardens, 60 Kalinda Dr, City Beach. Tel: 385 8400. State Treasurer: M. Corry, 4 Nottingham St, East Victoria Park. Tel: 361 2824. Meetings: February, May, August, November.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WA (NC)
President: Mr Peter Lofsdahl, 7 Danaher Mews, Clarkson 6030, Tel: 305 1303. Secretary: Mrs Cathy Lofsdahl, details same as the President. Vice President/ Treasurer: Mr Bruce Jellis, Tel: 447 6270. Meetings: Anzac House, first Thursday of each month (except January) at 7.00 p.m. All Signallers welcomed.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC.
President: Mr Ray Sargeant, 29 Bouvardia Way, Greenwood 6024. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Philip Bray, 33 Naipu Way, Duncraig 6023. Meetings: Anzac Day, Corps Birthday (July) and Christmas.

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND
President/Secretary: Mr John Martin, 9 Gladstone St, St James 6102. Tel: 361 3390. Airforce and Associated Units (e.g. Chindits serving in 14th Army Theatre 1939-1945).

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES’ ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: Commander Pete Shield RN (Ret’d), 19 Fifth Road, Armadale, Tel: 399 4243. Secretary: M.E.M.(Michael) Pearson, 8-106 Terrace Road, Perth 6000, Tel: 221 1037. Meetings: Leederville Bowling Club, second Wednesday each month at 7.30pm (except December).

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN LIMITED WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH INC.
TPI Memorial Estate, Bag Lot 2, Post Office, Como 6152. President: Mr Jim Balk. Secretary: Mr Peter Lofsdahl, 80 Henley St, Como 6152, Tel: 450 1893 or 450 1921. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month except January) commencing at 10.30am. Lunches available weekdays and weekends by booking one day prior.

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, WA BRANCH
President: Mr Jack Patterson, 15A Greville Way, Girrawheen, Tel: 342 0142. Secretary: B. Thomas, 9 Queens Road, Mt 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: Brig N.E. Manuel (Ret’d), 398 Belmont Avenue, Kewdale 6105. Tel: 277 2367. Secretary: Ben Colquhoun, 5 Oakwood Ave, Cloverdale 6105, Tel: 277 4814. Meetings: second Tuesday each month at the Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sylvia Street, Nollamara.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)
President: Mr John Barton, Unit 7/5 Sepia Ct, Rockingham 6168. Tel: 527 3351. Secretary: Mr Len Kebbell, 17 Glengarry St, Parkwood 6147. Tel: 457 5027. Meetings: Every third Wednesday of the month. Contact either of the above for more information.

THE HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Ed Col, 1/22 Day Road, Mandurah, Tel: 09 535 5853. Secretary: Max Davye, 8/228 Albert Street, Osborne Park, Tel: 344 2114. Social Meeting: second Monday each month at Anzac House; for further information please contact Secretary.
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Ken Barrington, Tel: 446 4227. Secretary: Mr Kevin Trent, 3 Broad St, Kensington 6151, Tel: 367 7794. Meetings: second Wednesday at 8.00pm in February, April, June (AGM), August, October and December. For venue please call the Secretary on 367 7794. All correspondence please direct to the Secretary.

THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH
President: Mr Gordon Norton. V/President: Mr Graham Chapman. Hon Secretary: Mr Jim Wood. Treasurer: Mr Don Gettiffe. Meetings: The Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle at 8.00pm the last Monday of each month including public holidays. Address for correspondence: The Hon Secretary, 25 Jindarra Close, Cooloongup 6168, Tel: 527 9510.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
FREMANTLE BRANCH (W.A.)
Chairman: David Wiseman, Tel: 592 1458. Hon. Secretary: F H Cooke-Willis, 23 Foss Street, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 339 5573. Meetings: first Tuesday of each month (except January) at the Navy Club (Inc), 64 High Street, Fremantle at 7.00pm.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
(ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS) BRANCH
Chairman: David Slowley, 18 Welch Wy, Warnbro 6169, Tel: 593 1279. Vice Chairman: Derick Ramsdale, 6 Falcon Cr, Rockingham 6168, Tel: 527 9515. Hon Secretary: Dorothy V. Rawe, 52B Frederick St, Shoalwater 6169, Tel: 592 6418. Hon Treasurer: Ted Haines, Lot 32 Mallee Drive, Amarillo, Karnup 6176, Tel: 537 1599. Meetings: first Tuesday each month (except January) at TS Anzac, Point Peron Road, 7.30 pm.

THIRTYNINERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Meeting dates: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, 4th Wednesday March, May, July, September and November. All enquiries to the Secretary. State President: Mr J.P. Hall, AM BEM JP Unit A3/Hellam Grove, Booragoon 6154. Tel: 364 7776. State Secretary: Mrs F.E. Johnson OAM, 38 Renwick Street, South Perth. Tel: 367 5949.

UNITED KINGDOM - COMBINED EX-SERVICES FEDERATION
President: Mr G. Norton, Tel: 592 2859. Secretary: Mr E.H. Martyn, 93 Wilson Place, Belmont 6104, Tel: 277 2061. Meetings are arranged four times a year and an annual reunion and other functions as arranged by Committee. Contact either of the above for further information. All correspondence please to the above address.

V.A. & A.A.M.W.S. (A.)
President: Mrs Glyn Cody, 138A Karrinyup Road, Karrinyup 6018, Tel: 341 3323. Secretary: Mrs Ena McGinn OAM, 9 Castle Street, Wembley Downs 6019, Tel: 446 3742. Meetings: Arranged monthly at members homes. Contact Secretary for information.

VIETNAM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC.)
President: Vic Boreham, 8 Hollis Street, Samson 6163. Tel: 337 8885 (h), 334 2489(w). Vice President: Mike Beasley, 8 Highcliffe Rise, Currambine 6028. Tel: 300 6769. Treasurer: China Hammal, PO Box 69, North Fremantle 6159. Tel: 374 3238. Secretary: Brian Long, 38 MacArthur Ave, Padbury 6025. Tel: 402 0241. Meetings: held Victoria Cross Room, Anzac House Perth, third Tuesday every second month. Dates can be confirmed with the Secretary.

VIETNAM VETERANS’ AND DEFENCE FORCE JOBLINK
President: Mr Doug Rasmussen. Administrator: Mr G Purcell, 148 Lord Street, Perth, Tel: 227 6691 or 227 6693.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH INC.
PO Box 21, Maylands 6051. Office: 219 Railway Parade, Maylands, Tel: 370 3011. Fax: 332 4964. President: Mr Rob Cox, Tel: 332 4964. Secretary: Mr Keith Jones, Tel: 443 1530. Welfare Officer: Mrs Joe Cox, Tel: 332 4964. Meetings: Held three monthly, Peninsula Hotel Building - 219 Railway Parade, Maylands.

VIETNAM VETERANS M.C. AUSTRALIA
President: John Lewis. Vice President: Geoff Coupland. Secretary: Brian Rees. All correspondence to be sent to the Secretary, Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, PO Box 1442, Wangara 6065, Tel/fax business hours only: (09) 401 1546.

WA RSL BOWLS SECTION
Management Committee meet third Monday of each month at the Royal Park Bowling Club, Charles Street, North Perth at 10.00am. President: Mr Doug Piggott, Tel: 446 1331. Hon State Secretary: Mr Ted Philp, Tel: 450 4033.

WAAAF ASSOCIATION (NOR-WAAAF GROUP)
The NOR-WAAAF Group (Northern Suburbs branch of the WAAAF Association) meets on the last Thursday of each month at 1200 hours, upstairs at Anzac House, with the exception of December and January when the group is in recess. For information ring Lilian Waldie on 349 1829.

WAAAF BRANCH RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)
President: Mrs Olga Sullivan, Tel: 332 8693. Secretary: Mrs Moira Ball, 6/91 Parkway Road, Bibra Lake 6163, Tel: 417 8578. Meets 2nd Monday each month at 10.30am.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)
President: Mr Pat Tomich, 2 Ludlums St, Morley 6062, Tel: 276 8616. Address all correspondence to Box 6149, East Perth 6892.

WRAAF BRANCH - RAAF ASSOCIATION
President: Mrs Laeraine Ewen-Chappell, 35 Lakeview Drive, Edgewater 6027. Tel: 306 2681. Secretary: Mrs Judy Bland, 2 Graphic Court, Beldon 6027, Tel: 401 8296. Meetings held at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Meg Olive Room at the RAAF Association at Bullcreek.

2 SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
President: L.M. Griffiths, 52 Koolinda St, Falcon 6210, Tel: 534 2991. Secretary: LT Col. E.W. Dubeirnb, ED, RL, JP, 28A Houston Ave., Dianella 6062. Tel: 275 1348. Meetings as arranged by committee.

2 SPECIAL UNIT INTERNATIONAL (INC.)
PO Box 490, Kalamunda, WA 6076. Chairman: Jack Sue, Tel: 250 2737. Vice Chairman: Ross Davidson, Tel: 383 7654.

1ST AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION W.A. BRANCH
President: Mr Bill Rose, 19 Jukes Way, Glendalough 6016. Tel: 444 6858. Secretary: Mr Ron Waters, 25 Clvo Way, Karloo 6025, Tel: 307 7079.

2BN MALAYA MERDEKA VETERANS (WA)

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS W.A.
Chairman: L.A. Preedy, 152 Keightley Rd, Shenton Park 6008. Tel: 381 6294. Meetings held at Anzac House on third Friday in March, July and November in Anzac Club.

2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr W. Powell, 68 Randall St, Mundura 6210, Tel: 535 1923. Secretary: Mr J.W. Carey, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman 6150, Tel: 332 7050. Meetings held second Tuesday of each month at 10.00am at Anzac House.
2/3 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION W.A.
President/Secretary: Mr W.S.T. Stacy. Tel: 337 6227. Treasurer: K. (Sandy) Leek. Tel: 337 1908. Address for correspondence: 3 Jull Ct, Kardinya. Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, 11am at Anzac House.

2/3RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when necessary. President: K.E. Eckermann, 31 Tranquill Road, Keimscott 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: Mr E.W. Wallin, 3/63 Constance St., Nollamara 6061, Tel: 349 1409. Secretary: J. Kyros, 19 Almondbury Rd, Ardross 6153, Tel: 364 2639. Meetings: third Tuesday each month, Anzac House, 10.00am.

27th AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Joe Stokes, 23 Gairloch St, Applecross 6153, Tel: 364 1933. Secretary: Mr Bill Woods, 4/2 Lewington Gdns, Bibra Lake 6163, Tel: 417 3989. Meets in the Pure Steel Room, Gloucester Park at 11.00am on the second Tuesday of each month except January.

27th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION WA SECTION
President: Keith Fruin, 2/74 McCallum Street, Ardross 6153. Tel: 364 7160. Secretary/Treasurer: Vern Sprieg, 8 Moss Vale, Floreat 6014, Tel: 387 6732. Reunion on Anzac Day march and Service. Any 6 Division veteran without Association, is welcome to march with us in the Anzac Day parade.

27th FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
President/Secretary: Mr Hal Finkelstein, 15 Jukes Way, Glendalough 6016, Tel: 444 0328. Reunion, September each year.

2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Marradong Street, Coolibinia 6050, Tel: 444 1927. Meeting details - contact Secretary.

2/16TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION
President: Jim Smith, 1/113 Edward St, Osborne Park 6017, Tel: 444 4748. Secretary: J.S. Miller, 120 Lockhart St, Como 6152, Tel: 450 4170. Treasurer: K.P. Nichols, 31 Valerie St, Dianella 6062. Tel: 276 2146. Editor Pigeon Post: D.K. Norris, 8 Magnolia Way, Forrestfield 6058. Tel: 453 2001, or PO Box 26, Forrestfield 6058. Committee meets at Anzac House on the first Wednesday each month at 10.30am.

2/28TH BATTALION AND 24TH ANTI-TANK COY. ASSOCIATION
President: Mr A. Henderson, 45/177 Dampier Ave, Kallaroo 6025, Tel: 307 3527. Secretary: Mr E. Harrod, 13 Hadley St, Safety Bay 6169, Tel: 527 6833. Committee meets Anzac House second Wednesday each month. Visitors welcome, AGM second Wednesday in August.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mr Fenton Smith, 164 Shaftesbury Ave., Bedford 6052. Tel: 271 6492. Sec/Treasurer: Mr Colin Edmiston, Unit 3, 456 Main Street, Balcatta, 6021. Tel: 349 0799.

2/43RD BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Eric Treloar, 2 Alison Road, Attadale 6156, Tel: 330 4764. Secretary: Mr Wally Hughes, 20 Aberle Street, Hamilton Hill 6163, Tel: 337 2088. Meets on third Wednesday of each month.

7 ARMY TROOPS COY RAE ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Jack Benari, 38 Roebuck Dr, Salter Point 6152, Tel: 450 3876. Secretary: Mr Colin F. Wilson, 41 Herald Ave, Willetton 6155. Annual reunion last Friday of September, Past members most welcome.

7TH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (Pig Bn)
President: Don Cudren, 165 Henley St, Henley Brook 6055. Tel: (h) 296 4081. Secretary: Doug Fieldhouse, 509 The Strand, Dianella 6062. Tel: (h) 275 8598. Meetings as arranged.

11TH BATTALION AIF 13TH BGDE WWII
President: Mr V. Alfrich, Mandurah 6210, Tel: 535 7291. Secretary: Mr Don Angwin, 7/6 Mt Henry Road, Como 6152, Tel: 450 1833. Reunion & other meetings as arranged.

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
For enquiries contact- President: Lt Col O.R. Videan. Tel: 446 6304. Secretary: N. Deakin, 20 Canterbury Drive, Willetton 6155. Tel: 457 1163. Regular meetings held at 20 Canterbury Drive, Willetton.

11TH (1914-1918) & 2/11TH AIF BNS ASSOCIATION
President: Mr I.M. Walter, 4/18 McLeod Road, Applecross 6153, Tel: 364 3270. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr J.C. Watson, 688 Canning Highway, Applecross 6153, Tel: 364 2126. Meetings: Third Tuesday each month (except January) 10.00am, Gallipoli Room, Anzac House.

16TH BATTALION, THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WA ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Robert Boyd, Villa 4/208 Burslem Avenue, Maddington 6109. Tel: 493 1175. Secretary. Mr Shane Edmonds, 187 ,Brookdale Street, Floreat 6014. Tel: 387 6364. Members advised re meetings by letter as required.

28TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (AIF) 1939-45 ASSOCIATION
Committee - Mr Philip Wilkerson, Tel: 330 7263. Mr Clif Tamblyn, Tel: 384 5008. Mr Tubby Whitfield, Tel: 458 9983. Annual reunion early January, other meetings as arranged by Committee.

25 SQUADRON BRANCH
Royal Australian Air Force Association. President: Mr A.J. Ferrier. Secretary: Mr R.G. Podmore, 61 Anglesey Dr, Kardinya 6163, Tel: 314 1447. Meetings held at 2000 hrs Meg Olive Room, Airforce Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Dr, Bull Creek, 2nd Tuesday each month.

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: Mr Tom Easom, 568 Marmion St, Booragoon 6154, Tel: 330 7387. Secretary: Mr Brian Corboy, 11A Ventnor Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153. Tel: 364 7829. Meetings and luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East at 11.30am third Monday of each month.

FIGHTER SQUADRONS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mr Mick Michael. Tel: (w) 221 3719, (h) 348 4222. Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Shirley Donaldson, 1 Howson Street, Hillton 6163. Tel: 337 2250. Correspondence to the Secretary.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: W.E.M. (Gerry) Bateman, DFC, 30 Norton Ridge, Winthrop 6150, Tel: 332 5051. Secretary: N.B. Johnson, 63 Kirwan St, Floreat 6014. Tel: 387 4229. Treasurer: T.R. Gallop, 19 Felstead Cres, Hamersley 6022, Tel: 447 4037. Meetings are held four times a year.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Meets first Tuesday each month Anzac House (Club), 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth at 1.30pm. President: R.H. Duncalf, Tel: 295 1689. Secretary/Treasurer: Peter W. Hessell, Tel: 344 1756.

KEEP THE FLAG
2/3 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION W.A.
President/Secretary: Mr W.S.T. Stacy. Tel: 337 6227. Treasurer: K. (Sandy) Leek, Tel: 337 1908. Address for correspondence: 3 Jull Ct, Kardinya. Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, 11am at Anzac House.

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27th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION WA SECTION
President: Keith Fruin, 2/74 McCallum Street, Ardross 6153. Tel: 364 7160. Secretary/Treasurer: Vern Sprigg, 8 Moss Vale, Floreat 6014. Tel: 387 6732. Reunion after Anzac Day march and Service. Any 6 Division veteran without Association, is welcome to march with us in the Anzac Day parade.

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1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Meets first Tuesday each month Anzac House (Club), 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth at 13.00pm. President: R.H. Duncaife, Tel: 295 1689. Secretary/Treasurer: Peter W. Hassell, Tel: 344 1756.

KEEP THE FLAG
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 1996
WX40115, Bowles, H.R., Waroona-Hamel, 10 Aust L.H.
WX19793, Cracknell, C.B., Rivervale-Carlisle, 16 Bn
5/1341, Craig, W.F., Belmont, 2 Bn
WX1462, Digwood, H.T., Mandurah, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
136022, Dyer, J.M., North Beach, RNVR
WX15045, Franklyn, G.N., City of Rockingham, Inf Bn
WX14013, French, J.H., Mt Lawley-Ingleswood, 118 AGH
WX8171, Glass, J.G.B., City of Rockingham, 2/3 Fld Regt
WX35276, Hathaway, T.R., Eastern Region, 22 Hvy A/A Bty
26450, Hush, A.W., City of Perth, Ord-Corps
WX39452, Jennings, C.A., Broome, 8 Aust Bomb Disposal
WX11471, Jones, I.R., Rtd Ex-SVC Women, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
A5936, Judge, A.A., Mosman Park, RAAF
617758, Kendal, F.M., City of Rockingham, RAF
**C1000099, Marris, R.B., Como, RANVR
292530, Martin, A.R., Northampton, RAAF
WX15077, McDougall, R., Applecross, 2/4 Lt A/A
WX29433, McNeill, J.G., Mt Lawley-Ingleswood, 2/13 Fld Amb
45030, Merton, A.G.H., Wembley-Florat, RAAF
F2/252, Moyle, J.M., Mandurah, WRANC
WX37033, Normington, J.F., Mt Lawley-Ingleswood, 3 Aust Sigs
WX7115, Norris, E.A., Scarborough, 7 Div Sigs
3/400919, Pengelly, A.C., City of Perth, RAR
WX26721, Perkins, S.B. Armadale
WX31396, Rawlings, E.S.J., Mount Hawthorn, 54 Port Craft Coy
22823, Robinson, E., Fremantle City, RAN
WX3567, Salom, A.L., Bunbury, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
127932, Scott, E.R., Northampton, RAAF
WX18442, Slocombe, J.C., Scarborough, 1 AARD
1550848, Tasker, D., City of South Perth, RAF
WX2488, Taylor, J.N., Armadale, RAE
WX26141, Taylor, J.H.W., Mandurah, 2/10 Commando
113987, Wade, V.F., Rtd ex-SVC Women, WAAF
NX123150, Wallace, E., City of Perth, 59 Aust Corps Fld Pk

JUNE 1996
1920189, Atkinson, T., City of Perth, RAF
WX36505, Bridgwood, G.B., Claremont, 11 Div Sigs
4/705631, Clarke, R.K., Coolgardie, 16NS TRG Bn
WX30343, Cole, R.J., City of Rockingham, 6 Bn
WX281, Cook, D.C., Bunbury, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
WX18704, Cook, J.A., Claremont, 2/1 GD Regt
WX25074, Coote, N., City of Rockingham, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
40424, Dickie, J.L., City of Perth, RAAF
944587, Eggett, E., Mandurah, RAF
119985, Evans, R.L., Nollamara-Nth Perth, RAAF
WX2828, Fisher, E.P., Central, 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
R39593, Francis, V.E., Mandurah, RAN
WX34489, Galbraith, W.J., Wubin-Dawallinu, 11 AIB
21125903, Hibbert, G.R., Armadale, REME
J107657, Hodgkins, H.L., Bunbury
WX30164, Hopson, C.J., Albany, 16 AIB
WX15625, Hunt, W.E.C., Mandurah, 10 Aust Ord Veh Pk
510059, Jenkins, S.A., Highgate, 16 RWAR
84515, Lancaster, W.E., E. Vic Park & Vietnam Veterans,
23 Air Stores Pk
W78502, Lanigan, A.J., Osborne Park, 61 Bn
19033279, Northcott, I.C., Belmont, 17/21 Lancers
7073, O'Neill, F.W., City of Perth, RAAF
P244, Odgers, N.F., Eastern Region, RANVR
WX10571, Outred, G., Eastern Region, 2 ASC
WX16272, Palmer, R.J., Kondinin, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
WX42005, Pearson, H.J., Claremont, RAAF
WX28071, Proctor, R.M., Fremantle City, 13 Fld Coy RAE
WX4326, Scott, R.E., Claremont, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
14684507, Storey, W., Bedford-Morley, RAMC 47 Div
WX12136, Strickland, G.H., Bellevue, 2/2 Commandos
WX31128, Wholohan, A.E., City of Perth, 11 Aust Inf Bn
45806, Williams, J.H., Eastern Region, RAAF
F5421, Woods, A.F., Osborne Park, RAN
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