WINTER 1997

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Prior to Anzac Day all indications were that commemoration services would be well attended at all venues. This proved to be the case as the media reported record crowds had gathered across the country on this, the eighty-second anniversary. In the lead up the actual day, the various media outlets had each, in various ways, emphasized the importance of involving the population, particularly the young, in Australia’s national day of remembrance. This coverage was greatly appreciated, and we sincerely thank all who played a part in making the day so successful.

For those who did not hear, record or obtain the Anzac Day address on video, it is printed herewith;

This year we commemorate the eighty-second anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, and in the principal towns and cities of Australia and New Zealand, gatherings such as this will have taken place.

Very few are alive today who took part in the landing and remember the first Anzac Day; it is inevitable that in a few short years these numbers will be further reduced. Following the very successful Australia Remembers programmes initiated by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs in 1995, this year on 3 March the Department launched in Canberra a new commemorative activities programme which will run over the next four years.

This programme, directed mainly through schools across Australia, will honour the sacrifice and service of Australia’s Veterans and help remind Australians, particularly the younger generation, that the freedom we enjoy today came at a price. In this century, more than 102,000 Australians laid down their lives to help preserve this heritage; many of their names are unknown, but let us remember their courage, sacrifice and unshaken pride in their country.

As the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Honourable Bruce Scott, said in his launching address: “They are our heroes, yet they sought little more from us than that we should remember them, and this new commemorative programme will ask all Australians to remember them with pride – the men and women who served their country and helped mould, by their indomitable spirit, our national character.” The slogan adopted for the Commemorative activities programme is “Their Service – Our Heritage.”

The traditional Dawn Service, held this morning at the State War Memorial, saw His Excellency the Governor, representatives of Federal and State Governments, Opposition members, service chiefs, civic leaders, members of the diplomatic and consular services and the general public laying wreaths. This memorial perpetuates the names of all Western Australians who have given their lives in the service of their country in order that we may enjoy the freedom many take for granted this day. There’s something very special about the Dawn Service, as if a bond is created and exists between those present meeting together with a common interest. It is a time when men, women and children gather at a venue; many remember other dawns, times and places, and friends and relatives who paid the supreme sacrifice or were, in some way, adversely affected as a result of war.

For some years, during the Anzac Day Service the name of the winner of the Anzac Peace Award for the previous year has been announced, together with the name of a Western Australian who may have been awarded one of the Anzac of the Year Awards. The 1997 Anzac Peace Price has been awarded to Dr Basil Hetzel AC of Adelaide, South Australia, for his work with the International Council for the control of iodine deficiency disorders. And of the seven winners of the Anzac of the Year Award, one again is a Western Australian; I refer of course to Mrs Julie Ann Gray of Claremont for her many years of outstanding and devoted service in hospital care administration. On your behalf, I extend our congratulations to all the winners of the Awards and in particular Mrs Julie Ann Gray.

As the world fast approaches the twenty-first century, it is fitting that we pause and think of the tremendous upheavals and events that have shaped our lives in the present century. With the technical advances which are
made, rendering obsolete almost overnight everything affecting our daily lives, it is no longer prudent to assume we can isolate ourselves in any way from the changes taking place around us. The world indeed has become a much smaller place.

To this point in time Anzac Day, from its inception in 1916, has been organised by the Returned and Services League as a day on which we pause and commemorate each in our own way and give thanks to all those who made a sacrifice in order that we can enjoy the lifestyle we live today. It could be maintained that the past belongs to the older generation, who will fondly remember events and cherish memories, but the future is in the hands of younger people, who we trust will, in some way, learn from the events of the past and be better citizens from having done so. Our sincere wish is that they learn or be taught in some way such things as comradeship and mateship and develop an indomitable spirit with faith in their own abilities and a love of their country – in one word “Australianism.”

Of recent years, primary schools have joined together to conduct pre-Anzac Day Services in a number of areas. Under the guidance of their teachers, the school-children have conducted the services, aided by school bands and choirs, and in all instances those conducting the services have displayed a degree of confidence, poise and ability and could well be the leading citizens of the future. All those taking part and organising these services are to be congratulated as it augers well for the future.

The customary school-children's pre-Anzac Day Service was held at the State War Memorial with children once again conducting the proceedings. All concerned, whether in the organising or taking an active role in the service, are deserving of praise and are to be congratulated.

Some 81 years ago, when the Returned and Services League was formed, it adopted as one of its principal objects the need to care for ex-servicemen and women and their families. This we have continued to regard as one of our basic and fundamental duties, despite the fact that from its inception, the League's objectives and standing policies thereon have expanded, and from time to time been amended in keeping with the times.

The League is questioned on its policies from time to time and it is important that such be kept under constant review and accurately reflect the subject and the times in which we live. The most democratic principles apply whether in enunciating or amending policy insomuch that they are initiated at the grass roots level of our organisation.

In conclusion, could I leave with listeners and viewers, particularly the young, a thought with an objective: aim for a particular target in life and with work and a little luck that target can be reached. Alternatively, if you aim at nothing that is just what will be achieved.

LEN TURNER

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State Secretary’s Notes

The unique phenomenon which has marked the steady increase in commitment by the people of Western Australia to our Anzac Day ceremonial events could have been no better exemplified than this year.

Record attendances were noted at both the Dawn Service at the State War Memorial, Kings Park, and the Parade and Service in central Perth. Yet again the presence of so many young people and family groups gives hope for all of us that this, our most significant day, will continue to be honoured as the nation’s day of commemoration for many years to come.

This year a significant increase in the numbers of ex-service men and women in our marching contingents was evident. This particularly applied to our Vietnam veterans and the National Servicemen’s Association. So much for the tired old story that Anzac Day will die a natural death when our World War II veterans pass on.

Thank you all for your attendance and support. It was a magnificent day.

JOCK GELDART

Vietnam War Veterans’ Trust

After almost seven years assisting Vietnam veterans experiencing financial hardship, the Australian Vietnam War Veterans’ Trust closed its doors on 31 December 1996. This was as directed in the Australian Distribution Plan – approved by the US District court – governing the dispersal of the Agent Orange Settlement Funds to Australian veterans and dependants.

Almost six million dollars have been distributed to needy veterans and their families throughout Australia in that time via Regional Committees in each state: all volunteers and all Vietnam veterans themselves. These Regional operations are now in the process of being wound up.

A proportion of the funds set aside for education scholarships (known as the Vietnam Veterans’ Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme – VVTEAS) will continue until the year 2001. Future enquiries should be directed to the last remaining office to be operated by the Trust in Sydney: Telephone (02) 9281 7077.

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Regional Secretary

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BRITAIN’S GURKHAS

This article was kindly provided by Colonel D.R.d’A. Willis, Colonel Brigadier of Gurkhas, Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas.

The tens of thousands of former servicemen parading and spectating in the Mall during the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II in August 1995, plus the millions of those watching the spectacle on television, will most probably have noticed the presence of a few veterans from Nepal wearing their distinctive Gurkha hats. Also on parade were members of today’s Brigade of Gurkhas who remain very much part of the British Army. Gurkhas from Nepal have served alongside British troops since 1816 and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Many readers will have come into contact with them during their service and may be interested to learn more of their origins, history and their contribution to the Army of today.

The Beginning

Towards the end of the 18th century, the British East India Company came into contact with a warlike nation on the northern borders of its newly-won territories in Bengal and Bihar. This was the Kingdom of Nepal founded in 1768 by Prithwi Narayan Shah the dynamic ruler of the city state of Gorkha, a hilltop settlement west of the present capital Kathmandu. He and his successors undertook campaigns of conquest across northern India which inevitably brought the two powers into conflict in 1814. For nearly two years a fierce and bloody series of engagements took place; yet, in spite of the bitterness of the fighting, a feeling of mutual respect and admiration developed between the British and their adversaries, the former being much impressed by the fighting and other qualities of the Gurkha soldier. A contemporary British assessment concluded: “They are hardy, endure privation and are very obedient. Under our government they would make excellent soldiers.” By the terms of the peace treaty negotiated in 1816, Gurkhas were permitted to volunteer for service with the East India Company and from this time stems Britain’s friendship with Nepal, a country which has proved to be a staunch ally ever since.

Nepal – The Country and its People

Nepal is a landlocked country, sandwiched between China and India. It is about the size of England and has a population of some 20 million. Four-fifths of the country is hilly or mountainous and about half the land is over five thousand feet. It is a Hindu Kingdom where the King is a constitutional monarch and there is a democratic system of government developing along party lines. Nepal has always been an independent nation: it was never part of the British Empire and is not in the Commonwealth. Despite its Shangrila image it is one of the world’s poorest countries in terms of natural resources and, largely because it was closed to the outside world until 1950, it lags behind in modern development. Subsistence farming occupies the majority of its people and there are relatively few industries or businesses other than tourism offering employment and the opportunity to develop capital. The tradition of soldiering amongst the hill people of Nepal is centuries old and remains strong. Field Marshal Lord Slim, perhaps the most distinguished officer to have served with Gurkhas, wrote, “The Almighty created in the Gurkha an ideal infantryman: brave, tough, patient, adaptable and skilled in fieldcraft”. In the foothills of the Himalayas, where the British Army continues to recruit, people have to be tough and bold to survive. Nepalese boys need to be able to walk over rough mountain tracks with heavy loads, they develop a good eye for ground and in summer they spend long periods away from home looking after sheep and goats on the remote upland pastures. This tests their courage and initiative before they receive any military training. The prospect of regular pay and hot meals provides such boys with a strong incentive to join up. But the opportunity for material gain is not the only lure. As with young men everywhere, the opportunities to travel, to experience adventure and even a hint of danger are irresistible. Such motives apply today as much as when Gurkhas first presented themselves for recruitment by British officers. It should not be assumed, however, that recruits have always been easy to come by. Often there was opposition from within families to sons leaving to join the Army for this would leave one less hand to help run the home farm. As a result, recruits had almost to be smuggled out to recruiting bases in India, until permission was given to establish British camps in Nepal in 1960. Captain Rambahadur Limbu, who won the Victoria Cross as a lance corporal in Borneo in 1965, encountered such opposition to enlisting and often recounted the story of how he had slipped away from his family whilst the village slept.

Services with ‘John Company’ and the Indian Army

The first Gurkhas to join for service with ‘John Company’ were formed into irregular battalions: the 1st and 2nd Nasiri, the Sirmoor and the Kumaon. A new unit, the Cuttack Legion, was added shortly afterwards. These early regiments with their exotic titles, often taken from the location of their raising, were to go through a bewildering series of name changes, disbandments and
amalgamations during the remainder of the 19th century. As their reputation as good soldiers grew, so did the desire to increase the recruitment of Gurkhas. Further battalions were raised, but it was not always apparent from their titles that they were made up of Gurkhas, as in the ‘19th Regiment, Native Infantry’ – later known as the 4th Gurkhas. Most Gurkhas came from the martial clans of western Nepal, but the 10th Gurkhas, raised in 1890, was the first regiment to draw its recruits from the Rai and Limbu families whose villages straddle the hills between Mounts Everest and Kanchenjunga, east of Kathmandu. An old history of the Indian Army records that these easterners, “had a reputation for being quarrelsome – probably owing to their indifference to orthodoxy – and were not previously recruited”. To be sure, there are ethnic and cultural differences between western and eastern Gurkhas, but the latter are second to none in their military qualities.

The first battle honour gained by Gurkha troops was at Bhurtpore in 1826, where an improvised battering ram was used to break into the enemy’s stronghold. As a result, a ram’s head is part of the silver furniture on the cross belts of officers of The Royal Gurkha rifles today. Gurkha regiments later distinguished themselves in the hard fought battles of the Sikh wars 1846-48. However, the defining moment for Gurkhas in British service came during the Indian mutiny of 1857-1858.

The Sirmoor Battalion showed striking proof of their loyalty at Delhi where, together with the 60th Rifles, for over three months they held Hindu Rao’s house, the key to the British position which was under continuous fire from the mutineers. During this period, out of the 490 strong battalion, 370 officers and men were killed or wounded, and only one British officer survived unscathed. Probably the most significant of the many honours bestowed upon the Gurkhas as a result of this feat was the agreement by the 60th Rifles that the men of the Sirmoor battalion should be called Riflemen. Later, on the command of Queen Victoria, the Battalion received a Truncheon, an embellished staff, to replace the Colours which, as a rifle regiment, the Sirmoor Rifles could no longer carry. The Truncheon came to be regarded by men of that regiment, later the 2nd Gurkha Rifles, with an almost religious awe. It survives still but, because of recent amalgamations, it has been laid up in the Indian Army Memorial Room at Sandhurst.

During the next 50 years, Gurkhas saw much active service in both the North East and North West Frontier Provinces of India, in Malta, Cyprus, Malaya, China (the Boxer Rebellion of 1900) and Tibet. Ever closer
associations were formed with the British Army, in particular with certain Scottish regiments, notably the Royal Scots. These links resulted in the creation of Gurkha pipe bands and the Gurkhas appreciation of tartan cloth as a mean for keeping out the chill of a Himalayan winter. The years 1900 to 1910 saw a radical reorganisation of the Indian Army and, as a result, the existing Gurkha battalions were all formed into rifle regiments numbered 1 to 10, each comprising two regular battalions. These changes included the raising of another regiment of easterners, the 7th Gurkhas. Together, they formed what came to be known as the Gurkha Brigade.

At the start of World War I, a number of Gurkha battalions joined the Indian Corps which deployed to France at the end of 1914 to take part in some of the great battles of attrition on the Western Front. At the Battle of Loos, a battalion of the 8th Gurkhas was almost completely destroyed and, in the words of the Corps Commander, “found its Valhalla”. Other battalions suffered almost as badly in the early campaign in Mesopotamia and at Gallipoli, where troops of 6th Gurkhas captured the ridge line of Sair Bair and found themselves looking out over the Dardanelles, the only Allied troops to do so. Field Marshal Slim, then a subaltern in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, later wrote, “I first met the 6th Gurkhas in 1915 at Gallipoli. There I was so struck by their bearing in one of the most desperate battles in history that I resolved, should the opportunity come, to try and serve with them; four years later it came and I spent many of the happiest and, from a military point of view, the most valuable years of my life in the Regiment.”

As the fortunes of war changed, so Gurkhas were able to enjoy the successes of Maude’s campaign to capture Baghdad and Allenby’s victorious battles to seize Damascus.

No sooner had battalions returned to India after the Armistice when many of them were despatched to operations in the Third Afghan War of 1919 and to the various other small campaigns which characterised life on the North West Frontier. An extract from “Bugles and a Tiger” by John Masters, an officer in 4th Gurkhas, gives a flavour of engagements between the wars: “… the battalion continued its pugnacious travels around Waziristan. I missed our most successful day of the campaign, a day when A Company went in with the bayonet. Two men of ours had been shot in the back by wounded tribesmen they had overrun and left for dead. This was quite legitimate, but the rest of the company saw red – which is not a figure of speech but a literal statement. When a Gurkha becomes really angry his eyes film over, and the whites flush to a pale pink. When the killing was over Havildar (Sergeant) Babir still ran forward, sobbing in his fury and stumbling along the side of the slope with a dripping cutiki in his right hand and five Pathan heads in his left, his fingers twined in long matted hair. Headhunting is not customary or legal in modern war, but nothing could be done about it. Nothing could have stopped Babir or his platoon in that mood.”

The number of Gurkha battalions more than doubled to a total of 46 during World War II and included two parachute battalions; these fought mainly in the Far East, where an especially warm relationship developed between Gurkhas and the British servicemen of the ‘Forgotten Fourteenth Army’ during the epic struggle in Burma. This bond is still remembered by the Burma Star Association and its branches continue to entertain visiting the Gurkha servicemen. Gurkhas did not serve at all in the North West European theatre of operations during the second World War: however, a number of battalions once again returned to the Middle East. Operations in Persia, Iraq and Syria were followed by the North African Campaign as part of 8th Army. Subsequently these units took part in the battles of attrition through central and northern Italy, including the bitter fight at Cassino. Fred Majdalany wrote poignantly of his first contact with Gurkhas in his book, “The Monastery”: “I went forward to find the headquarters of the battalion we were relieving. As we climbed the spur on the far side of the Bowl, we saw what appeared to be rows of little huts. Then we saw that it was a cemetery. At the head of each...”
Britain's Gurkhas cont ...

grave was a steel helmet: at the foot a pair of tiny boots. We couldn’t understand the tiny boots at first. Then we saw a file of men approaching carrying stretchers. They were Gurkhas, the little fighting men of Nepal, from the battalion we were relieving. They were bringing more dead to that desolate little cemetery. In an hour there would be another row of little boots.”

Gurkha casualties for World War II are variously estimated as over 23,000 out of a total enlisted strength of nearly 113,000.

Transfer to the British Army

Indian Independence in 1947 raised the question of the future of the Gurkha Brigade. Nepal was always, and remains, an independent, sovereign state. But India had a pressing need for infantry in its own Army to make up for the loss of so many regiments from the Punjab, which went to Pakistan on Partition; and Britain saw advantage in retaining Gurkhas to supplement the forces required to re-establish its military base in the Far East. After secret negotiations between the Nepalese, Indian and British governments the Tripartite Agreement of 1947, which remain the internationally and legally accepted arrangement for the recruitment of Gurkhas, provided for six of the ten Gurkha regiments to serve on in the Indian Army whilst the other four, each of two battalions, transferred to the British Army, becoming the Brigade of Gurkhas. These regiments were:

2nd King Edwards VII’s Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).
6th Gurkha Rifles (later Queen Elizabeth’s Own).
7th Gurkha Rifles (later Duke of Edinburgh’s Own).
10th Gurkha Rifles (later Princess Mary’s own).

The deployment of a large number of Gurkha troops to Malaya gave birth to the idea of creating an all Gurkha division. Both battalions of the 7th Gurkhas were converted to artillery, becoming 101 and 102 Field Regiments, Royal Artillery: but this bold experiment was short lived, for the urgent requirement for infantry in the early days of the Malayan Emergency soon caused them to revert to their traditional infantry role. Other Gurkha elements of the division, however were successfully raised: The Gurkha Engineers – 1948 (now Queen’s Gurkha Engineers).
Gurkha Signals – 1948 (now Queen’s Gurkha Signals).
Gurkha Army Service Corps – 1958 (now Queen’s Own Gurkha Transport Regiment).

In 1948 the Brigade was plunged into operations which were to occupy its attentions for nearly the next 18 years. First in Malaya and then in Brunei and Borneo. All units saw active service in these campaigns where they fought alongside British and Commonwealth troops. This continuous exposure to jungle operation earned Gurkhas an enviable reputation as jungle fighters, although such and environment is completely untypical of their homeland in the Himalayan foothills. Brigadier Christopher Bullock in his account of his experiences as a young company commander in Borneo, “Journeys Hazardous”, observes of Gurkhas: “I believe that the Borneo war saw them at the peak of their operational effectiveness. The Brigade as such has hardly been out of action since the ending of World War II. First in the intercine struggles in India during Partition, then in Hanoi restoring the French administration and finally the 12 or so years of the Malayan emergency. When the Brunei revolt came in 1662 the eight Gurkha battalions were as finely tuned instruments of jungle warfare as could be envisaged. Their long and glorious history gave them immense pride in themselves and confidence; whilst the harsh environment of remote Nepali hill villages and farms bred in the soldiers toughness and self reliance to a high degree. In retrospect it is difficult to envisage such a successful conclusion to the three year Confrontation without the Brigade of Gurkhas but with them ultimate victory could not be long denied.”

As soon as peace settled in 1966, the Brigade had to face drastic cuts. Between 1967 and 1972, as a result of changing Defence commitments, the strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas was reduced from 14,000 to about 8,000. This was achieved by cutting the number of Gurkha infantry battalions from eight to five, by reducing the strength of the three Corps units (Engineers, Signals and Transport) and by disbanding the Gurkha Independent Parachute Company and the Gurkha Military Police. The majority of the 6000 men lost were through redundancy, the terms of which were meagre and, in most cases, there was no provision for any sort of pension. These men
returned to Nepal where there is no equivalent of Britain’s Welfare State. It was primarily to provide funds to help them and older veterans of the World Wars that the Gurkha Welfare Trust was established in 1969 and an appeal launched. Through the generosity of the British public, many ex-servicemen in Australia and Canada as well as various individuals in the United States of America, the Trust has been able to make a significant contribution to the alleviation of hardship and poverty amongst ex-Gurkhas, to the support of widows and children and to the provision of much needed assistance, such as bridges and portable water to the communities from which British Gurkhas are drawn.

The withdrawal from Malaya and Singapore left the Brigade of Gurkhas centred on Hong Kong where, until recently, it has been responsible for internal security. The Colony suffered periods of severe instability in 1966 and 1967, as a result of the ‘cultural revolution’ in China, and in the later 1970s and early 1980s, when a flood of immigrants threatened to undermine effective government. Those seeking a break from the bustle of the Crown Colony have always welcomed a posting to Brunei where, under a defence agreement with the Sultan, a Gurkha battalion has been stationed for the past 30 years and kept its hand in at jungle skills. Meanwhile, Gurkhas have been playing an increasing part in activities in the United Kingdom.

A battalion group, including engineers and signallers, was briefly stationed at Tidworth in 1962 but had to be withdrawn when it was needed for operations in Borneo. It was replaced in 1971 by a battalion which has been based ever since at Church Crookham near Aldershot and is now part of 5 Airborne Brigade. In 1974, the 10th Gurkhas, the UK resident battalion, deployed to Cyprus to reinforce the British Sovereign Base Area when Turkey invaded the island and, in 1982, 7th Gurkhas took part in the Falkland Islands campaign. More recently, in the Gulf War to liberate Kuwait in 1990/91, the then Gurkha Transport Regiment deployed 28 (Ambulance) Squadron and The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas joined it as stretcher bearers. Gurkhas have also participated in other recent British operational commitments in support of the United Nations in Saudi Arabia, Southern Turkey, Cambodia, Rwanda, Angola and the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

‘Options for Change’

Between 1992 and 1997, after the Government’s ‘Options for Change’ announcement and the withdrawal of the military garrison from Hong Kong, the Brigade of Gurkhas is further reducing from five infantry battalions to two with an overall drop in strength from some 8000 to 2500 men. The four rifle regiments merged on 1 July 1994 to form The Royal Gurkha Rifles, which initially comprises three battalions. The new regiment has carried forward the traditions of its forebears; its uniform combines their historical embellishments and their drums carry the old Battle Honours. It is planned that the 2nd and 3rd battalions will merge in late 1996 in Brunei and thereafter the two remaining battalions will rotate between the UK and Brunei, where the agreement to retain a Gurkha battalion has been extended to 2003. The Government has recently announced the retention of 400 out of some 1200 Gurkhas due to be made redundant this year to reinforce undermanned British battalions from late 1996 until 2000. The Brigade continues also to provide the two independent Gurkha Demonstration companies at Sandhurst and Borecon.

The Corps Regiments of engineers, signallers and drivers are reducing to squadron sized elements which form Gurkha sub-units in regiments of their parent Corps: 69 Squadron The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers are in 36 Engineer Regiment in Maidstone, 250 Squadron Queen’s Gurkha Signals are part of 30 Signal Regiment at Bramcote near Coventry and 28 Squadron The Queen’s Own Gurkha Transport Regiment are with 10 Transport Regiment Royal Logistic Corp at Colchester. Currently, Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas, the Gurkha Training Wing, which trains recruits, and the brigade Band are stationed alongside the infantry battalion in Church Crookham near Aldershot.

Members of the 2 Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles (2RGR), crossing a river in the Brunei jungle.
Photographs: Courtesy Brigade of Gurkhas.]
Britain’s Gurkhas cont ...  

The Future

The Brigade is totally committed to being an integral part of the mainstream of the Army now that its focus is firmly in the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence is examining the wider employment of Gurkhas within the Army. Gurkha units are strong in manpower terms, are recruited to full strength, and are proving their versatility and flexibility in many fields. The Brigade has some 400 trained parachutists and there is a Gurkha pilot in the Army Air Corps.

The Gurkha’s long and honourable contribution to Britain is now recorded in the Gurkha Museum at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester. Here are the medals, sketches, paintings, uniforms, weapons and other artefacts which illustrate the unusual story of how the free men of a distant, impoverished but sovereign nation came to fight for Britain for 180 years. Inevitably the facts of this history have sometimes been suborned by myths. Gurkhas are not “supermen” soldiers and, indeed, occasionally the shortcomings of individuals have been exposed. But the instances of failure are extremely rare and are overwhelmingly overshadowed by Gurkhas’ honourable conduct, where they have kept faith with their regiment, their British officers and with each other.

Today’s Gurkha soldiers are better educated, more worldly wise and have greater material aspirations than those of even a decade or so ago. Yet they retain so many of the characteristics that helped create the great reputation of the Gurkha. Writing after his return from the Falklands War a young British officer of the 7th Gurkhas said, “...the last thing I came away with was the knowledge that the lads in the Brigade today are every bit the men their fathers were”. They have a deep pride in their country and in their race, a great generosity of spirit and a strong sense of loyalty to the British Crown. Although there is disappointment at the reduction in their numbers they remain optimistic that the Army will continue to recognise their regiments as a real asset in a dangerous world for a long time to come. Whether or not such hopes can be realised remains to be seen. A few lines, written in 1931 by Sir Ralph Turner MC, wartime Adjant of the 3rd Gurkha Rifles and Professor of Sanskrit at the University of London, in the foreward to his Dictionary of the Nepali language which, albeit a touch sentimental now, capture the abiding contribution of Britain’s Gurkhas: “As I write these words, my thoughts return to you who were my comrades, the stubborn and indomitable peasants of Nepal. Once more I hear the laughter with which you greeted every hardship. Once more I see you in your bivouacs or about your camp fires, on forced marches or

in the trenches, now shivering with wet and cold, now scorched by a pitiless and burning sun. Uncomplaining you endure hunger and thirst and wounds and at the last your unwavering lines disappear into the smoke and wrath of battle. Bravest of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had a country more faithful than you.”

The Gurkha Welfare Trust

Donations to help ex-Gurkha servicemen will be most gratefully received by
The Gurkha Welfare Trust, 3rd Floor, 88 Baker Street, London W1M 2AX.

EXTREMELY DISABLED
WAR VETERANS’
ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

On 17 April 1997 the Extremely Disabled War Veterans’ Association of WA Inc was formed under the Associations Incorporation’s Act.

The purpose of this Association is to give assistance to all War Veterans receiving the Extreme Disability Allowance as they are among our most frail and significantly disabled veterans in our community.

Mr Jim Dalton (Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans’ Affairs) strongly supports the concept and feels that there is a need for EDA members to be kept informed of the services that are available to them.

Within the next few weeks all EDA recipients will receive by post their Application for Membership from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

The objects of the Association are:
• to assist each other as a group, eg: EDA recipients assisting EDA Recipients
• to monitor legislative or other proposals which may affect members welfare
• to mediate, reconcile and liaise on any matter on behalf of members
• to promote the welfare of carers and families of members

For enquiries please contact:
The Secretary, Extremely Disabled War Veterans’ Association of WA Inc, PO Box 145, Kalamunda, 6076.

EVERETT AMBROSE
State Secretary

Listening Post - WINTER 1997 - Page 10
If your house & contents insurance policy is not with RSL Insurances, you're most likely paying more than you should, getting less than you deserve and not supporting your organisation!

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Listening Post – WINTER 1997 – Page 11
New Clinic opens

At the official opening of The new Hollywood Clinic were, from left, Mrs Jeffery, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, Governor of WA, Paul Ramsay, Hollywood Private Hospital Clinical Co-ordinator Tonia Zeeman and Executive Director Roger Snell.

The Hollywood Clinic - the new site for Hollywood Private Hospital's 30-bed psychiatric facility - was officially opened on Tuesday, April 22, by His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery.

The Clinic's treatment programmes include the world's leading Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) program for the treatment of war-related trauma and it is unique in being the only psychiatric facility in Perth located within a full services private teaching hospital.

The Clinic previously provided psychiatric care in the hospital's former nurses quarters.

The new facility will treat eligible veterans and war widows in WA and privately and self insured members of the community with comprehensive in-patient, day-patient and out-patient service and facilities.

Speaking at the opening, His Excellency said mental illness was not something that happened to other people.

"Statistics show that one in five West Australians will experience a mental health problem or mental disorder during his or her lifetime."

"Today is an important one in the history of private psychiatric care in WA," His Excellency said.

The Unit was built by Kilcullen and Clark and designed by architect Kenneth Yewers.

The 28 bedrooms - 26 single and two double - all have external views to the well laid out grounds of the hospital and help create the pleasant atmosphere in the new complex.

The new building area of 1400sqm had to blend in with the refurbished building area of 730sqm of the old ward nine, complete with a linkway to the northern wards.

The total contract cost was $2.7 million and included all the interior decorating, all the courtyards, the entry statement and driveway as well as upgrading of the existing services and making the project a self-contained facility within the Hollywood Private Hospital complex.

You're invited

Get ready to trip the light fantastic.

All Veterans and friends are invited to the popular annual Hollywood - Red Cross Tea Dance at Hollywood Private Hospital's Red Cross Hall, Nedlands, on Thursday, October 16 at 1.30pm.

Last year more than 200 Veterans, War Widows and friends took to the dance floor for a delightful afternoon.

The dance - one of the highlights of the Veterans' Health Week celebrations - will again feature live music from the Anzac House Swing Band, with Master of Ceremonies Mike Hall.

Afternoon tea is provided by the hospital. Tickets are free! To book your place, or for further information, please contact Catherine Archer on 9346 6716, during office hours.

"On Parade"

Listen in!

Hollywood Private Hospital is one of the proud sponsors of a new radio programme produced by RSL members - for RSL members.

"On Parade" goes to air every Wednesday at 12.30pm on 6NR 927 AM.

Tune in for give-aways and to hear the latest on happenings in the RSL, the Department of Veterans Affairs and at Hollywood.
Hollywood nurses meet humble heroes


"It was a privilege to meet such heroes. What they've been through is extraordinary".

These were the comments of two Hollywood Private Hospital nurses, who found sharing the experiences of Australian soldiers involved with the Thailand-Burma railway and seeing where it all took place, a moving experience.

Patricia Gurney and Sandra Howell spent seven days on the "Quiet Lion Tour" recently with ex-POWs who worked on the railway and some of their family members and members of the Dunlop Hundred, young people between the ages of 14 and 24.

Based on the banks of the River Kwai in Thailand, the tour party visited areas where Australian soldiers worked on the railway, were held prisoner in camps, collected water, and were buried or cremated.

Approximately 13,000 men died during the building of the Thai-Burma Railway and 3,500 of those were Australians. This translates to a life for every sleeper laid.

This tour brought up a lot of old and often painful memories which the ex-POWs accompanying the tour did share with the nurses.

“One of my most enduring impressions of the veterans was their humbleness,” Patricia said. “They lived at a grass roots level just to survive”.

The nurses heard stories about the ex-POWs' experiences working on the railway, their poor health and living conditions, and the underground movement where essential items such as eggs and medical supplies were smuggled into the camps under the very real threat of death.

Everyone had a personal reason for going on the tour.

As Patricia explained: “This tour brought out the truth — some of the men had not even discussed their experiences with their families.”

The tour helped many family members understand what their father, grandfather, brother or partner had been through and why some still suffered terrible nightmares.

Sandra described the Anzac Ceremony held at Hellfire Pass as very emotional for all attending. Wreaths were laid at a special memorial.

The nurses will meet with other tour members next month at a reunion hosted by Hollywood.

The tour was named after the famous "Quiet Lion", ex-POW and surgeon Sir Edward “Weary” Dunlop and organised by ex-POW Keith Flanagan.

HAS YOUR SERVICE BEEN RECOGNISED

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or (099) 21 5523 after 7.30pm.
(Arrangements can be made for viewing in Perth.)

Listening Post — WINTER 1997 — Page 13
LAST OFFICERS TO GRADUATE FROM WA

The end of an era for the Army Reserve in WA has signalled the beginning of an era for Bullsbrook man, Mr Brian Caswell. Now 2nd Lieutenant Caswell since graduating as an Army Reserve officer recently, Mr Caswell was one of the last five Reserve officer cadets to train in WA. Reserve officer training now moves to the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra, with only part of the training to be conducted by the Western Australia University Regiment.

However for 2nd Lieutenant Caswell, the graduation marks a new direction – his job with the WA Police taking him to the north of the State, where he will serve as a 1st-class Constable in South Hedland. The Army in the north will also benefit by the move when he takes up his first appointment as a Troop Commander with the Pilbara Regiment.

2nd Lieutenant Caswell said the rigorous 18-month course offered him the chance to develop leadership skills and gave him the satisfaction of working as part of a team. The course requires a high degree of fitness and provides training in areas such as military law, field craft, tactics and management skills.

Released by:

LIEUTENANT PETER TELFORD,
Public Relations Officer,
Defence Centre Perth.
Tel: (08) 9220 2575 (work)
041 207 6614 (home)

Proud graduating officers (left to right) 2nd Lieutenants Kristen Cooper (Armadale Hills), Brian Caswell (Bullsbrook), Michael Unger (Gooseberry Hill), Nicholas Kingdon (Mt Claremont), and Robert Coales (Kardinya).

Photo by CPL Kevin Piggott

ARMSY CADET TOUR
KOREA 1997

On behalf of the four Cadets who made the tour from Western Australia I thank the State Branch and all Sub-Branches who organised raffles, made donations to assist financially with their travel arrangements to Sydney and return and for help with the personal expenses for each Cadet.

Many thanks to all who contributed.

HD WHITEHURST OAM
8 Blechynden Road
St James 6102
Tel: 9361 9062

DVA Veterans’ Health Promotion

Corvettes Health Golf Days

Monday 11 August
Collier Park ...................... 8am

Monday 13 October
Hammersley ...................... 8am

Contact:
Ben Haseldine – Tel: 9444 3762 or
Terry Marshall – 9339 2166
LEAD-IN FIGHTER

Contract signing in May 1997 with the first aircraft delivered in 1999 is the projected timeframe for introduction into RAAF service of the Hawk aircraft derivative Lead-in Fighter.

Subject to potential supplier negotiations with British Aerospace (BAe), which will finalise detailed project aspects, the Air Force will boast between 30 and 40 new Hawks to replace the ageing Macchis, that have remained in service since the 1960s.

The projected cost is $1.3b covering procurement, maintenance and life cycle costs over the expected 25 years of service.

In announcing the decision, the Minister for Defence, Mr McLachlan, said all tenderers were of a high quality and BAe's bid was selected after detailed evaluation across a range of areas, including aircraft design and performance, costs and Australian industry involvement proposals.

BAe has offered an advanced version of the Hawk trainer which, in various forms, is used by air forces around the world. The Minister said Australian industry would be involved in the assembly, testing and ongoing support of the new aircraft, with the main support facility being located at Williamtown. Significantly, the project will offer an employment boost for both the Newcastle area and at the BAe Adelaide facility.

The contract would create jobs and could see Australia attract maintenance work from regional countries, Defence Industry Minister, Mrs Bishop added.

Mrs Bishop said final details of the cost and number of aircraft were still under negotiation, but Australia was negotiating to buy more than 30 Hawks.

She said the government would now enter final negotiations with BAe, with the deal to be finalised in the second quarter next year. Mrs Bishop said Australia could develop the capability to become a maintenance hub for the jets.

"From a defence industry point of view it is definitely a plus that there is the possibility that Australia can become the place where maintenance for other Hawks in the region can be done," she said.

The location of the main support facility for the project could not have come at a better time for the Hunter region, Treasurer and NSW Development Minister, Michael Egan said:

"At the moment the Newcastle region is going through a painful reorientation of its economy, and this is a real opportunity to develop an aerospace industry in the region."

Should the need arise, the Hawk could also perform a useful combat role. The RAAF specified a level of technology which will ensure the newcomer remains in service after the Hornet and F-IIIIs are retired.

COURTESY: RAAF NEWS

MEMORIAL PICTURE PRESENTATION

State President Mr Len Turner receiving a memorial picture presented by the Petty Officers of USS Kittyhawk on the recent visit of the USA Task Force to Fremantle.

The RSL played host at Anzac House when the Petty Officers and League member had an enjoyable evening.

JOHN BRIGDEN

STOP PRESS

VALE

ALLEN MAXWELL BRICE, OAM

It is with profound regret that we report the death of our esteemed member, Mr Allen Maxwell Brice, OAM.

Mr Brice will be remembered by those who knew him as a quiet achiever, a Past President of the Highgate Sub Branch, a dedicated supporter of the aims and objectives of the League and, in particular, his service to the League as Secretary of the Honour Avenue Committee, Kings Park over a period of 50 years.

"LEST WE FORGET"
SCHOOL CHILDREN PAY TRIBUTE AT ANZAC SERVICE

The son of an SAS soldier killed in the Blackhawk helicopter tragedy laid a wreath at this year’s Schools Anzac Service in memory of all Australian Servicemen and women who gave their lives for their country.

Ten-year-old Ben Constantinidis, whose father Corporal Andy Constantinidis died with 17 other soldiers and airmen in the crash last June, performed the moving tribute before 1,500 Perth schoolchildren at the War Memorial in Kings Park.

Ben’s fellow wreath-bearer was 10-year-old Amy Holmes, whose father Wayne died in 1990 after serving with the RAN during the Vietnam era. Both children are Wards of Legacy.

The 30-minute service began at 11.30am and was marked by a fly-past of four PC-9 turboprop aircraft from RAAF Pearce.

The Governor of WA, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC MC was the guest speaker at the service, the Education Department was represented by Director-General Cheryl Vardon and the RSL by President Len Turner, MBE JP.

Students from Nedlands Primary School formed the choir and the band was from Hollywood Senior High School. Both performed exceptionally well, displaying their musical and vocal talents. Guides and Scouts manned the flagpoles throughout the morning and welcoming addresses were made by students Gemma Pike and Tim McMinn from Floreat Park Primary School. Students from Hollywood Senior High School delivered a reading of Diary of a Distant Place, which told of a girl’s grandfather’s experiences in World War I.

After the wreath laying by Ben and Amy, the Last Post was played by bugler Kelly Thomas from Churchlands Senior High School. Finally students, teachers, parents and special guests stood for the National Anthem, led by the Nedlands Primary School Choir.

Not everyone was able to withstand the heat and humidity, especially the younger children, but quick action by the St John Ambulance Brigade meant no one was seriously affected.

Once again the Schools Anzac Commemorative Service was a moving and dignified tribute to Australia’s war dead; thanks are extended to the many volunteers who helped make it possible.

EDITOR.

Address by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC MC, Governor of Western Australia

I would like to start my talk by telling you a little about the experiences of a young man not all that much older than yourselves, an Officer of a famous Western Australian battalion, who served in Gallipoli and France during World War I, 81 years ago. After a terrible time fighting at Gallipoli, Captain Maitland Foss and the 28th battalion from this State were sent to France where, on 6 of June 1916, the Anzacs made their first raid on the German trenches. From there Captain Foss wrote along the following lines to his family:

“We have been through a most dreadful time. The Battalion is almost practically wiped out; in fact nearly the whole division is gone. We had to attack and capture the second and third line trenches which when obtained are the last German trenches for some miles. At midnight the 25th, 26th and 28th battalions went over our parapets to the assault. The artillery preparation had been very bad and most of our poor fellows were mown down by machine-guns. The shell fire was frightening, the enemy using gas shells and bombs freely. 670 of our Battalion were killed in just the space of two hours.”

Thankfully you and I will never know what it is like to sit in a trench waiting to be ordered to go over the top as line after line of those
young Australians did. Some of them would have sat in the trenches for a long time listening to the cries of others who had been hit and knowing that they too might meet the same fate. But go over the top they did and, as they fought together in hand-to-hand combat, great traditions of courage, endurance, loyalty, self-sacrifice, mateship and leadership were established.

At a time when the State’s population was less than 350,000, some 32,000 West Australians went overseas to fight in many different parts of the world during the first World War. They left from Blackboy Hill near Greenmount. They had come from all over the state – from the goldfields, the city, from the farms and the forests. There were youngsters fresh from school and older, experienced men ready to teach them how to look after themselves. Nearly a tenth of our whole population went to war – an incredible effort for such a young nation.

These soldiers made history at the Gallipoli Landings, at Popes Hill, Dead Mans Ridge, and Leannes Trench; and at Formelles, Mouquet Farm, Bullecourt, Pozieres and Messines in France; and at Gaza and Damascus in Palestine. Ten of them won the nation’s highest award for personal gallantry, the Victoria Cross. The most well known of those awarded the VC was Hugo Throssell. Although severely wounded during a counter attack, Throsell refused to leave his post and go for medical assistance. He stayed until there was a break in fighting and, when his wounds had been dressed, he returned to the firing line until ordered out of action by a medical officer. By his personal courage and example he kept up the spirit of his troops and was largely instrumental in saving the situation at a critical time.

Perhaps the most famous of the men who trained at Blackboy Hill was John Simpson Kirkpatrick. You would know him as Simpson – the man with the donkey. Simpson earned his place in Australian history by the simple but incredibly brave act of using the stray donkey to help carry the wounded down from the trenches in the hills behind Anzac Cove. He would brave the enemy’s gunfire to collect the wounded, put them on his donkey and get them down to the medical stations on the beach. On the return journeys up the hill to the men fighting in the trenches, he and his donkey carried water back to the troops. Simpson lived only three weeks on Gallipoli before he was killed but the courage and selflessness he displayed in that short time made him a national hero and someone who will live in our history books forever.

He was no different from many of the young Anzacs who first landed on the beaches of Gallipoli. The courage, honesty, humour, endurance, resourcefulness and loyalty of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps became an inspiration to our young nation. From the deeds and sacrifices of the Anzacs 81 years ago, a powerful sense of an Australian identity emerged. It marked our real birth as a nation.

Since 1918, Anzac Day has developed into our national day for remembering the actions of all our servicemen and women in two world wars and in the more recent conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and the Gulf.

As well as these conflicts, in recent years young Australian servicemen and women have served their country with great professionalism and compassion in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Somalia, the Western Sahara, the Middle East and other regions of the globe.

We can be very proud of our heritage. As a nation we have never shirked from our responsibility to maintain world peace. In World War I when we were barely a nation of five million people, Australia put some 420,000 men under arms and lost 54,000 killed and 155,000 wounded. In World War II, with only
School Children Pay Tribute at Anzac Service cont ....

7.3 million, we put 700,000 into the field, suffered 27,000 killed and 24,000 wounded while 30,000 young Australians were incarcerated in prison camps.

The impact on our small nation of the awful losses of so many of our best young men has been profound. We lost all that they may have contributed to our country in the arts, the sciences, in sport, in agriculture, in industry, in politics and indeed as the future fathers of happy, well-cared-for families.

War is a terrible business; ask any serviceman who has been through it. At times it is terrifying, physically dirty, tiring, boring for stretches of time of alternatively frantically active. There can be moments of exhilaration but more frequently times of deep sadness. Yet out of war and tragedy, does come some good.

Perhaps more than at any other time, war challenges men and women to find the best in themselves. Whether they are leading or supporting their countrymen in the war zones or at home.

For the serviceman, war can engender a sense of great pride: in his ship, his squadron or his battalion. It includes a feeling of unmatched loyalty and selflessness: loyalty that goes up and down and sideways: selflessness that shares everything with mates. It can lead to that ultimate act of selflessness, a single act of outstanding courage to save the lives of others, often at the cost of one’s own.

It can engender in a nation that same sense of common purpose; of unity to ward off the threatening foe; of sacrifice in accepting rationing, labour conscription and limitations on personal freedom.

It can also engender a return to the essential spirituality of man. Just ask any veteran who has seen action, who has stood in the heat of the desert, in the wet steam of the jungle or on the deck of a heaving warship, and listened to the quiet words of the Chaplain praying for God’s blessing and comfort before an attack; and afterwards the same Chaplain being there to help bury the dead and console the wounded.

Perhaps boys and girls, we should ponder, too, on what this country would have been like if we had been defeated. I think this Australia that we know would have been very different in every way and not very much to our liking. We nearly lost World War II because of unpreparedness and apathy and perhaps that is a lesson we really need to heed as we face the excitement, challenges and uncertainties of the 21st century.

Luckily the battles of shot and shell are not being experienced by Australian at present. But all of us as citizens, whether young or old, must face other battles and big ones too; the battles against unemployment, crime, dishonesty, drugs and discrimination of any sort. If you think about it, perhaps we can employ the excellent Aussie qualities of being a good soldier in war, by becoming soldiers of peace, in battles against discrimination, intolerance and poverty; against homelessness and the attitude of “What’s in it for me?”.

These are campaigns that we can and must win, and if we show the same dedication, the same will, the same selflessness, the same sense of common purpose and the same sense of service to the nation as the Anzacs of old, and more recent times, win we will.

And a final thought. The preservation of our democratic system of government, our freedom of speech and religion, the rule of law, and the opportunity for any Australian to reach to top through his or her own effort, are things worth fighting for, and if necessary, dying for. I have a feeling that nearly 100,000 of our soldiers, sailors and airmen who did just that, are smiling quietly in agreement from their place of eternal rest. Don’t you?

A thoughtful and inspiring Anzac Day to you all.

VIETNAM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION

The President of the Vietnam Logistical Support Veterans’ Association, Vic Boreham, (right) presents the Association’s Plaque to Jock Geldart, State Secretary. The Plaque, which lists the Ships and Units comprising the naval Task Force Vietnam, will be positioned beside the Riding Light of the original Sydney in the Anzac Club.
The Canberra National Memorials Committee has endorsed the proposal to establish an Australian National Korean War Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra. An interim symbol of remembrance has been positioned and the site was dedicated at a ceremony on 24 April, 1996, Kapyong Day. Federal Government approval to tax deductibility for contributions to the Memorial Trust Fund for the period 1 September 1996 to 2 September 1998 has also been announced, permitting the launch of a national fund-raising campaign.

A national design competition will be conducted to identify a preferred design for the memorial, which is scheduled for completion for a dedication ceremony in 2000, marking the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the Korean war.

The Form of the Memorial

The Australian National Korean War Memorial Committee has prepared a draft statement of requirement which will form a critically important part of the design brief.

While there are no preconceived notions about precisely what form the eventual memorial might take, there are a number of key qualities, characters and attributes that should be referenced in defining an approach to the design that will meet the objectives that have been established.

The design may be a combination of architectural, sculptural, landscape and other artistic design elements. It should be reflective of the 1950s’ era and uplifting in character:

- The Memorial should be monumental in scale and compatible with the character of Anzac Parade, the National Capital’s prime ceremonial way;
- The Memorial should represent noble and patriotic virtues, reflecting also the environment and conditions in which Australians served, featuring aspects such as the harsh climate, mountainous terrain, the trenches, the sea and the sky and should endeavour to capture the sentiment of a small force, remote from its homeland and culture, confronting a malevolent colossus;
- The design should recognise the Australian navy, army and air force formations and units that served in Korea, including noncombatant support organisations such as the Red Cross and the Salvation army;
- Recognition of those other countries that provided combat and medical units during the period commemorated should be incorporated, with the Republic of Korea granted a recognition that represents the purpose of the Australian involvement in the war;
- The proposed design must be unmistakeably recognisable as the Australian National Korean War Memorial;
- The design must be configured so as to accommodate periodic ceremonial activities at which Service personnel, bands, special guests and veterans will gather;
- If figurative sculpture is incorporated, a scale approximately 1.2 times human scale is considered appropriate for the Anzac parade setting;
- The Memorial should be constructed of extremely durable and relatively maintenance free materials such as bronze, stone, appropriately treated concrete etc;
- The Memorial must communicate a message that is at once inspirational in content and timeless in meaning, conveying its purpose to all future generations of Australians.

The following wording is envisaged as the dedication inscription on the memorial:

IN MEMORY OF THOSE AUSTRALIANS WHO DIED IN THE KOREAN WAR 1950 TO 1953 AND IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO SERVED

This was the first occasion when members of the United Nations had been called upon to repel armed attack and to restore international peace and security.

Australian Navy, Army and Air Force units served in Korea with the United Nations Command for 1950 to 1957 to preserve the independence of the Republic of Korea.

Donations may be deposited at any branch of the ANZ Bank to the credit of:

Australian National Korean War memorial Trust Fund
Account Number: BSB 012 964 4406 08087

As donations to this fund are tax deductible and to allow a receipt to be issued, please advise name, address, amount donated to:

Honorary Treasurer
Australian National Korean War Memorial Trust Fund
PO Box 21
Woden ACT 2606

IAN CRAWFORD AM RAN (TRD.)
Rear Admiral
Chairman
WA NAVY BAND SETS THE PACE

One of the Royal Australian Navy's best-known roving ambassadors in WA is the West Australian Naval Band, popular from Broome in the north to Albany in the south.

The RAN Naval Reserve Band, of the now defunct Fremantle Port Division of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, the band is celebrating its 50th anniversary since its formation in 1947.

Under the direction of Chief Petty Officer Musician Peter Legg, RAN, the 24 reservists of the West Australia Naval Band produced a sterling effort with their 1997 Anzac Day taskings. The day commenced with the band providing a bugler and drummer for the Fremantle War Memorial Dawn Service and two other buglers for the Bicton and Rockingham Dawn Services. From there the West Australian Naval Band led the Perth Anzac Day parade before hastily embarking on a Navy bus which conveyed them to Rockingham where they led the Anzac Day march and Service. From 2-2.30pm that afternoon the Band provided a 90-minute concert at the superb new Rockingham Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia club-rooms. The day concluded with a bugler and drummer from the West Australian Navy Band participating in the Anzac Day Australian Football League function – Fremantle Dockers versus St Kilda at Subiaco Oval.

Other Anzac Day-related activities including providing buglers for the Safety Bay primary school ceremony on 10 April; Charthouse, Hillman, North Parmelia and Ocean Reef primary schools on 11 April and Koorana primary school on 1 May.

With all regular Australian Defence Force Bands now located on Australia's east coast, the ongoing efforts of the West Australia Naval Band, and the way it has met challenges, is commendable.

VIC JEFFERY, OAM
Navy Public Affairs Officer (WA)

The West Australia Naval Band, led by Chief Petty Officer Musician Peter Legg, leads the Perth Anzac Day March down William Street.
VICTORIA WAR SERVICE HONOUR ROLL

Men and women from Victoria Plains who served in World Wars I or II are being recognised for their contributions on an Honour Roll at Calingiri.

The Shire of Victoria Plains has taken on the task of compiling the list of approximately 600 names. Shire Development Officer Angela Kelsall has taken the job one step further by asking family and friends of those listed to send in their war history as she is collating a booklet to record war history of the area for future generations.

“We’ve had a great response from ex-service men and women. They are very pleased the Shire has taken the initiative to remember and record this history and has been giving its full support,” said Angela.

The history of subsequent wars is not being overlooked by the Shire and we welcome any information on servicemen and women from the district to begin a plaque for the future.

If you have any information, photographs or war memorabilia of people from Victoria Plains, we would be very happy to hear from you. Please write or fax to: Miss Angela Kelsall, PO Box 21, Calingiri WA 6569, Tel: (08) 9628 7004, Fax: (08) 9628 7008.

ANNUAL EX-SERVICEWOMEN’S BOWLS DAY

On 21 March, this was held at East Fremantle Bowling Club. In fine weather, and on beautiful greens, 22 teams played for the perpetual Shield donated by the Ex-WRANS Association. The winners, a Yokine team (K. Jennings, G. Rogers, B. Snowball and M. Bourke) and runners-up, also from Yokine (M. Alberthsen, B. Eckersley, C. Beckham and V. Clark), all received trophies made available from Yench’s Bowls Shop, Fremantle. Following the game, the players, plus about 20 representatives from Women’s ex-service organisations, enjoyed a splendid luncheon.

Next year’s bowls day will be held on Friday, 27 March 1998, and we intend inviting bowlers who are wives of ex-service men to join us ex-service girls at East Fremantle.

Those interested please contact: Dorothy Needham, Tel: 9330 3411.

DOROTHY NEEDHAM

NATIONAL MEMORIALS FOR SERVICE WOMEN AND SERVICE NURSES APPROVED

National memorials recognising the outstanding courage of service-women and service-nurses have been given the green light.

The announcement was made jointly on 6 November, 1996 by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Scott, and the Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government, Warwick Smith.

A proposal, developed by the Royal College of Nursing, Australia, to create a memorial on Anzac Parade to commemorate service-nurses has been approved by the Canberra National Memorials Committee, clearing the way for the site to be dedicated in 1997 and a design competition to commence.

The Federal Government has allocated $100,000 to the service-nurses’ memorial.

“The memorial to service-nurses will recognise the contribution of Australia’s service-nurses who, for almost a century, have been demonstrating their courage and valour by bringing comfort and care to sick and wounded troops, in the face of prevalent and personal danger,” Mr Scott said.

Planning has also commenced for the development of a memorial to Australia’s service-women, to be located in the sculpture garden of the Australian War Memorial.

The Federal Government will contribute $150,000 to the service women’s memorial.

Mr Scott said the ex-service women’s community, the Office of Australian War Graves and the Australian War Memorial had already begun discussing the nature of the memorial and a coordinating committee would soon be formed to oversee design and construction.

Both memorials have received widespread support from the ex-service and general community, and were endorsed by the RSL in September this year at the League’s national conference.

Mr Smith said he was pleased that the National Capital Authority and the Canberra National Memorials Committee had been able to approve the service-nurses’ memorial proposal which had first been submitted by the Royal College of Nursing in May 1995.

COURTESY: VETAFFAIRS
The January bushfires in the Baker’s Hill-Wundowie areas highlighted the ever present danger of fire in most parts of Australia. In the recent fires, described as far worse than the 1961 bushfires at Chidlow which caused insurance claims in excess of $12 million, over 10,500 ha of farmland, bush and houses were destroyed. Along with the losses of homes, buildings and equipment, thousands of head of stock also perished in the fire described by one of the main coordinators of the battle against the fire, Mr Steve McDonald as the worst he had ever seen.

One of the lessons so painfully learned from the experience has been that whilst farmers and home owners can made every preparation for the advent of a bushfire, no one can guarantee they will not be affected, or even suffer considerable loss despite their preparations. The chief executive of the Bush Fires Board Dr Chris Back said home owners in high risk areas could help protect their houses by cleaning gutters, closing eaves and clearing at least 6 metres around all buildings.

Mr Back went on to say that even with all these precautions there is no guarantee, but homeowners would be better off.

In times of such wide scale suffering the community rallies around those affected. In the case of the Baker’s Hill-Wundowie fires, appeals were established in the Northam and Mundaring Shires within a day of the fires. However, if important to note that neither State or Federal Government have any mandatory obligations to provide compensation to the victims of such disasters. As spokesman for the Emergency Services Minister Bob Weise, said recently that WA could apply to the Federal Government for compensation after natural disasters but there were restrictions based on the size of the damage. The spokesman further said that if people chose to take the risk of not insuring against a well known hazard then they must bear the ultimate responsibility.

Estimates of damage from the Baker’s Hill-Wundowie fires have exceeded $12 million, but according to insurance Council of Australia President, Daryl Cameron, insurance claims have so far only reached $1.4 million. He said that many of the properties destroyed or damaged were either underinsured or not insured at all.

The problems of underinsurance are very real for all Australians but clearly have terrible consequences for the victims of such a disaster. Insurance industry figures reveals that approximately 60% of Australians households have inadequate insurance cover and many have none at all. These people may have blind faith that ‘it can’t happen to them,’ but all too often it does with horrendous consequences. Ultimately it is the responsibility of each and every one of us—not the government or aid groups, to adequately prepare for known possibilities. Adequate and effective insurance is a vital part of those preparations.

RSL Insurances, through our broker Lowndes Lambert have developed an excellent house and contents policy targeting the specific needs of RSL Members and their families. The policy provides many excellent features when compared to others yet, is extraordinarily cost effective—often up to 30% cheaper than competitors.

The Policy features Full accidental damage cover to $5,000, Full replacement with no age limit, Nil Excess, Cash cover to $300, Credit card mis-use to $1,000, 10,000 fatal injury compensation—and great rates. RSL Insurances House and Contents policy is an excellent way to be prepared for the worst the ‘lucky country’ can, and does, dish up for even the best prepared of us.

For further obligation-free information about RSL Insurances House & Contents cover (or any other RSL Insurances products) complete and send the following coupon to RSL Insurances, 8th floor, 31 Queens Street, Melbourne 3000.

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After six years of providing Travel Insurance cover for RSL Members, the Pathfinder Travel Insurance Scheme has ended. Several thousand travellers took advantage of the scheme whilst it operated, receiving excellent cover at extremely cost effective premiums.

However, declining numbers of travellers taking insurance and significantly increased costs have led to the decision to withdraw the scheme. In some countries other than Australia, significant extra premiums are levied to provide Travel Insurance Cover for travellers in the same categories as RSL members. Neither the RSL or our Insurance brokers Lowndes Lambert wished to see such arrangements introduced in our market.

Should any RSL Members have travel insurance needs, cover and advice can be obtained from Ryan Rowland of Flightline Travel, tel: 9295 2155 or fax: 9295 1288.

Listening Post - WINTER 1997 - Page 22
ESCAPE FROM GREECE
TO PALESTINE VIA NEUTRAL TURKEY

Sgt R.A. ‘Snow’ McBain, of the 2/3rd Battalion, was among a small group of Australians who escaped from Greece in 1941 across the Aegean Sea to neutral Turkey, and then rejoined their units in Palestine.

McBain, who won a Military Medal during the assault on Tobruk earlier in the year, had enlisted in the AIF at Port Kembla, NSW in 1939. At the time he was 23, married with one child and working as a carpenter.

On 19 April 1941, McBain and a colleague, Vic Shannon, were separated from their unit in the early stages of the withdrawal from Greece. During the next three and a half weeks, at times disguised as Greek peasants, they dodged the advancing Germans to reach the island of Skyros.

The two Australians spent four days on the island. They were well fed and cared for by a Greek family who arranged for a boat to take them to Turkey. Crete was considered as a destination but it was thought to be too far away.

The day before they were due to leave Skyros, they were joined by nine men from the 2/2nd battalion. The villagers gave them an emotional farewell as well as many gifts of food and cigarettes. Old men embraced them and wept, and old women knelt and kissed their hands.

While waiting for several days on a very small island off Skyros, they were joined by another 14 members of the 2/2nd Battalion and some Greek soldiers. Eventually, 32 troops and two crew squeezed into a launch and set off for Turkey.

The Australians had their first sight of their World War I enemies on 15 May. In a recently discovered letter to his father, ‘Snow’ McBain described the experience.

“The Turks treated us firmly but in a friendly manner and took us to the village church where we spent the night and the following day. I didn’t go much on their regular army ration but it was better than nothing. We’d not eaten for about 60 hours so anything was good in the circumstances.

Late at night we were taken to Smyrna, or Izmir as they call it. The bay was lit up with thousands of lights. It was a wonderful sight after living so long in blackouts.

A British colonel and an Australian in civvies met us and we were taken to Turkish barracks. Fed and put to bed. The next day we lounged around, were measured for suits, and later in the day fitted out with our new clothing. There were many laughs. The old-fashioned American ready-made suits were of various shades and patterns. However, they served their purpose.”

Sgt R.A. McBain MM soldiered on with the 2/3rd Battalion through the Middle East and Pacific campaigns. He worked in the construction industry after the war, including several years in Papua New Guinea with private contractors and the then Department of Civil Aviation.

‘Snow’ McBain died on 11 July 1994 aged 78. He is survived by his widow, Emmaline, who lives on the Queensland Sunshine Coast.

The next day, posing as British construction workers, they left by train on a 42-hour journey to the Syrian border. They were each given cigarettes and food plus a bottle of Australian beer. At Alexandretta, almost on the Syrian border, they left the train and were put aboard a Norwegian tanker which sailed for Port Said a few days later.

‘Snow’ McBain and Vic Shannon completed the journey back to their unit by truck and train. They were treated with suspicion when they arrived at their camp at Julis on 15 May still wearing the American suits. They were about to be arrested as fifth columnists but later, with their mates, there was a lot of laughing and joking about their appearance.

COURTESY: VET AFFAIRS
COINCIDENCE

After reading an American history book someone discovered the following:

The incidence of coincidence is so prevalent, that it cannot be considered coincidence.

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.
Abraham Lincoln was elected to President in 1860.
John F. Kennedy was elected to President in 1960.

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.
Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
Both their wives lost their children while living in the White House.
Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.
Both were shot in the head.
Both were shot in the presence of their wives.
The Secretary of each President warned them not to go to the theatre and to Dallas, respectively.

Lincoln's Secretary was named Kennedy
Kennedy's Secretary was named Lincoln.
Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners.
Both successors were named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839.
Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.
Both assassins were known by their three names.
Both names have 15 letters.
Both ran from the theatre and was captured in a warehouse.
Oswald ran from the warehouse and was captured in a theatre.

To cap it off, Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trial.

What do you think? Mystery or a statistical coincidence?
I think it's an alien plot and we should call the X-files.

MICHAEL LAWRENCE AT SEALCORP SEAWA4

Submitted by: E. TRIVETT,
Darling Range Sub Branch

RSL GOLF CLUB

1996 was a very successful year for the club, with plenty of members turning out for our weekly game and enjoying the exercise and the comradeship. We play from March until the end of November each year and our games are played at Rosehill, Maylands, Collier and Whaleback. The emphasis is on the social aspect of the game to make it as enjoyable as possible, regardless of how well or how badly one plays the game.

Ern Jeffrey, winner of the 1996 RSL Cup, being presented with the trophy by the club captain, Neville Parker.

We run a few competitions throughout the year, designed so that everyone has a chance of winning. This year's winners were:

- RSL Cup: Ern Jeffrey
- Eclectic: Tom Brindle
- President's Trophy: Alan Walker
- Ambrose: Bill Skerman
- Vic Durrant

Frank Verdi Cup: Vic Durrant

They were presented with their trophies by the club captain, Neville Parker, at a well-attended luncheon at Harry's Seafood Restaurant.

New players are always welcome, and enquiries can be made by telephoning Dave McClelland on 9448 3812.
DAVE MCCLELLAND

I used to think I was poor.
Then they told me I was needy.
Then they said it was self defeating to think I was needy.
Instead, I was deprived.
Then they said deprived has a bad image.
I was really disadvantaged.
I still don't have a cent,
but I have a great vocabulary.
JULES FEIFFER
Cartoonist
COMMISSION DEPUTY PRESIDENT REAPPOINTED

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Scott, has announced the reappointment of Keith Lyon as Deputy President of the Repatriation Commission.

The appointment is for three years, until 31 August 1999.

Mr Lyon was first appointed in April 1990 and was responsible for the introduction of the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme and the transfer of repatriation hospitals to some State governments and to the private sector.

In recent years, he has been responsible for overseeing improvements in the Department's determining system.

Mr Scott said that Mr Lyon's appointment would provide the Repatriation Commission with continuity at a time when there was a need for DVA to continue to improve its services to veterans and to adapt programs to the changing needs of veterans.

Mr Lyon said: “It is an honours to continue to serve Australia's veterans and I look forward to continuing work with ex-service organisations, veterans and war widows”.

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A PRAYER FROM THOSE "IN HASTE"

Slow me down, Lord,
Ease my pounding heart,
quieten my racing mind,
steady my hurried steps.

Amid the confusion of my days
give me the calmness of the everlasting hills,
Help me to know the restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking time off,
of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat to a friend,
to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day that there is more to life
than increasing its speed.

Let me look at the branches of a towering oak
and know that it grew tall and strong because
it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord.
Teach me to be gentle and humble of heart,
and thus I will find rest for my soul.

ANON
Courtesy: HIGHGATE NEWSLETTER

We appreciate your contributions 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.

COURTESY: HIGHGATE NEWSLETTER

Listening Post - WINTER 1997 - Page 25
Formed at Point Cook on 19 September 1916 as part of the AFC, no 3Sqn holds the proud distinction of being the oldest operational fighter squadron in the RAAF.

Two days of celebrations to mark 80 years of service, including an Open Day and parade, were held at Williamtown recently, bringing together past and present members of the squadron to join in the celebrations.

Some 120 members of the 3Sqn Association, from all corners of Australia, travelled to Williamtown to enjoy the renewing of acquaintances and the reminiscing of years gone by.

As part of the Open Day, static displays were held at different sections in the squadron with 3Sqn Headquarters holding a display of memorabilia and photographs put together for the occasion. Some of the former pilots even had the privilege of flying the F/A-18 Hornet - in the simulator that is - supervised by the XO and aircrew members.

All then retired to the 3Sqn hangar, where the ‘Swing Wing’ section of the Air Command Band entertained while luncheon was served.

On the following day 3Sqn conducted a special parade which was reviewed by Air Commodore Titheridge, and watched by about 300 invited guests and local dignitaries where, as part of the parade, the 3Sqn Standard was shown.

COURTESY: RAAF NEWS

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THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
And the world makes you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn’t a man’s father, mother, or wife,
Whose judgement upon him must pass,
The fellow whose verdict counts most in his life,
Is the man staring back from the glass
He’s the fellow to please, never mind the rest,
For he’s with you clear up to the end,
And you’ve passed your most dangerous, difficult test,
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But the final reward will be heartache and tears,
If you’ve cheated the man in the glass.

ANON

Courtesy: Corvettes Association Western Australia

THE ANZACS

BY GLORIA MARTIN

Let’s not forget the Anzacs,
Show them that we still care.
When they have their dawn service,
Show up, please be there.
Go visit them in hospitals,
And the ‘Old folks homes’ too.
To show them that we appreciate,
What they did for me and you.
Surely it’s not too much to ask,
An hour of your time.
It may have been you great grandfather,
Or fathers of yours and mine.

The young may not understand,
The horror and hardships they went through.
To make this our wonderful country,
Safe for me and you.

So please don’t forget the Anzac’s,
It’s not too much to ask,
They knew that they could lose their lives,
And it was not an easy task.
Reunions

3 RAR C COX SVN 68

A reunion will be held in Perth from Monday 20 April to Sunday 26 April 1998. To be placed on the mailing list please contact:

Kevin (KV) Eatt 46 Hayes Tce, Mosman Park
   (08) 9383 2956
Allan Cockroft 161 Blackall Dve, Greenwood
   (08) 9447 6489
Graeme Lowrey 41 Rendell Way, Koondoola
   (08) 9342 5192.

ALLAN COCKROFT
161 Blackall Drive,
Greenwood 6024

The Combined Ex-Service and Servicewomen's Committee (WA)

All Ex-Service and Servicewomen are invited to the annual luncheon in the Gallipoli Room, Anzac House on Monday 25 August 1997. Drinks will be served at 12 noon and the meal at 12.30pm. Price is $22.00 which includes pre-lunch drinks and drinks on the table.

Please contact your Association representative/Secretary for tickets, or Mrs Eileen Southern on Tel: 9457 8628, Ticket Secretary (evenings).

CECILE HINTON
Secretary

A Tribute to 24 Squadron Truscott 1996

Veterans and their relatives gathered in Kununurra days before the event to prepare for their flight to Truscott for the two day reunion. As the veterans and their relatives arrived, Howard and Beryl Young worked tirelessly to ensure everyone was settled into their accommodation and that last minute arrangements were made before we were transported to Truscott in Northern Command's Caribou, "Wallaby 884".

On Saturday 18, the day dawned bright and beautiful, with a slight crisp feel to the air. Beryl and Howard collected the veterans and their relatives, our Padre John Symons, Committee members, Nurse Megan Cook and the local media representatives for transfer to Kununurra Airport. The start was necessarily early as Northern Command's regulations require all passengers over 60 years, flying in a military aircraft, to have a fitness assessment before embarking on the flight. There was great excitement, happy reunions and plenty of animated discussion as the group waited expectantly to find out who would be on the first flight. A small group joined Northern Command's crew and Catafalque party, along with rations and everything a modern unit transports into the field, including the stove and kitchen sink!

The first Caribou flight departed at 0930, with other light aircraft shortly thereafter. Howard went with the first group to ensure that arrangements went smoothly. Beryl took the remainder of the group up to the Dunham River and on a brief tour of Kununurra while they waited for the Caribou to return.

By 3.00pm all the veterans, Committee and guests had been welcomed to Truscott by John Wood, deputising for Alex Wood who was due to arrive the following day. Those who had arrived on the earlier flight were treated to tours of the "Base" by Bevan Spackman, who had travelled by road to Truscott with his wife Bernice.

The Governor of Western Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, MC, arrived with his aide-de-camp Jeff Harrison, by charter from Broome late in the afternoon and was taken on a short tour of the relics near the airstrip and then down to West Bay. After an exciting day we all settled happily into our splendid accommodation, following a delicious meal cooked by John Wood.

Everyone was up before the breakfast bell went, mainly due to the commotion caused by the huge "fans" on "Wallaby 884" as she fired up in preparation for her day trip to Darwin. Those slumbering snugly in their swags out in the open were blown, along with their belongings, half way across the open flat. As I lay in my swag (in one of the dongas) listening to the sound of the engines, I imagined myself transported back in time to 1944, listening to Sismey's Liberator prepare for the pre-dawn flight on that fateful May day. This set the atmosphere for the rest of the day. After breakfast, some of the veterans and the Governor departed to West Bay to catch some of the legendary Truscott fish. Alas, there are some things that Howard could not arrange - no fish of any notable size were caught, much to the disappointment of all concerned. This was soon forgotten with another interesting tour of various sites on the “Base”.

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Meanwhile, back at the strip, Jimbo Robertson and Alan McCould were preparing the cement base on the plinth for the 24 Squadron plaque. The Catafalque party were drilling in preparation for the afternoon and dawn ceremonies, wreaths were being organised and a frenzied search was underway for the 24 Squadron plaque.

It was discovered that the plaque had been left in Kununarra. Again Beryl came to the rescue and Alligator Airways kindly flew the plaque to Kalumburu. Joan Collins volunteered to fly the short trip to Kalumburu, accompanied by Wing Commander Rob Shortridge and LACW Tammy Lamperd (RAAF), to pick up the plaque. (Tammy is the granddaughter of Noel Felmingham who was with 58 OBU from 25/08/1944 to 14/09/1945). Within half an hour the plaque was back at Truscott, Jimbo Robertson was affixing it to the plinth and all was in place for the unveiling ceremony. Alex Wood arrived in a Metro with the call sign VH-ANJ (O), which seemed most appropriate for the occasion.

We all assembled at 1800 hours central standard time for the unveiling of 24 Squadron RAAF Plaque. The ceremony commenced with Serials 1-6 by the Catafalque party, led by Sgt Fiona McAuley, RAAF. The TBTC President welcomed those present and made introductions. Alex Wood welcomed everyone on behalf of Santos before Mary Farmer read Jim Young’s poem Truscott Memories. Flight Lieutenant Richard Overheau, DFC & Bar, gave a brief history of 24 Squadron. Ken Gillieatt invited the Governor, on behalf of veterans of the 24 Squadron, to unveil the Plaque. A wreath was laid in memory of all those of 24 Squadron now deceased by the Governor and Ken Gillieatt. After the Governor’s address the Ode was recited and Rev John Symons read the prayer. The Bugler played the Last Post and the national anthem was sung. As the sun set over the trees, the Catafalque party concluded the ceremony with Serials 20 & 22.

A combined BBQ dinner was hosted by Santos and a wonderful feeling of camaraderie prevailed and Howard Young, on behalf of the TBTC, presented the Governor with an inscribed copy of John and Carol Beasy’s book Truscott.

Reveille was called and after a gunfire breakfast we were all bundled into and onto various forms of transport to travel to the crash site of the 12 Squadron Liberator. We stood around the plinth listening to the birds herald the dawn as the first rays of sun crept softly through the trees. The Catafalque party commenced the dawn ceremony with Serials 1 – 6. Howard Young and Alex Wood addressed those present and Bevan Spackman read Truscott Revisited. Those particularly remembered at the ceremony were the crews of the two crashed Liberators and veterans who have passed on over the last two years. Wreaths were laid, followed by an address by the Governor, Ode of Remembrance and Prayer by the Reverend John Symons. The Bugler then played the Last Post and the Catafalque party raised the flag. The national anthem was sung followed by the reading of 1944 – 1994 by Jimbo Robertson. The Catafalque party concluded the ceremony with Serials 20 & 21. The sun penetrated the trees and illuminated the ‘cross’ on the plinth as we departed the Liberator site. All the veterans were flown back to Kununarra by “Wallaby 884” on the one flight. The crew then returned to Truscott to load their equipment and the Catafalque party and return to Darwin.

This happy reunion was beautifully concluded with a dinner at the Kununarra Country Club before we embarked on our separate ways for another year.

Lest We Forget.

LIZ COLLINS
Member, Truscott Base Tribute Committee

The Spitfire Group

The Spitfire Group was formed in December 1995 following a visit to Sydney to attend the first reunion of ex-members of No. 1 Fighter Wing. The Wing comprised RAAF Squadron 452, which was formed in Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincolnshire, UK on 8 April 1941. The first RAAF Spitfire Squadron to be formed, it was followed by 457 Squadron, also in the UK.

L.R. Air Commodore Ken Blakers, Director General Support Services (RAAF). Group Captain Alan McGregor, Air Adviser British High Commission (RAF).
Following the entry of Japan into the Pacific area, the two Squadrons were returned to Australia, together with 54 Squadron RAF. Thus No. 1 Fighter Wing became a reality. 54 Squadron is one of the old British Squadrons in the Royal Air Force, having been formed in 1916 under the banner of the Royal Flying Corps and commanded by Major J. Horn. When the Japanese forces threat to attack Perth became imminent, the Squadrons were transferred to WA as a deterrent.

The Service was attended by about 150 members and their wives or partners; the plaque was unveiled by Air Commodore Ken Blakers, Direct General Support Services RAAF, and Group Captain Alan McGregor, RAF, Air Advisor to the British High Commission.

I extend a cordial invitation to ex-members of any of the above mentioned Squadrons or Units, who are not already members, to contact me, Tel (08) 9342 2779 and I will provide further details. Wives and partners are very welcome.

ERIC CARPENTER

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LISTENING POST

The Listening Post is available on private subscription at $10 per year (4 copies) including postage.

Delivery can be arranged by writing to:

The State Secretary
Returned Services League
PO Box Y3023
St Georges Terrace East Perth 6832

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

Since 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 (08) 9366 8261 for an appointment
UNDERSTANDING DEFENCE – NO EASY TASK

Issues related to the defence of the nation have always been difficult to grasp, particularly in the popular view.

Firstly, defence relates not to the certainties of the here and now, but to the vagaries of the future. For the future, most things are possible. What we must do when thinking about defence is to select the more likely of the possibilities of the future and to put aside the more bizarre. If not, we are likely to become buried in a sea of irrelevancies.

Secondly, our thinking about defence is more often than not bedevilled by an emotional response to events, by our likes, our dislikes and our fears, be they rational or irrational. In the event, clear thinking on defence requires a hard-headed approach. The cost of defence is high; the cost of failure even higher. With so much at stake we need to apply more than a modicum of realpolitik.

In today’s world of global communications, we are fed a daily diet of anarchy and mayhem from around the world. Yesterday it was Bosnia, today it is Albania, tomorrow, who knows? Thus the world seems to be a very unstable and dangerous place. But, we need to continually ask, how does all of this directly affect us here in Australia? Does it represent a threat to our security? Here, if I answer “no” I may well be accused of being, at best, “insensitive to the suffering of others”. On the other hand, I am equally hard pressed to see any logical connection between these events and Australia’s security.

As a previous Prime Minister once said “life wasn’t meant to be easy”. Nor is understanding the fundamentals of national defence.

The League has an obligation at both the collective (ie Executive and Sub Branch level) and individual level to actively seek information relating to defence issues. This might mean seeking a defence force speaker at a Sub-Branch meeting. It could include attendance of senior defence force leaders at State Congress. Individually we could attend lectures or join organisations concerned with defence issues such as the Royal United Service Institute or the Australian Defence Association.

The League cannot sit passively and wait to be informed. Eternal vigilance must be taken to include positive action based on seeking, questioning and discussing defence issues.

NORMAN ASHWORTH
Member Defence Policy Committee

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 (08) 9370 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
Women’s Auxiliary Corps 
(India)

The WAC (I) was established in India for service during World War II and for a time immediately after cessation of hostilities. The Corps accepted British, Indian and Anglo-Indian women for general and local service throughout India. I do not know whether the WAC (I) came under the Indian Army structure, or the overall British Army administration. I am interested to know where the Central Records for the WAC (I) are held, i.e. an address in Britain or India perhaps, so I can obtain the service records of a family, former member. If any former WAC (I), British Army in India, or Indian Army member can throw any light on this matter I would be pleased to hear from them.

LOU HALVORSON
(Ex-RAAF)
7 Cricklewood Way, Carine 6020
Tel: (08) 9447 7588

RAF/RAAF Transport Squadron Pilots 
Malaya/Singapore 1960-1965

Research is being undertaken to write the history of the Australian Army’s RAASC air dispatchers who formed the first post-war air supply unit, 40 Air Supply Platoon, raised in Sydney in the early 1960s. The unit served in Malaya and later, as a Squadron, in South Vietnam.

I am particularly keen to contact RAF and RAAF aircrew who took part in air-drop sorties in Malaya during the above period. The Australians flew Dakota DC3 aircraft, whilst the RAF crews operated Beverley, Hastings, Valetta and Single and Twin Pioneers.

These young Australian soldiers (average age 19 years) were attached to the British Army’s 55 Company (AD), RASC, based at RAF Seletar, Singapore and at RAAF Base, Butterworth, for operational drops along the Thai-Malay border.

Please contact:
GRAHAM HAY,
READ Project,
Lot 80 Lakeside Grove, Bindoon WA 6502
Tel: (08) 9576 1280

RAF Squadrons

My war years were spent attached to RAF Squadrons XI SQ Blenheimis and 355 Squadron Liberation, and I am finding it very difficult to contact some of my old mates.

Could anyone please give me an address in England to which I could direct my enquiries in this regard.
E.H. POETT
PO Box 735
Albany WA 6330

Owen Gun – Own Casualties

Researching history of manufacturing owen guns involved in “Unexpected Incidents” whilst on issue to Australian Forces (including the VDC), whether or not resulting in own casualties.

Any information on this subject directed to: “Dowsound”, Post Office Box 2060, Prahran, Victoria 3181, Would be respectfully appreciated.

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- Sbandieratori - Flag Throwers from Italy
- Military Bands, including one from the UK
- The Queen's Own Gurkha Rifles, Pipes and Drums from Brunei
- Our own State Champion Cadets
- A Naval Gun Race
- The WA Mounted Police and the WA Equestrian Clubs

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The Lotteries Commission of Western Australia
The Ramsay Group/Hollywood Private Hospital
Healthways
and other such corporate bodies currently considering their level of support.
Remember The Cavalcade?

All those who attended the RSL’s Cavalcade at the Entertainment Centre will be first in the queue for tickets for our next production, The Perth International Tattoo, to be staged in Supreme Court Gardens in November.

The Event

The event showcases Western Australia’s multiple talents as well as attracting performers from across the nation and around the globe. It brings together the ANZAC spirit and the youth of today in a festival of ceremonial, music, dance, field display, horsemanship and other staged events. It honours our military past and encompasses the skills and values held by the servicemen and women of yesteryear and today. It will highlight and preserve the welfare endeavours of the Returned and Services League and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in their continual care of Australian Veterans and servicemen and women.

The staging of this event in Perth provides Western Australian performers and audiences the opportunity to be thrilled by the spectacle of international performers with a view to cultural exchange. The Tattoo is planned to be a biennial event with the inaugural performance scheduled for 26-29th November, 1997, with the Supreme Court Gardens transformed to provide a wonderfully spectacular venue.

Veterans and Youth – A Strategic Alliance

New links have been formed between Australia’s youth and the veteran community and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs is keen to maintain the enthusiasm and interest generated during the Australia Remembers program in 1995. Events such as the Tattoo can do much to keep this enthusiasm alive and flourishing in future generations. As well as providing a platform for many young designers and artists to launch their careers through employment and promotion opportunities, the Tattoo will generate exposure for the arts community and promote Western Australia as a venue of international repute.

Tickets on Sale in August

Ticket pricing is structured in such a way as to attract family groups and we look forward to seeing children with parents and grandparents, all enjoying a show that has something for everyone!!

- Adults: $23
- Concessions: $21
- Children: $11
- Family (2 Adults/2 Children under 14) $56

Priority booking arrangements

Members of RSL Sub-Branches and veterans’ organisations will have priority and group bookings are welcome. Promotional kits are being sent to all Sub-Branches - a potential audience of 80,000 when family members are included. Sub-Branch Executives are being asked to actively promote the Tattoo to all members. Sub-Branches are also being asked to donate money to a Millennium Events Fund to enable the Task Force to accumulate seed funds for future events. There has been considerable interest expressed already in giving such support. We also acknowledge the support of the Women’s Auxiliary whose members have offered to assist with costuming.

Organisers have attracted top local and overseas acts to present a pageant of colour and spectacle the like of which has never been staged in Perth and you won’t want to miss it!! Veterans’ Associations Group Bookings CAN NOT start until the Poster/PR kits are available to BRANCHES in late July so please await these and watch the Tattoo Monthly Bulletin.

City of Perth International Tattoo Office
Mt Lawley War Veterans’ Home, 51 Alexander Drive, MOUNT LAWLEY WA 6050
Telephone: 9271 3246 Facsimile: 9271 3926
The Funding of Aged Care Institutions

Introduction

Recently there was a call for submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the funding of aged care institutions. The RSL War Veterans’ Homes WA submitted a paper to national HQ on behalf of the WA Branch. Comments were also offered from a WA perspective on the consolidated RSL submission to the inquiry to which the League was invited to make a formal presentation. The WA submission forms the basis of this article. It will be of interest to members because it outlines the basic philosophy of the WA Branch commitment and involvement in aged care and the concerns of the Board and State Executive over government direction in aged care funding.

Background

The RSL War Veterans’ Homes in WA operates hostels in three locations with a total of 199 residents. In addition the Homes provide 23 rental units and 102 subsidised and resident funded accommodation units. The focus of the Homes has been to provide a range of benevolent accommodation options. Financially disadvantaged residents account for 95% of hostel places. Entry contributions for the remaining residents are based on ability to pay to a maximum of $40,000. Currently the Homes are redeveloping facilities to create a 52-bed Frail Aged Centre providing nursing home facilities. Just under 50% of the capital costs of the building will be met by Commonwealth grant.

Concerns

The major concerns of the RSL War Veterans’ Homes WA regarding the proposed changes announced in the 1996/97 Commonwealth budget are:

- continuing support for hostel accommodation
- equal access provisions for financially disadvantaged residents
- capital funding arrangements for benevolent institutions
- maintenance of quality of care
- ensuring that a two-tiered aged care system does not develop

Continuing Support for Hostel Accommodation

The RSL War Veterans’ Homes WA was established to provide hostel care. At present more than 50% of residents do not receive personal care but are able to cope with the support provided by hostel care. For a variety of social and economic reasons, veterans constitute a higher percentage of the hostel-care-needs group. The proposed elimination of subsidies for providers of hostel care will seriously disadvantage a large portion of the aged community which needs this form of care support.

The RSL War Veterans’ Homes WA feels most strongly that the designation of hostel care as an accommodation rather than aged care option is wrong. The meeting of the basic care needs of food and shelter plus the socialisation opportunities provided by hostel care will continue to be a major community and veteran need. The return to isolation and abuse in boarding house situations is a deplorable outcome to be avoided at all costs. The Government is therefore urged to reconsider its positions and take steps to retain hostel care subsidies within a comprehensive system of aged care.
Equal Access For Financially Disadvantaged

As a provider of aged care for the financially disadvantaged the RSL War Veterans' Home is concerned lest market forces create exclusionary pressures. If the funding formulas are such that it becomes difficult to maintain the existing level of care for financially disadvantaged residents, pressure to provide preference for advantaged residents will increase. The RSL War Veterans' Homes WA does not expect that the numbers of financially disadvantaged residents for which it provides aged care will substantially decrease in the next five years. Equitable arrangements for funding must therefore be developed to provide a level playing field where no particular advantage is obtained by extending care to financially advantaged or financially disadvantaged across a reasonably broad sector of the population. The RSL War Veterans's Homes accepts that some people may choose to pay additional fees for additional features. The RSL War Veterans' Homes does not accept that an ability to pay should be the determining priority for access to aged care.

Capital Funding Arrangements for Benevolent Institutions

The capital funding required for the continuation and replacement of aged care facilities must include provision for providers who seek to serve the financially disadvantaged. While those able to pay will make appropriate contributions towards replacement capital costs, the RSL War Veterans' Homes WA is concerned that no details have yet been provided on how providers will be equivalently compensated for financially disadvantaged residents. Unlike commercial providers, the RSL War Veterans' Homes WA and many other providers orient their care primarily toward the financially disadvantaged. The government is therefore urged to provide the details of capital cost support for the replacement of facilities where residents are financially disadvantaged. This information is essential for the mid and long term planning of future care, particularly for providers whose focus is towards the financially disadvantaged. Additionally, the level of support should recognise that many providers, the RSL War Veterans' Homes WA amongst them, exceed the minimum legislated resident levels for financially disadvantaged. Adequate provisions should be made for this situation.

Maintenance of Quality of Care

In the development of care standards, subsidies should reasonably reflect the cost of delivering these services. In a situation where previous hostel care providers are extending their care into the aged care regime envisaged by the budgetary changes, a flexible subsidisation scheme must reasonably reflect the actual costs incurred. This is a particularly important consideration where providers with a previous hostel focus must adapt their operations to incorporate nursing care. Provision should be made for transitional periods where care regimes are developed and initiated in preparation for these changes. These start-up costs should be adequately provided for. It should also be recognised that in the transition for the integration from hostel and nursing home care to aged care that the resident mix may not be optimal or near the steady state norm. Providers may incur higher costs for a small number of residents. Transitional arrangements should therefore reflect these in normalised resident mix ratio which reflects the actual infrastructure costs.

Ensuring that a Two Tiered Aged Care System does not develop

The current hostel system offers a range of facilities based on needs and expectation. Within any one facility however, there is virtually no distinction between residents who have paid an entry contribution and those who have not. The RSL War Veterans' Homes WA regards as a fundamental principal of aged care that a unitary system be maintained. In this regard the level of care at a facility should be to a singular standard regardless of whether an accommodation bond or entry contribution has been paid or not. As a principle of social justice, it is important that a standard level of basic care provision exist and that this standard level of care constitute the majority of care provided. The orientation of aged care should be to provide the best possible outcomes for the longest number of residents. The RSL War Veterans' Homes WA therefore urges that a dampening mechanism be established to moderate market place or financial differences in care provided to ensure the continuation of a broadly based and equitable system.

Summary

In this submission, the RSL War Veterans' Homes is making representation on behalf of the aged and disabled communities in general. While as an organisation the priority of benevolent effort is directed towards our members, the Homes does not restrict its services to veterans. The RSL War Veterans' Homes WA offers care to the aged and disabled within the community at large. The corporate plan of the RSL War Veterans' Homes clearly envisages a benevolent approach in care provision with continuing access to those most in need, particularly the financially disadvantaged. The RSL War Veterans' Homes WA encourages the Government to make the necessary detailed provisions within the process of aged care restructuring to permit the long term viability of benevolent aged care providers.

ROBERT MITCHELL
We welcome your letters but regret we cannot acknowledge them individually.

Write to:
Editor
The Listening Post
RSL
PO Box Y3023
East St George’s Terrace
Perth 6832.

We reserve the right to abbreviate.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Enclosed is my subscription for The Listening Post plus a donation to the RSL.

I would like to thank the Editor and all who contribute to this first class journal. I am an ex-serviceman from Korea and have found the contents of the publication interesting as well as being a great help to me.

Wishing you all the best and I hope you keep up the good work.

W.F. DOUGLAS
11 Denis Court
Mooroolbark VIC 3138

NB: Thank you for your donation to the League which is much appreciated as are the comments in your letter.

EDITOR

WORLD WAR II MEDAL

Looking through some items from a deceased estate recently, I came across a War Service Medal, 1939 – 1945. The medal is engraved with the serial number W235155 and the name J.A. Higgs. I would like to return this to the owner or family of the owner who can contact me at any time.

DAVID NAPIER
19 Hailsham Road
Nollamara 6061
Tel (08) 9349 9910

LIEUTENANT FDA BOWRA, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

I am preparing a Unit History of 13 Field Company and 13 Field Squadron, RAE and seek information about a member of the Unit.

Lieutenant Bowra was born on 9 October 1887 and worked as an engineer in Perth. He enlisted as a Sapper in No. 4 – Company Engineers on 10 April 1911 (Regt No. 1) and was promoted to Sergeant on 30 September 1911. When 13th Field Company, Australian Engineers, was raised on 1 July 1912, he was their first Sergeant Major. Later commissioned as a Lieutenant, he was seconded to the 1st AIF in July 1915. Lt Bowra was killed in action on 29 October 1915 at Lone Pine Gallipoli during tunnelling operations against the Turks.

Would anyone who has any knowledge of Lt Bowra, or who served in 13 Field Company or 13 Field Squadron and who has information that could be used in a Unit History please contact Mick Ryan on Tel (08) 9307 2385 or 015 446 666.

MICHAEL J. RYAN OAM
President
Australian Engineers’ Association of WA

THANK YOU

Via The Listening Post I would like to give a vote of thanks to Margo Harness of the Vietnam Veterans’ Welfare Trust and the Committee for the assistance afforded me in my time of need. God only knows where I would be right now if I had not received their help.

I give my heartfelt thanks to them and wish them well in the future, now that the Trust is winding down. I am sure that all the recipients of monies from the Trust feel the same way. Thank you once again from the bottom of my heart.

J.E. POTTER
40 Burbridge Avenue
Koondooloo 6064

THIS MAGIC LAND

Please accept a copy of This Magic Land. You may use excerpts (if you wish) for your excellent Listening Post, arguably the finest military publication of its kind. Thank you for your support of our film project. We have received favourable feedback from the West via Mr Peter Epps of Hillarys, the President of the WA Historical (Military) Society. My colleagues and I always feel that you in the West have, even now, retained a true Australian identity, proud of our pioneer heritage and military achievements, while we in the east tend to be more cosmopolitan.

I had the privilege of serving with many “Sandgropers” in World War II and considered them the salt of the earth: Brigadier J.E. (Killer) Lloyd (on the Kokoda Trail); Major W (Bill) Atkinson MC and B&AR (Meriden) (Syria, Gona,
1st Parachute Battalion – we were close pals even after the war; original 2/16th Battalion Jack Roberts 6 Div Signals and prominent WA politician post war; and Ralph Honer 2/11th with whom I served in the Middle East (Western Desert, Greece and Crete) and who on return to Australia moulded an untrained Militia Group (the 39th Battalion) into a fighting formation during the Kokoda retreat days. I also recall Frank Sublett, Commanding Officer of the 2/16th Battalion, and the gallant efforts of West Australian Battalions who fought under the 9th Division Banner at Trobriuk, El Alamein and South West Pacific.

We have recently received a strong expression of interest from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs regarding this Magic Film series. My colleagues and I would appreciate any moral support emanating from The Listening Post and service organisations in the west who would like to see the series produced and circulated. If interested please drop a note of concurrence to the:

Minister and Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Attention Miss Lisa Ross
PO Box 21
Woden ACT 2606

KEN CLIFTS
Unit 1/5 Carlisle Street
Tamarama NSW 2026
Tel (02) 9130 3566

NB: The book This Magic Land was reviewed in the Summer 1996 Edition of The Listening Post

EDITOR

83 SQUADRON RAF

I forward a copy of a letter received from Carole Beauguion of Lanveoc, France. My wife and I met her family when we visited the grave of my brother Pilot Officer N.J. Higgins, one of the crew of a Lancaster from 83 Squadron, RAF, a Pathfinder Squadron.

While we were in France we received every help and kindness. We know where the plane came down (the only one) and were given photographs of a commemoration ceremony held in 1994, together with their mementoes. Flt Sgt Arnold was an English Air Gunner, that he enlisted in the RAF. Apparently his wife has remarried and may now be living in Australia as the newspaper cutting (in French) states that she gave a toy kangaroo to the Beauguion family before leaving.

If I could write to the former Mrs Arnold there is much I could relate that may overcome her disappointment, as well as providing copies of photographs, mementoes etc. Your assistance in providing me with her present name and address would be greatly appreciated. The pilot of the plane was Flt Lt AP Whitfield.

R. HIGGINS

962 Forest Road
Lugarno NSW 2210

NB: The letter received from Carole Beauguion of Lanveoc, France is printed below.

EDITOR

Dear Mr and Mrs Higgins

Last week an old woman, an old man, a young woman and a young boy came to the restaurant. They were in Lanveoc in order to see the grave of the Flight Sergeant L.W.J. Arnold who died on 9 May 1944 (1330980 Flight Sergeant L.W.J. Arnold, Air Gunner, RAF, the first husband of the old woman). My mother showed them the seven graves. They were very moved. As my mother had to work, she asked my brother to go down to the town hall with them. An unpleasant man was there and just said “We don’t speak English here”. Then the people said goodbye to my brother and left Lanveoc. We were very disappointed. Moreover, my mother did not think at all to ask them for their name and address. You will find herewith an article about their coming. We send you and your family our best regards.

CAROLE BEAUGUION

HMAS PERTH

I am a retired Sergeant Major, Royal Marines and have read all about the history of HMAS Perth. I served on her only Commission in the Royal Navy; she was then named Amphiom. I served on the South African Station just prior to the war for more than three years.

I was not able to attend the Australian commissioning ceremony but was in Portsmouth at the time the Princess Royal renamed her Perth.

I was in Singapore at the same time as Perth, and we escorted the last of the Australian troops to land there. Just before the fall of Singapore, having collected all the brass and gold braid from Batavia, we sailed through the Sundra Straits 36 hours before my old ship Perth was sunk along with four American destroyers.

I was wondering if any of the ship’s survivors are still around? I would be very interested to meet any of the boys who walked across Sumatra, commandeered those native sailing boats and sailed all the way home to Australia (without a compass).

I probably have the only surviving souvenir of the old ship: the Bulkhead Clock from the Royal Marines Mess Deck.

Greetings from Canada to you all and to all Perth survivors.

CHARLES GRIFFITHS
110 – 82 Tabbot St “E”
Blenheim, Ontario, Canada NOP–1AO
MORSECODIANS FRATERNITY

The Morsecodians Fraternity of WA was formed by ex-PMG operators, and its charter is to preserve and promote the skills of the past. We do not wish to be restricted exclusively to ex-PMG operators so are offering membership to ex-Signallers/Wireless Operators including ex-ships.

If anyone is interested in joining please contact the secretary; Mr Ric Cramer, Unit 21/59 Wasley Street, North Perth 6006, tel (08) 9328 6123 or fax (08) 9328 6153.

DOUG TRACY

MUSEUM OF HMAS CERBERUS

I am currently researching the involvement of the British and Australian Armed Forces in Operation Hurricane as it was so aptly named (that is Britain’s first atomic test in the Monte Bello Islands in 1952) for the purpose of compiling an account to be held by the above museum.

I served on Campania as a Leading Seaman and am keen to hear from any of my old shipmates as well as Members of the RN who served in Plym, Tracker, Narvik, Zeebrugge, members of the RAN who served in Sydney, Tobruk, Murchison, Shoalhaven, Culgoa, Hawkesbury, Macquarie, Koala, MRL 252, MWL 251, Wareen, Limicola, Karangi and relatives of the above.

Primarily the account will be a sailor’s view of the operation; having packed our kitbag and hammock and joined a ship, we went and did what was required of us to the best of our ability. I would like to record the fun times as well as the bad eyewitness accounts and, I hope, some amusing incidents.

It will be titled Just Another Job, but it will not deal with the dangers of radiation as there is much already in print on that subject. I already have many copies of The Campania Chronicle, our daily news-sheet, and am looking for others to fill in blank spaces.

All items such as photographs, newspapers clippings and documents will be returned as soon as possible. It is essential that permission is given for reproduction. Should my work be considered suitable for publishing, the proceeds, after expenses, will be donated to Nuclear Test Veterans’ Associations in Australia and the UK.

DEREK BERRY AM
Curator
Museum of HMAS Cerberus
Western Port Victoria 3920
Tel: (03) 5950 7141

THE EMPTY CHAIR

I received a copy of a poem, The Empty Chair, from an old shipmate, John Stephens of the HMAS Royal Arthur Association, and submit it for publication in The Listening Post.

P. GATE
8 Voyage Road
Heathridge 6027

Mark me absent Captain, I’m afraid I can’t be there,
Explain to all new shipmates about the empty chair,
Talk to them of D Day, and of victory on the beach,
Tell them too of Arnhem, and the price of that defeat.

Look to the men from the jungles and the hell of that far east war,
Know well the meaning of friendship, and the value of espirit de corps,
Mark me absent Captain, I just can’t make it tonight,
But drink to me in the mess lads, and to the days of our gallant fight.

Hold your pen there Captain, let’s set the minutes straight,
Mark that shipmate present, though delayed and may be late.

Look to the empty chair lads, and know the reason why,
We formed this Association, that those deeds should never die.

Yes; drink in that mess tonight lads, but let this be your toast,
That often the saddest memories are the ones we treasure most,
Though wars in other countries still rage and never cease,
These shipmates we now honour gave us forty odd years of peace.

Their names are carved on many stones in distant war grave fields
They stand to show a spirit, that though broken, did not yield.

Should we mark him absent? Do so if we dare;
But before you pen that entry, look well to that empty chair.

J. STEPHENS
HMS Royal Arthur Association

LAMINATING SEALS YOUR PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS IN CLEAR FILM
send by insured mail and we will return the same way
PHONE 309 9066 Westralian Publishers, The Professional Centre, Kingsley
Hot Tips and Infobits

😊 about 85% of the heat generated by an open fireplace is lost up the chimney.
😊 a compact fluorescent lamp uses about a fifth of the energy that a regular incandescent globe does for the same light output.
😊 Heating water uses the most energy in your home. Fitting a low flow showerhead could save $15 per person per year.
😊 many household devices consume energy even when they are turned off. Remote controlled appliances and appliances with electronic displays all use some power when not in use. Switching off devices at the power point when you are going away on holiday will save some of this phantom energy consumption.
😊 electricity used by the stand-by features of TVs in the USA drained energy equivalent to the output of a Chernobyl-sized nuclear power plant.
😊 front loading washing machines use less water and energy than top loading machines.
😊 power used to run a small refrigerative airconditioner is about the same as burning 20 bright light globes.
😊 one kilowatt hour of electricity equals 15,000 push ups.

😊 the power used by a small clothes dryer is equal to burning about 24 bright light globes.
😊 empty roof racks can increase petrol consumption by 5-10%.
😊 it costs four times as much to keep the contents of an uncovered saucepan at boiling point that a covered one.
😊 driving 100km in an average car uses about as much energy as an average Perth home in a week.
😊 screen savers do not reduce the power consumption of a computer monitor unless they actually turn the monitor off.
😊 if your ceilings are not insulated, 25 to 35% of the heat in your house is lost in winter and gained in summer.
😊 trees and shrubs lower the temperature around your house as well as providing summer shade.
😊 the sun rises 28 degrees south of east and sets 28 degrees south of west in summer.
😊 a white outside metal blind can prevent 90% of solar energy entering your home compared to 45% for a white inside venetian blind.

Compiled by:
THE OFFICE OF ENERGY,
Government of Western Australia

The Silver Star

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to refer to the Embassy’s Notes No. 085 dated 30 October 1996 and 088 dated 31 October 1996 seeking permission to confer awards detailed below on Australian citizens.

The Department advises that His Excellency the Governor-General has granted permission for the following person to accept and wear the award:

Mr (then Warrant Officer Class 1) P. White, The Silver Star.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORISED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 9, 1918

HAS AWARDED

THE SILVER STAR

TO

PERCY WHITE

(THEN WARRANT OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN ARMY)

FOR

GALLANTRY IN ACTION

ON 30 JANUARY 1968 IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 11 DAY OF DECEMBER 1991

[Signature of Assistant Secretary of Defense]

LISTENING POST – WINTER 1997 – PAGE 39
Lost Trails

Phillip Emanuel, Allan Goodrum

Albert Mebbrey, 19 Handborough Park, Chickerell Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9TR, England, is trying to trace two old friends, Phillip Emanuel and Allan Goodrum, of the 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment “B” Company.

Phillip Emanuel came from Stamford Hill and Allan Goodrum came from Hibury, London. After being wounded, following D-Day, the three were split up. The two men had nicknames “Em” and “Turk” (I guess Phillip Emanuel was Em and Allan Goodram was Turk).

Anyone with information about these old soldiers is asked to contact: Bill Adams, telephone (08) 9725 8291, or write to Albert Mebbrey at the above address.

Bill Adams

Vernon Eric Maxwell, VX25365 Gunner 2/3 8th Battery Light AA

Following the death of our father, we are trying to piece together his Army records. His diary mentions several men who, I believe, live in WA and, while most of his photos do not have the person’s name recorded on the reverse, they have been identified by other members of the 2/3 Battery.

These men all belonged to the 2/3 8th Battery Light AA and served in Tobruk. On their return to Australia in early 1942, I understand the following transferred to the 109 Artillery about 16 September 1942:

VX46580 J McCaskill, VX46575 JRR Mallet, VX55784 AB Clarke, VX36557 AL McFarlane, VX21596 SE Brown.

If you can help trace these ex-servicemen, please contact: HA Mofflin, 10 Edgar Way, Mount Pleasant 6153, Tel: (08) 9364 3568.

Eric Maxwell

Antarctic Service Medal Commemorative

Please use block capitals to ensure your order can be sent without error

Surname: ___________________________ Christian Names: ___________________________

Postal Address: ___________________________ P/Code: ______________

Areas of Antarctic Service: __________________________________________

Position or Rank Held: __________________________________________

Service or Organisation: __________________________________________

If for N.O.K. State Relationship: __________________________________________

Upon receipt of your application and payment your order will be processed. The order will then be placed with the manufacturer, who will dispatch in an estimated 6-8 weeks.

Telephone enquiries are not encouraged. If you have any queries please make them in writing ensuring a permanent record and a response. (If you make inquiries please be sure to include a stamped, self addressed (3" x 8 ½") envelope.)

Because of the overwhelming demand, only firm orders accepted - Payment must accompany orders.

In response to popular demand:

Service Commemoratives Pty. Ltd. announces the long awaited release of a commemorative medal “FOR ANTARCTIC SERVICE”

The Antarctic Service Medal Commemorative (Ant. S. M. Commemorative)

This commemorative is to be available to all qualified men and women. Both this superb medal and its miniature are STRUCK (not cast) and have a high grade bright nickel finish that will not require polishing. The design is deliberately reminiscent of the by-gone days of ‘Empire’. Cost of the Medal @ $95 Clasps @ $40 each. (Jeweller Fitted). This is not some inexpensive casting. (The medal and ribbon suspender bar are two piece assembly for both the full size medal and the miniature.) The medal’s beautiful watered ribbon represents the frozen continent, the ice shelf and the Great Southern Ocean; this is a predominantly white ribbon merging into pale blue and dark blue on both edges. This Medal is available with Clasps (bars) to denote the particulars of your Antarctic service. In this way several Clasps (bars) representing your various areas of service can all be attached to the one medal, as is the practice with all the various British Commonwealth General Service Medals.

Clasps (bars) are to be attached and rivetted to each other and to the medal ribbon suspender assembly. Clasps (bars) are of a similar construction and assembly type as used on the various British Commonwealth General Service Medals. This Commemorative can also be displayed without any Clasps (bars).

In civilian dress this commemorative should be displayed after or below Official Awards.

For an application form with full details, please send a STAMPED self addressed 3½" x 8½" business envelope to:

Service Commemoratives Pty. Ltd. P.O. Box 173 Dromana Victoria 3936 Australia

Listening Post – WINTER 1997 - Page 40
Their Service – Our Heritage

An exciting new programme to highlight the sacrifices and services of Australia's veterans, to be known as “Their Service – Our Heritage”, has been launched by Veterans’ Affairs.

It was introduced early this year by the Minister Bruce Scott who said that it aimed to involve all Australians in a wide range of events, activities and projects. Some will be national while others will be developed and implemented by local communities with assistance from the Federal Government.

The programme is designed to:

- educate Australians, particularly youth, about Australia’s involvement in all wars and conflicts;
- recognise the character and values of Australia’s service men and women;
- encourage commemoration of significant military events;
- assist communities to ensure that memorials to Australia’s involvement in wars and conflicts remain in place and in good condition; and
- foster recognition and understanding of veterans’ health, family and employment needs.

The Federal Government has committed $10.4 million over four years to fund the programme.

The logo depicts an elderly man with his granddaughter, standing at a typical country war memorial. The natural curiosity of the girl provides an opportunity for the grandfather to tell her of the service and sacrifice of Australia’s veterans. The flag, under which so many of Australia’s servicemen and women fought, provides a sense of national identity.

The rising sun, symbol of the military for many years, represents the dawning of a new era. But equally reflects the words of the Ode of remembrance.

The slogan, Their Service – Our Heritage, acknowledges Australia’s veterans and their contribution to the shaping of our modern nation.

The three colours in the band around the outside of the logo are the colours used by the three Services: Royal Australian Navy (navy), Australian Army (red) and Royal Australian Air Force (light blue).

Asbestos Screening Program for World War II Australian Merchant Mariners

In announcing the asbestos screening program the Minister, the Hon Bruce Scott MP, indicated the screening will be provided by the Australian Government Health Service (AGHS).

The program only applies to World War II Australian Merchant Mariners who were formally eligible under the Seamen’s War Pensions and Allowances Act who, in July 1994, became “veterans” under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act. While the program only covers World War II Australian Merchant Mariners, access is not dependant on being a DVA beneficiary.

World War II Australian Merchant Mariners wishing to take part in the program can contact Carl Ponnuthurai, Department of Veterans’ Affairs, on telephone 9366 8519, who will arrange for an appropriate appointment to be made with AGHS.

Government Announces Head Of Repatriation Medical Authority Review

Professor Dennis Pearce, Emeritus Professor of Law at the Australian National University has been appointed to head a review of the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) and the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC).

“The RMA is an independent, expert medical-scientific body established in 1994 to explore the research into diseases and identify those factors that may cause particular diseases in veterans. The findings are set out as factors within Statements of Principles which are used to decide whether a veteran’s medical condition is caused by his or her service. The RMA was established as part of the process to improve consistency and equity in compensation outcomes. The SMRC was set up to provide veterans and veterans’ organisations with an avenue for the review of the Statements of Principles made by the RMA,” said Mr Scott. Under the terms of reference, Professor Pearce will report on whether the objectives of the revised system of determining claim for compensation have been met. He will also identify any improvements that may need to be made. He will be assisted by Professor D’Arcy Holman, Professor of Public Health at the University of Western Australia.
Vietnam Veteran Appointed Head of Veterans' Review Board

Brigadier Bill Rolfe (Rtd) has been appointed Principal Member of the Veterans' Review Board.

Currently working in the Attorney General’s Department, Brigadier Rolfe was a senior lawyer in the Department of Defence where he was Director-General of Defence Legal Services from 1990 to 1992. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1968 and served in Vietnam where he was seriously wounded in 1970, suffering the loss of both legs. He has a law degree from the Australian National University and is a graduate of the United States Army Judge Advocate General’s School.

The function of the Veterans’ Review Board is to hear and determine appeals against decisions by the Repatriation Commission and the assessment of the rate of pension payable to veterans and their dependants.

The Gold Card

Recent questions as to the extent of coverage provided by the DVA Gold Card have been answered by the Department’s contract officer, Mr Bob Wright.

He explains that a gold card is potentially more useful to a veteran than private health insurance. If a veteran accepts the level of care offered by a gold card; ie. private patient status in shared ward accommodation, the full range of treatment benefits under the RPPS are available. If a veteran were to be admitted under private health insurance he or she would be responsible, after the health fund had paid the hospital, for other costs. These could include excess accommodation, any allied health services (may be covered by fund if veteran had ancillary benefit cover) and for any doctor’s costs after the veteran had claimed Medicare entitlement and any gap payment from the health fund. Under most circumstances the veteran would be out of pocket.

It is not possible, Mr Wright says, to easily compare the benefits or difference between the cover offered by a gold card and that offered by private health insurance. The main difference would be the cost. If a veteran has an entitlement to a gold card no cash contribution is required to maintain entitlement; top private health insurance plus ancillary cover for a single adult would probably cost around $1000 per year. In most cases after hospitalisation the veteran would need to pay out of his or her own pocket an additional amount not covered by the fund.

Generally the gold card, which gives entitlement to the RPPS, restricts the choice of hospitals to public hospitals or Hollywood Private Hospital as private patients with shared ward accommodation without the need to seek prior Departmental approval. If another private hospital is preferred prior approval of the Department is required and approval will normally be given only if criteria in relation to non availability of treatment in a public hospital or Hollywood Private Hospital, within a reasonable time, is met. In these cases all costs would be met by DVA. Accommodation is restricted to shared ward unless for medical reasons a private room is necessary, then DVA will pay the increased cost.

The gold card is the most comprehensive health care card available giving access to a wide range of medical and allied health services that are more generous in terms of number of services than available from the hospital and ancillary benefit funds of private health insurance organisations. The acceptance of the gold card by health providers, and the vast majority do (doctors, dentists, allied health practitioners etc), indicates that they are willing to provide services to veterans at a price that ensures the veteran will not have to contribute financially to the treatment. Most services for which a health fund provides cover require a co-payment from the patient. If a veteran seeks treatment under their private health cover, DVA will not contribute towards any cost incurred by the veteran ie. cover the ‘gap’, the veteran having in effect sought treatment outside the RPPS.

Retirement Service Centre – Fremantle

A Retirement Service Centre (RSC) is to open in Fremantle towards the end of this year as part of an initiative aimed at improving the community’s knowledge of, and access to, information on Social Security, Veterans’ Affairs and Taxation programs concerned with retirement income issues.

The RSC is to be piloted for a 12 month period and will be used to assess the benefit of a single office environment providing information on these matters. The initiative is targeted at Social Security and Veterans’ Affairs service pensioners, self-funded retirees and pre-retirees needing information on how to better plan or manage their retirement.

It will be accessible to all veterans who wish to obtain information on the range of benefits and services offered by DVA. Very little processing will be carried out on site; however, claim forms and other information will be accepted and forwarded to the Perth office on a same-day service. Because of the restricted nature of the service in the initial stages, there will be occasions when it might be more appropriate for veterans to attend the Perth office.
BELMONT

$41,147.00 has been spent on purchases and improvements during the 1994-1996 period in our Sub-Branch. That most of these funds have been raised by the Women’s Auxiliary demonstrates how active our Sub-Branch is. We therefore suggest that other members, ex-members and friends come and have a look at one of the best Sub-Branch clubhouses in the State. It took lots of hard work by volunteer – the “Dad’s Army”, the Women’s Auxiliary and the like. At present, demolition and extensions to another part of the clubhouse are in progress. We say a big ‘Thank You!’ to our very active and enthusiastic committee and all our loyal members who have made this possible.

Sub-Branch Bulletins are available from our Secretary, Harold Haines (9277 3587), or our Welfare Officer, Bert Dean (9277 4445), who can supply more details about our Sub-Branch. We exchange bulletins with other Sub-Branches in Australia. Some, apparently sent by members, reach as far afield as the USA, Europe, NZ and Canada.

We have a steady stream of visitors at our Sub-Branch club and our Secretary and President have been instrumental in assisting other Sub-Branches to set up similar facilities to what we enjoy here. In turn we receive invitations to visit their clubs, thus keeping alive the comradeship and friendship for which the RSL is well known.

Anzac Day was once again a success, thanks to the organisers; the Dawn Service at our Memorial, followed by the Gun-Fire Breakfast, was well attended and we thank our valuable bar staff and other volunteers.

The Listening Post is enjoyed by all our members and we believe that many veterans in hospitals or convalescent homes read it from cover to cover and back again. It is a top publication and a special thanks come from us to the editor and staff.

CARL F CAUBO
Publicity Officer

BUNBURY

The hall has been transformed to take the Sub-Branch into a new era. All was completed in record time for Anzac Day with only the new furniture to be added. A new photocopier and fax machine are welcome additions to the front office. All members are invited to drop in at any time and those who haven’t been to the hall for a while will be pleasantly surprised.

Once again the Mother’s Day raffle was a resounding success, with all tickets sold well ahead of time. The response to sending tickets to members was excellent and took a big load off the regular ticket sellers.

In conjunction with the Army Reserve, war relics are being collected for a future museum. If anyone has any pieces that they would like to donate or lend, please contact the co-ordinator, Gerry Tyrrel, who is stationed at the Australind Police Station - Tél: (08) 9797 0222.

One of our members, Chris Sutton, has reported that, while in Hollywood, he was visited by members from a Perth Women’s Auxiliary and that this group of ladies was going out of its way to locate and visit country veterans. Well done!

Membership - now around 450 - has never been better for this time of year; it is all due to the good work of our membership officer, Alf Mort. There are still many ex-service people who have never joined the RSL. Every one of us probably knows at least one, so invite them along because we do have something to offer.

Anzac Day had many highlights, including Wing Commander Robert Bunney representing the RAAF and
delivering an excellent address; Dr Em Manea attending for the last time as Mayor of Bunbury; and George Baxter, for the first time in many years, riding in a 1942 army jeep instead of on his horse.

AL MAINSTONE
PRO

CANNING DISTRICTS AND VICTORIA PARK

Let us make our RSL Club a great success in 1997. Regarding recent poor attendance at the Club, members should remember what their Club stand for and what it means to them by making a special effort to come along, not only on Anzac Day, but throughout the year as well. Monthly meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month and on Friday nights there are meals available and raffles held.

Social functions will be held throughout the year. Dates, places and prices are displayed at the Club, which is also available to hire for birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Please remember that we welcome not only returned service people but also social members, so feel free to bring along family and friends. These people will be the ones who will keep your club going for future generations. Without them, it will not survive and eventually will have to close.

So, please, let’s go all out and don’t just talk about how great the club is. Support it by making every effort to come along and enjoy what it has to offer.

WENDY SCHWAB

CITY OF ROCKINGHAM

This Sub-Branch has had a very fulfilling period culminating in one of our best Anzac Days on record. The Dawn Service, with the usual gunfire breakfast provided by Rotary, was well attended, particularly by young family groups, which bodes well for the future of this special day of the year. The march, wreath-laying, RAAF flyover, Naval Band and the strong youth and community involvement all came together to enhance the impact of Anzac Day in Rockingham.

It seemed that everyone in town adjourned to the RSL hall after the Parade and Service. Irwin Steele, our membership officer, worked his way through two biros renewing late memberships. Maxine Tucker and Katrina Milroy attended the East Rockingham cemetery on behalf of the Sub-Branch, laying poppies and sprigs of rosemary on the graves of veterans. They have recorded the names and details of 52 veterans interred in this cemetery.

The Ladies’ Auxiliary has organised bus trips; one to the Casino, the other to New Norcia. Well done, Eunice and Glad and the other ladies!! More to come, we hope. The games day held each Wednesday continues to attract members and friends.

Safety Bay High School has started an Army Cadet Unit, which, with our young friends from TS Anzac, paraded with us on Anzac Day. The Sub-Branch has undertaken to support this unit, along with the naval cadets, in their activities.

A number of our colleagues are on sick parade, and their fellow members send them every best wish. See you soon!!

The Sub-Branch was very distressed at the passing of IPP Ron Lynton. Many members showed their respect by attending his cremation service at Karrakatta.

ALAN BENTLEY
Assistant Secretary

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH

On Sunday, 2 February, some 20 members attended the dedication of the Memorial Garden at St Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church in Kensington. After conducting the dedication service, the Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Peter Carnley, unveiled the memorial plaque on the church wall. The plaque and memorial garden were funded by this Sub-Branch.

President, Cr. Kevin Trent, said the church was built in 1954 as a memorial to veterans of both World Wars and the Korean campaign. The new plaque, located in the Memorial Garden, also included names of veterans of the Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam campaigns as well as those who served with United Nations Peace Keeping Operations.

City of South Perth Mayor, John Harwick, Member for South Perth, Philip Pendal; the Rev’d Anna Killigrew of St Martin-in-the-Fields; Cr Kevin Trent, President of City of South Perth Sub-Branch, and Archbishop Peter Carnley at the memorial.
COOLGARDIE

A visit to the Sub-Branch by the Senior Vice-President, Ken Murphy, was a surprise for one of its most popular members, Memory Peak, formerly a sergeant on an ack-ack gun during World War II, had no idea why Ken and his wife Jeanette were present. However, she soon found out when she was called forward to receive medals earned all those years ago and so richly deserved! Knowing that she had refused to request her medals, Ken Murphy, with our full encouragement, pursued the matter with the appropriate authorities. The Medal Section in Melbourne was most helpful and the result was a proud ex-servicewoman now deservedly having the medals in her possession.

Senior Vice President Ken Murphy presenting World War II medals to Memory Peak.

All who contributed are to be congratulated and special thanks came from her daughter and son-in-law, who attended the presentation.

RON ANDERSON
Secretary

COMO

On Saturday, 8 February 1997, Certificates of Community Service were presented by Mr Don Randall JP, MP, Member for Swan, to three members of the Como Sub-Branch of the RSL in recognition and appreciation of their long service to the community as office bearers in the Sub-Branch: Bill Carlton, who served more than 20 years as Secretary, Ray Stewart, who served more than 20 years as Treasurer, and Dave Watson who, among other duties, was the longest-serving president of the Sub-Branch. The presentation was followed by a morning tea.

TOM WALDRON
President

DARLING RANGE

The one-time restaurant in the back of the RSL Hall in Kalamunda has, by the hard work of some members, been turned into a replica of a 1914 dug-out and is now being used as a club-room.

One of its main features is the window behind the bar, with a stained-glass panel, representing Simpson and his donkey, which was crafted by Lynette Barrow. When the secretary of the Donkey Society of WA, Barbara Bracken, read about it she asked if she could bring two donkeys to join our local Anzac march on Sunday 20 April. The Sub-Branch was delighted and so the march, as well as having Veterans, Scouts, Emergency Services, a Land Rover with the old and bold and a Ferret scout car, was brought up at the rear by a “jack and a jenny” (donkeys, male and female).

There is an even more delightful end to this story. On Anzac Day itself, Barbara’s pregnant donkey foaled at the time of the service. In her letter Barbara wrote: “She was overdue, but obviously wanted a special day for her baby and she waited for ‘The One Day of the Year’. The chocolate foal is called Simpson.

BARBARA HARPER-NELSON

DONNYBROOK

The Donnybrook RSL Young Veterans’ Friendship and Support Group was recently successful in obtaining a Commonwealth Grant. An official presentation was made by the Hon. Geoff Prosser MP, Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs and Federal Member for Forrest, on Tuesday 15 April, 1997, at the RSL Hall in Donnybrook. The Sub-Branch considers this to be a significant event and congratulates the Friendship and Support Group on its success.

PRESIDENT

GERALDTON

A Birdwood House management group, which includes Rotary, has been working on a restoration plan for Birdwood House; this was named after Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, commander of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli and “Baron of Anzac and Totnes”. The object of the plan, which has the strong support of the City Council, is to look for a suitable source of major funding for the 62-year-old building before seeking restoration funds and building-development funds. Sub-Branch Secretary, Briari Cooper, said the management group would be looking for six-figure funds for restoration alone.

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Re-elected at the AGM were President Dennis Moss, Senior Vice-President Kevin Grey, Junior Vice-President Kevin Forrest, Secretary Brian Cooper and Treasurer John Spendlove. Mr Moss praised the efforts of Bob Bandy in restarting the project for the Memorial Park next to Birdwood House, and those of newcomer Charlie Britt and his wife for producing a usable technical design complete with costings.

Sub-Branch members extend best wishes to Life Member and Auxiliary Secretary, Edie Rogers, who is moving to Wagga Wagga in NSW after 26 years as Secretary. Until the demise of her mother, Tryphena Ashplant, in 1990, they provided a unique president-secretary combination for 19 years.

Gillian Sharp, wife of Regional Vice-President Frank Sharp, continues as Auxiliary President and Ina McNamara has succeeded Life Member Val Wick as Treasurer.

Two of our Vietnam Veterans, Bob Thomas and Vic Otway, along with six friends from the metropolitan area and one from Albany, joined about 150 colleagues for the reunion in Queensland – so-called Operation Bribie after the code-name of an operation in Vietnam on 17 February, 1967. The 30th anniversary reunion based on Bribie Island was an emotional experience because it brought together veterans who, in some cases, had not seen each other since their Vietnam days.

Expressing delight at the huge assembly at the main Anzac Day service at Geraldton, Mayor Phil Cooper thanked the RSL and all those associated with the continuing increased attendances at what he called “these magnificent Anzac Day services”. The Mayor also congratulated this Sub-Branch and regional Sub-Branches on their efforts to locate HMAS Sydney, lost in 1941.

Giving the Anzac Day address on the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Geraldton Sub-Branch, President Dennis Moss said Anzac Day was commemorated in a way which reflected upon the epic of Gallipoli on our way to nationhood. However, they should also remember the other places and battles where our countrymen displayed that distinctive Australian reputation for showing the world the spirit and behaviour that everyone would like to think they could achieve in times of stress. Battles that come to mind include the magnificent Light Horse charge to capture Beersheba in the Middle East against superior numbers in well-prepared defences 80 years ago.

Mr Moss said that in these days of mass communications it was easy to look at our youth in negative terms because we were constantly shown the worst examples of youthful tragedy and misery. However, based on the commitment displayed by young members of community groups on parade, the RSL felt sure that Australia’s future would be in safe hands.

Two members of 506 Regional Army Cadet Unit gave their thoughts on Anzac Day. Under-Officer Michelle Palmer said the Anzac spirit reminded her of Rolf Harris’s song about two boys playing with toy horses. When one was broken, they shared the other one; as soldiers, when one was shot and left for dead, his childhood friend came to his aid and said there was room on his horse for two.

Under-Officer Scott Francis, whose grandfather was a POW for four years and whose uncle is still suffering from the effects of Vietnam, said Anzac Day would always be respected and remembered for the right reasons.

Those who laid the 45 wreaths included 98-year-old Vincenzo “Jim” Constantine, the last of six Geraldton residents who were awarded Cross of Chivalry medals by the Italian Government in 1976. The youngest wreath-layer, four-year-old Carra Haynes, proudly wore the medals of her great-great-grandfather, Private William Maxwell.

The salute in front of the Civic Centre was taken by Major David Hoare, 13th Brigade Staff Officer, who was previously in charge of A-Company 16 Battalion. The accompanying group included Mayor Cooper, Greenough Shire President Jamie Edwards and RSL representative, Bert Berryman.

The Parade Marshal, Major Ron Bradfield, said about 400 took part in the parade, including 142 veterans, plus those who travelled in two restored vehicles – Rodney Breeze’s 1954 Austin Champ and Clarrie Milne’s 1927 Chevrolet tourer.

Korean veterans reminiscing during fellowship at Birdwood House included Ron Walker of Kelmscott and Brian Cooper, Vic Otway, Alex MacKenzie, Colin Page, Joe Lee and Gavin Mallard.

A former company commanding officer in the South Vietnamese Army, Dinh Huy Hoang, who now lives with his family in Geraldton, expressed delight at meeting two RSL stalwarts who served in Vietnam, Bob Bandy and Kevin Forrest. Some of Dinh’s service was associated with the US Marine Corps on Hill 52 at Dai Loc Quang Da in 1970 and with the Vietnam Marine Corps Division at Huong Dien in 1973.

Exhibits in the memorabilia section of Birdwood House created great interest and included two additions on Anzac Day made available by Lou Barker. These had previous belonged to his mother, the late Alice Barker; one is a booklet of the Anzac Commemoration Concert held in the Town Hall on Sunday, 25 April 1920, and the other is a booklet containing the names of all who served from the
Victoria District in World War I. An RSL spokesman who has been at Geraldton since 1956 said it was the biggest crowd he had seen at Birdwood House.

The dawn parade marshal, Roy Fletcher, said the 135 marchers included 103 ex-service personnel and an increased overall attendance at the service, which was followed by the traditional Gunfire Breakfast.

A highlight of the main parade was a double fly-over over Birdwood House – the first by two Macchi jets and the second by Chris Shine’s Tiger Moth with ex-RAAF pilot Alwyn Wheat at the controls.

The Cenotaph Guard Commanders were Sgt Joe Boyce of 16 Battalion at the main parade and Warrant Officer Debbie Allen of 506 Cadet Unit at the dawn parade. The bugle calls at both parades were emotional experiences for Bandmaster Peter O’Dea. He was using the Gallipoli bugle of Sgt Roy Thompson, who paid the supreme sacrifice three days after he and his brother landed on 25 April 1915.

PETER BARDEN
PRO

HIGHGATE

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, the Sub-Branch decided to compile a Commemorative Record detailing highlights of Sub-Branch activities and the members involved. This commemorative history has been produced in a hard copy publication. Its features include:

- Four colour laminate cover, 108 pages covering 50 years’ commemorative history from the initial innovative concept to today’s capacity attendance at meetings.
- Features 350 members’ personal service stories with photos.
- State War Memorial Honour Guard and Wardens. Early and current photos of Sub Wardens.
- Honour Avenue Kings Park Project special committee.

This publication will be strictly limited to those who complete the cut-out order below by 27 June, forwarded with cheque made payable to HIGHGATE RSL SUB-BRANCH attached. Post to:

BOB ELLIOT, 8 WISDOM PL, WINTHROP 6150

HIGHGATE

1947 - 1997

NORTH BEACH

Left to right: Mr Derick Jaquet of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs presenting the “Enjoying Life” certificate to Mr Jack Shaw.

Fourteen years of service to the North Beach Sub-Branch of the RSL were recognised when Joe Oversby was rewarded with Life Membership at the AGM. A member of North Beach for 14 years, he has held just about every office in various sub-branches throughout the State since joining the League in 1947. State Branch Senior Vice-President. Ken Murphy, who attended the meeting accompanied by Sub-Branch Liaison Officer, Tony Kent, presented him with his Life Membership certificate and badge. Joe joins Laurie Movely and Frank Kent as Life Members. Frank was recently presented with a certificate for 50 years’ service to the North Beach Sub-Branch. Both State Executive visitors complimented the Sub-Branch on the attendance of 47 members at the AGM. With the exception of the two Vice-Presidents, the incumbent executive was returned unopposed. Wally Somers starts his second term as President, as does Joe Harris as Secretary. Bill Hepton is Senior Vice-President and Joe Oversby is Junior. Norm Pearse is Treasurer; auditors are Laurie Movely and Don Humphries; stewards are Bevan Heathcote, Ted Burgess, Syd Crag and Max Plester; welfare is looked after by Frank Kent, Jack Shaw, Len Snell, Don Wright and Lindsay Bennett; Anzac Day and Entertainment – Len Snell, Don Wright, Ted Dyas and Executive Committees; and the Annual Dinner – Ray Treen and above committee.
Before the meeting closed, Ken Murphy spoke about the increasing membership of the State Branch. Contrary to the notion that the League is on its last legs, he said that the opposite is true. While organisations like lawn bowls are losing members, the League is gaining and its future looks brighter than ever here in WA.

Also, during the reporting period, Sub-Branch member Jack Shaw was presented with his “Enjoying Life Award” certificate by Derick Jaquet from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The presentation was made at an RSL Bowls Tournament function.

Mr Shaw, as Welfare Officer, is a regular hospital visitor, a popular member of the veteran community and a thoroughly deserving winner of the award. Only two of these awards are made annually – one in the city and one in a country area. This year’s country award went to Esperance.

MAX PLESTER
Publicity Officer Tel: 9305 5219

PORT KENNEDY

A cheque for $277.15, profit from a quick raffle to help the four WA cadets Tour of Korea, was handed to Doug Whitehurst, OAM, the State President of KSEAFA, on 2 March at Point Peron, during the Waterman-ship course for 509 RCU Lynwood. Three of the cadets going to Korea belong to this unit. We hope all goes well for these young people.

Our President is Barry Wells, tel: (08) 9593 1697 or 014 841 451 and the Secretary is Ian Nuttall, 28 Frederick Street, Shoalwater, 6169; tel: (08) 9592 2141.

We now have a regular newsletter again, after a slight lapse in printing.

Don’t forget our raffles each Friday night between 1630hrs and 1900hrs at Palm Meadows Tavern, Port Kennedy.

Our general meetings are held at the Tavern on the last Sunday of each month, except December and public holidays, at 1300hrs.

SA MONCRIEFF
PR Officer

RIVERTON

We began our year with the annual Robbie Burns’ night and the traditional parading and serving of the haggis. This was followed by the club’s AGM in February when members of the Executive were returned unopposed. In March, the Malaya Borneo Association of WA held a function here, followed by the club’s St Patrick’s night.

Our Anzac dinner drew a strong attendance.

On Sunday April 20, our Anzac March and Service attracted a large gathering of politicians, service personnel, visiting Sub-Branch members and affiliated Associations, Naval Cadets from TS Canning and schoolchildren. Major Howard MacCallum conducted the service and we thank the RAN Band and the Melville Choir.

The spirit shown at the well-attended Dawn Service indicates that this Day of Remembrance will continue to be well supported.

A number of events scheduled for the rest of the year will provide a variety of entertainment for members. Our membership has passed 300 with full and social memberships increasing. New members are welcome and we thank our long-established members for their continued support.

TONY MEEHAN
Publicity Officer

RIVERVALE/CARLYSLE

Anzac Day was commemorated on the preceding Sunday at Belmont Memorial Plaque. A large crowd attended, giving credence to the certainty that younger generations are paying more and more attention to the part Australians have played in defence of our country. With regret, we report the passing of Bruce Fogarty, Life Member and stalwart of the RSL and a great worker for our Sub-Branch. We extend deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Doug Whitehurst OAM, President KSEAFA/WA hands a cheque to Captain Frank Weber, Commanding Officer. No 509 Cadet Unit. Doug Hinkley and Jim Moncrieff proudly display the Sub-Branch flag.
We are pleased to announce the Sub-Branch has been granted a restricted liquor licence. We anticipate the extension of social activities to several afternoons through the week in addition to Sundays. We look forward to welcoming more RSL members and social members. For details of membership Bob Blake may be contacted - tel: 9361 6555.

TOM GRIFFITH
President
Tel: & Fax: 9361 8738

SCARBOROUGH

Once again we have been very busy with well-attended meetings and functions. A welcome is extended to Murray McKellogh, Ron Baker and Mal who we have not seen for a while. 50-year Awards of Service were presented to Joss Bartlett, Ray Croxton and Norm Elms. All are well-deserved. Congratulations to ex-President Wally Evans on his golden wedding anniversary and to our Welfare Officer, Dorothy Devaney, on her 50-year achievement. We farewell Ken Besson who is moving to Busselton to live.

Anzac Day services at the Doubleview School were attended by our President and ten members who were welcomed by the children and their singing of the Ode was a pleasure to hear. Our oldest member (99 years young) Len Hall was driven to the local Deanmore School. Newman College service was attended by Peter Stubb (ex-RAF) who also responded well again and all were impressed by his talk. Our own Anzac service was carried out at 1500hrs at the RSL Memorial Grove at the Doubleview Bowling Club where a record crowd of members and the public joined us.

Many dignitaries from RSL Headquarters, Federal and Local Government members, City of Stirling, Department of Veterans’ Affairs and heads of the Doubleview Ladies and Men’s Bowling Club joined with our President, Norm Sanders, in a moving occasion.

GORDON HARVEY
Publicity Officer

PRISONERS OF WAR 1939-45 LIBERATION MEDAL

Service Commemoratives Pty Ltd is proud to announce the release of a medal from France for former Prisoners of War. This medal has been struck by the French to commemorate the Liberation of all military and civilian prisoners of war. It is to be available to all Allied military P.O.W.s who were liberated from German, Italian and Japanese Prison Camps at the end of World War Two. It is also available to those who were held in Concentration Camps and to those who were held as slave labourers.

The LIBERATION 1945 MEDAL comes with an official AWARD CERTIFICATE, with the recipient’s name recorded (suitable for framing).

In civilian dress this commemorative should be displayed after or below Official Awards.

For an application form with full details, please send a STAMPED self addressed 3½" x 8½" business envelope to:
Service Commemoratives Pty. Ltd. P.O. Box 173 Dromana Victoria 3936 Australia
Ekaterina
Margerita Jamieson—Williams

This book is a factual account of a family who were forced by the circumstances of war to leave their home in Smyrna (Western Turkey) and make a new life in Egypt. It is a simple story of the family’s experiences in their many shifts over a period of years; eventually they came to WA. The family’s faith in Christianity served to sustain them through many trials and tribulations in each of the countries they lived in. The book will appeal to those readers who study family histories. Available from Access Books PO Box 132, Northbridge, 6865. Price $20.

RD MERCER

Delta Four Australian Riflemen In Vietnam
by Gary McKay

This story traces the path of the Australian infantryman through his “training”, “responsibilities” and “expectations” to the actual combat role. How these men cope with the experience and its aftermath is explained through the recollections and thoughts of a wide diversity of people, ranging from Privates to Corporals, Sergeants and the OC Delta Company major Jerry Taylor MC. The book centres on the observations of these men and culminates with the battle of Nui Le in September 1971 when they came up against the very formidable 33rd NVA Regiment.

Detailing the exploits of the infantryman in Vietnam, the book makes interesting reading to those who served there and those who would like to learn more of the complex nature of events surrounding the war in that country.

The recommended retail price is (Aus.) $24.95; it is available from publishers Allen & Unwin PO Box 8500, St Lenards NSW 2065 or through leading book retailers.

GEOFF TANNER

The Royal Australian Navy in World War II

This excellent review published (by Allen & Unwin) in 1996 deals in considerable depth with many aspects of RAN activities, policy, strategy and background. A foreword by Vice Admiral RG Taylor AO, RAN Chief of Naval Staff, indicates the support given to the producers of the book. To compress so much history into some 200 pages is a daunting task to start with but the result provides an excellent overview. Edited by David Stevens the book is a compilation of essays provided by 16 contributors, each an expert in their own field, dealing with Australian Naval wartime experiences, policies and strategies.

Starting with an outline of RAN policy over the years, coverage is also given to a review of the policies of Britain, USA and Japan and thence to Allied Policy, which is in itself informative when related to the next chapter dealing with participants strategies.

Details of Australian factory production in an emergency situation with hurried development of manufacture of munitions, torpedoes, radar, asdic, etc are outlined.

RAN operations in the Mediterranean theatre are detailed and again the RAN comes through with flying colours. Justifiably those Navy workhorses, the V&W and N&Q Class Destroyers, feature strongly, with special reference to the Mediterranean Operations. Gaudalcanal and Battle of Savo are dealt with in detail including the Australian Cruisers and the loss of HMAS Canberra. Differences in signalling methods and signalling media between Allied Services are shown to have been a major problem in the SW Pacific.

Women in the RAN are given a well deserved chapter highlighting their valuable contribution to the war effort.

A profile of Vice Admiral Collins (and HMAS Sydney) provides a reminder of the skills and courage of this outstanding Australian Naval officer.

Final chapters include a first-hand description of a coast watch operation, the Fairmiles and minesweepers and also refer to Special Operations and to Z Forces. The description of a rescue operation to occupied Timor is an epic.

Overall this is an excellent book covering many facets of RAN policy, strategies and wartime activities through 1939-1945: it will be a source of reference and provide memories for many who served in the RAN in wartime. Recommended as a good read – being factual, informative and based on historical record and first hand accounts – it would be a useful addition on any bookshelf.

The book is available from the publishers, Allen & Unwin, PO Box 8500, 9 Atchison Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065, or through leading book retailers.

RRP $24.95, paperback.

WARREN SMITH
The Double Reds Of Timor
by Archie Campbell

"Archie, If you have had an unusual experience, you should share it with people." If Emma May Campbell had not said that to her husband a year or so before she died we may never have had this stimulating account of the Australian Army's 2/2nd Independent Company" – the Double Reds – in Timor during World War II.

Many of us came to hear one side of Archie Campbell's bustling Perth postwar life: in public relations, as a radio commentator, in sport and as a Legacy stalwart. Few, though, knew about his fighting exploits.

One reason for his putting pen (or word processor) to paper more than half a century after the event is that time had effaced much of what little was known about the Australians' guerilla struggle in mountainous Timor.

Fewer than 300 men contained up to 15,000 Japanese troops for nearly a year. These magnificent 300 – backed by many East Timorese – spurned the enemy's surrender call and earned the admiration of Britain's prime minister, Winston Churchill.

"Little known but great in significance," boomed Churchill, "are the men of the 22nd Independent Company in Timor. They alone of all the troops in the Pacific did not surrender."

Campbell's thrilling story is a salute not only to his compatriots but an opportunity for reader to learn more about the Timorese who succoured the Australians through the darkest days.

"Nothing can repay for the sacrifices they made, those ebony skinned, wonderful people. They were our eyes, our ears, our lifeline," he writes.

The flavour is fast and bloody and admiration surged as I read from page to page, harrowing as some encounters are.

Not that war books are my favourites. One the whole, I am sick of them but The Double Reds Of Timor is a good true story and features a lot of West Australians.

"Don (Lieutenant Turton) and I always keep our rifles within reach. We dive for a slit trench and start blasting away at the blood-red circles on the undersides of the Japan planes."

It was a full-frontal response because at the time, the men were showering and the Japanese were "intent on using their 7.7mm machine-guns to castrate ..."

Some comrades invented headlines: Well-known WA Officers Get Their DSOs Early – these DSOs meaning not Distinguished Service Order but Dickies Shot Off.

"We need to come to grips with the Japanese, to gain contact and hold it. We have to know what they're doing, fight them close to Dili, keep them hemmed in ..."

Sometimes food became a dire problem, as Jim Smailes's verse shows:

The tucker now was very light,
maize cobs and Rosie's stew.
With a kero tin of water
and a chook for thirty-two.

The Japanese were perplexed at the Australians' ability to operate unseen. The long Allied patrols were possible only because of Timorese help.

Australia gave up the 2/2nd as missing but in April 1942, a makeshift radio was constructed with batteries boosted by a hard-to-turn hand-operated charger.

"The boys transmit a top priority signal code and hear Australia shutting down transmitters to clear the air from Darwin to Alice Springs. Contact! There is a jubilant cry of Eureka! but soon the batteries fail and transmission ceases."

However, Australia realised the unit was alive and active.

Campbell pays tribute to numerous courageous people, not least the RAN sailors lost in a brave but abortive attempt to evacuate the Australian soldiers from Timor.

Eventually the Double Reds – from their dual red diamond insignia – were taken back to Australia.

"No one who has looked into heaven and hell simultaneously can remain unchanged." Campbell writes.

No matter how far he and his mates might travel from the island in though, distance or time, they would remain enthralled by its cruelty and grandeur, humbled and inspired by the sacrifices of their own men and the islanders.

The Double Reds Of Timor is published by John Burridge Military Antiques in hard cover, sewn section format and comprises 180 pages, with photographs and maps. The price is $35, including postage, and is available from:

John Burridge Military Antiques
91 Shenton Road, Swanbourne 6010
Tel: (08) 9384 1218

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Listening Post – WINTER 1997 – Page 51
Commando – White Diamond 2/8th Australian Commando Squadron
By Don Astill

Northern Territory – LAE – New Britain – Bourgainville

Following the World War II British concept of small raiding parties to harass the enemy, Australia began to form similar Commando companies.

The 2/8th Company patrolled the north of Australia rescuing downed Allied Pilots and investigating reports of Japanese landings. They later spent time at Lae and on New Britain — again out of the action — before being sent to Bourgainville. In the island’s rugged mountainous jungle terrain, they accounted for more than 400 enemy with the loss of seven of their own men.

Don Astill has been congratulated for the completion of this fine history of his own unit:

‘This book is extremely readable and one which grips and holds the attention of the reader’.

Commando – White Diamond is published by Australian Military History Publications in hard over format, A4 size with maps and photographs.

The recommended retail price is $35, including postage, and is available from: Australian Military History Publications

13 Veronica Place, Loftus 2232, NSW
Tel: (02) 9521 6515

CLIVE BAKER

MacArthur in the Pacific
From the Philippines to the Fall of Japan
by Michael Green

This book is an interesting look at one of the great generals of World War II, and perhaps one of the most controversial; American five-star general, General Douglas MacArthur.

Within 160 pages the author has managed to cram 200 original photographs relating to MacArthur and his men and machines. The quality of the photographs are first class, although I find it disappointing that there are only two photographs of Australians: one of MacArthur with General Blamey, and another of MacArthur talking to Australian troops in new Guinea in 1943. Supporting the book are first hand accounts from General MacArthur and his troops.

Soft covered, this book has five chapters: The Japanese Onslaught; MacArthur Goes On The Offensive; MacArthur Returns To The Philippines; The Battle For Luzon, and The End Of The War In The Pacific.

There can be no doubt that MacArthur as Commander-In-Chief of the South Pacific Area Was a brilliant strategist, but the efforts of his huge publicity team often saw the efforts of many others ignored or down played.

Although an interesting book, I admit to a degree of irritation at the seemingly poor coverage of Australia’s contribution in the New Guinea campaign — one of the proudest chapters in our military history.

MacArthur in the Pacific, published in the USA by Motorbooks International, is distributed in Australia by Capricorn Link Australia of Unit 2/13 Carrington Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154 and retails at $29.95.

VIC JERRERY, OAM

The Army as it was
by Thomas Colvin

Recognising that the army of 50+ years ago is a very different organisation that of the ‘90s, Colvin has written a personal account of his service from 1939, affording his readers a mind’s eye view of the locations and circumstances prevailing at the time. From his pragmatic approach to operating a switchboard with minimal training – pull out all the plugs and start again! – to the accusation that he had not returned his Knives Clasp with other army issue on discharge many years later, Colvin’s account of army life is filled with humour. I loved this gem from a letter home by one young National Serviceman: Dear Mum, We have been on the range watching our pals hit the target. Tomorrow, we will all go out and shoot ourselves. Goodbye, Your Son.

From the Artillery Barracks in Fremantle, through Fort Swanbourne, the Leighton Barracks, Arthurs Head Battery, Rottnest, Blackhill, National Service Training, Karrakatta, Tasmania, Northam to duty at the embarkation staff office in Fremantle, Tom Colvin’s story of personalities and events is an enjoyable stroll down Memory Lane for a whole generation of soldiers.

Enquiries regarding purchase of this book should be directed to Tom Colvin, 17 Colin St, Scarborough, WA, 6019.

PAT HOSKING
An Unrewarded Hero
The Story of Alan Haddy
by Russell Mehan

A thoroughly-researched and poignant account of the all-too-short life of one of Western Australia's war heroes.

Mehan's book is a compelling argument for better recognition of those who laid their lives on the line to protect Australia and its freedom. Haddy could not be awarded a Military Medal as he was killed in action. Only 17 Victoria Crosses were awarded for action in World War II, ten of those for action in what we now know as Papua New Guinea.

Alan Haddy was born in Laverton and grew up in Perth. Times were tough for his family, but it wasn't long before he established himself as a leader among his peers in civilian and army life. Serving as a member of the 2/11 AIF, he showed exceptional courage in the Middle East before embarking on the battle that took his life - the battle for Gona, the last leg of PNG's notorious Kokoda Track.

Pictured as 'always in the thick of things', Haddy was well aware that he would probably not come out of this war alive. He was constantly devastated by the ghastly circumstances in which these battles were fought, yet was the one to break the tension with a quip or wry comment to keep up the morale of his troops. His letters home show that he could even reflect on the beauty of the butterflies in the carnage in the jungle! His war ended in December 1942 during a delaying action that proved invaluable in the Kokoda victory over the Japanese.

The author grew up with heroes and stories of war. His grandfather, Jack Mehan, served in the 1st AIF and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in 1918. His father, Pat Mehan, served in the 2nd AIF and saw action in Darwin, New Guinea and New Britain. Haddy became Mehan's personal hero after he read a tribute to him in Peter Brunes' book, "Those Ragged Bloody Heroes", and he set himself the task of researching his story. He is a staunch supporter of the RSL and its efforts to ensure that all our brave fighters are remembered. Personal accounts such as this one of Alan Haddy go a long way to promoting that ideal. Mehan is a committee member of the Military Historical Society of Australia (WA Branch) and he has been rewarded with associate membership of the 2/16 AIF Association for this book.

Unrewarded Hero is available from Westralian Publishers, 20/56 Creaney Drive, Kingsley WA 6020 for $15 plus $2.50 p&h.

PAT HOSKING

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Fit men and women of all ages are welcome to join the trip and visit the WW2 battle Sites.
Trips of 15 days planned for: Aug 17 & Sept 28. In addition, historian Clive Baker is also taking a 19 day trip on June 29, exploring grounds that are not usually seen.
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This will be my last report as the State President. I extend thanks to you all for your support and friendship throughout the past five years, which I have very much appreciated.

Executive members attended their first meeting in February to begin another busy year's work of hospital visiting, our conference arrangements were discussed and the Presidents' and Secretaries' meeting was well attended.

During the last few months I have visited the following Auxiliaries: Nollamara/North Perth, Bellevue, Belmont, Kojonup and Eastern Regional; and Sub Branches: Belmont (2), Riverton and Narrogin, Kindred Associations.

Functions attended last year included the Ex-service Women's and Returned Sisters' Christmas lunches; War Widows' 50th anniversary church service and lunch, Department of Veterans' Affairs break up afternoon tea and the War Veterans' Home Remembrance Service. On Remembrance Day I placed a wreath on the State War Memorial on behalf of all Auxiliaries and Executive Members.

Certificates of Service were presented to Auxiliary Members, Mrs B Harris (Bellevue), Mrs U Makki and Mrs E Cairnes (Eastern Regional).

Once again thank you one and all and best wishes for the future and a speedy recovery to members on the sick list.

M TAYLOR
State President

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# New Members

The State President and members of the State Executive extend a welcome to new members of the League in WA. Their names are listed by Sub-Branch.

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UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

Deakin, Tel: 9321 8533 (w). All correspondence to PO Box 244, North Perth 6006.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN (INC)
State President: Mr LCW Hutchings, 17 StJohns Ct, Kingsley 6026, Tel: 9309 9675. State Council meets 3rd Thursday of even months at 13th Brigade headquarters, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, at 1.30pm.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Laurie Fraser MBE, Tel: 9224 8211 (w). Secretary: Bob Nugent, Tel: 9425 2425 (w). Meets for “Happy Hour” last Friday each month at The House, Campbell Barracks. Ladies most welcome. All correspondence to The House, 6 Battery Road, Campbell Barracks 6010.

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS AND DEFENCE SERVICES COUNCIL (WA COUNCIL) AVADSC
Chairman: Air Cdre SW Dallywater OBE AE (Retd) Tel: 9383 3161. Deputy Chairman: Mr L Hutchings, Sec/Treasurer: WO1 BF Cooper CD A1MM, Tel: 9409 6577. Correspondence to Secretary PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meets 1st Wednesday of even months at USI Rooms, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, 1000hrs.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOC. (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, OAM, Tel: 9361 2824. Secretary: Mrs M Harvey, 1 Bradshaw House AFME, Bullcreek Drive, Bullcreek, Tel: 9332 1305. Treasurer: Ruth Franklin, 126B Basinghall St, East Victoria Park 6101. Tel: 9361 5157. Meetings: 1st floor, Anzac House on the 1st Thursday of the even months, 10am-12noon.

BCOF ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Ms J Whiting, 15 Turo Close, Willetton 6155. Tel: (08) 9457 0368. Secretary: Mr LA Bland, JP, PO Box 639, Balcatta 6014. Tel: (08) 9345 5503. Treasurer: Mr R Bacon, 11 Robert St, Kalamunda 6076. Tel: (08) 9293 1680. Meetings: 4th Monday (If Mon holiday-next day, Tues) 11am-Feb to Nov, Belmont RSL Hall, cnr Grt Eastern Hwy and Leake St, Belmont, Bus 306 new Bus Station or stand 45 cnr Pier St and St Georges Tce.

BLINDED SOLDIERS OF ST DUNSTANSWA
President: Mr WA Walters, RSL Retirement Village, Third Avenue, Mandurah, 6210. Tel: 9535 3606. Hon. Sec/Treasurer: Mrs P Dean, 31 Lamon rd, Melville 6156. Tel: 9330 5458. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday in February, April, June and August and 1.45pm, Red Cross House, 110 Goderich St, East Perth.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOC. INC.
President: Mr D Clarke, Tel: 9309 1046. Secretary: Mrs J Harris, Tel: 9247 1009. Treasurer: Mrs J Turnell, Tel: 9497 3812. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday each month at Anzac House, at 1.30pm. Correspondence to: 20 Roydon Way, Girrawheen 6064.

CATALINA CLUB OF WA
State President: Mr Ivan Perice, 14 Abjornson St, Manning 6152, Tel: 9450 1231. Correspondence to Catalina Club of WA, PO Box 866, Canning Bridge 6153. General meetings 10am 2nd Thursday in March, June (AGM), September and December at Anzac House.
DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Lt Col (ret’d) P Winstanley RDF, 55 Jeanes Rd, Karrinyup 6018, Tel: 9341 6883. Vice President: Lt Col (ret’d) E Querard, 8 McNab Rise, Duncraig 6023. Tel: 9447 8822. Secretary: Maj (ret’d), PC Pickersgill RDF, ED, 191 Kitchener Rd, Booragoon 6154. Tel: 9330 4015. Treasurer: Lt Col (ret’d) NA Gilbert RDF, ED, 23 Grimsay Rd, Ardross 6165. Tel: 9364 3693. Committee meetings held monthly – all members welcome to attend. For venue/date contact any of the above.

EX-AUSTRIAN WOMEN’S LAND ARMY (AWLA)
President: Mr Phyll Ptolomey, 84 West Rd, Bassendean 6054. Tel: 9279 2279. VP: President Mrs Pat Culbertson, 4 Offord St, Armadale 6112. Tel: 9399 6713. Secretary: Mrs Hilda Grey, 21B Elvira St, Palmyra 6157. Tel: 9339 5391. Treasurer: Mrs Celia Tester, 12 Joslen St. Hilton 6163. Tel 9337 1837. Meetings: Anzac House, 4th Thursday each month from 10am-12 noon.

EX-FORTRESS ENGINEERS ASSOC.
President: Mr Harold Smith, 58 Napier St, Nedlands 6009. Tel: 9386 3305. Secretary: Mr Reg Kidd, 257 Holmes Road, Forrestfield 6058. Tel: 9453 2393. Meetings: mid-year general meeting and Christmas ‘get together’ and barbeque on a date and at a venue to be decided. All enquiries to the Secretary.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOC. OF WA
President: Arthur Robinson, 19/26 Pinaster St, Menora 6050. Tel: 9271 4733. Vice President: Leslie Price, 3 Forward St, Mandurah 6210, Tel: 9535 8741. Secretary: Ruth James, 7B Wenden Pl, Willetton 6155. Tel: 9457 8727. Treasurer: Fred Skeels, 33 Drummond St, Bedford 6052, Tel: 9271 1553. All correspondence/enquiries to President at the above address. Association meetings held 1st Wednesday each month at 1pm at Anzac House.

EX-WRENS ASSOC. WA
President: Mrs Rena Blackett, Unit 3/93 Aurelian St, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 9339 5030. Secretary: Mrs Joan Aiberti, 1B Imperial Ct, Ocean Reef 6027, Tel: 9300 6119. Treasurer: Mrs Laurie Drew, 13 Thorpe St, Morley 6062. Tel: 9276 2176. Meetings: second Monday each month at Anzac House (unless otherwise advised).

FEDERATED TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN’S ASSOC.
President: Mr Frank Hamilton, 35 Clement Drive, Karrinyup 6018, Tel: 9448 5204. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer. 16 Dowell Place, Bibra Lake, Tel: 9417 9598. Meetings last Monday each month except January. Correspondence to the Secretary.

FIGHTER SQUADRONS ASSOC. OF WA
President: Mr Mick Michael. Tel: 9221 3719(w) 9384 4222(h). Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Shirley Donaldson, 1 Howson St, Hilton 6163, Tel: 337 2260. Correspondence to the Secretary.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA
President: Hilton Delvoirex, 21 Regency Drive, Thornlie 6108. Secretary: Theo Bushe-Jones, 26 Baltic Mews, Waikiki 6169, Tel: 9527 9186. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth. All correspondence to PO Box 3886, Stirling Street, Perth 6849.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Ken Brown MBE. Secretary: Andy Britton, PO Box 370. Tuart Hill 6939, Tel: 9409 9468. Welfare Officer: Arthur Badgen. Meeting: 1st Monday of the month at Anzac House, at 7:30pm (unless otherwise advised).

HMAS AUSTRALIA VETERANS’ CLUB
President: Mr Don Cookesley, 3 Dorking Rd, City Beach 6015, Tel: 9385 7061. Secretary: Mr Harry Townsend, 2A Darrelle Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153, Tel: 9364 2489. For further information please contact either of the above. Meetings: 1st Tuesday in March, June, September, December at Naval Association Headquarters, 71 West Parade, East Perth, at 1100 hrs.

HMAS BATAAN VETERANS’ ASSOC.
President: Mr Dick King, 89 Empire Ave, City Beach 6015, Tel: (08) 9385 9089. Secretary: Mr Colin Hepburn, 39a Fallow Cres. Spearwood 6163. Treasurer: Mr Bob Truman, 12 Regent Grove, Morley 6062. Tel: (08) 9279 6903. For further information please contact any of the above.

HMAS CANBERRA/HMAS SHROPSHIRE ASSOC.
President: Mr Keith Nordahl, 66 Todd Ave, Como 6152, Tel: 9367 3102. Secretary: Mr Arthur Carter, 93 Tamar St, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 9339 1483. Treasurer: Mr Alf Martin, 12 LeSouef Dr, Kardinya 6163, Tel: 9331 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 ASSOC. (WA DIVISION)
President: Mr Graeme Purkiss, 14 Hollis St, Samson, Tel: 9339 8976. Secretary: Mr Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Rd, Shenton Park, Tel: 9381 8705. Treasurer: Mr Fred Varris, 12 Matarra Pl, Nollamara, Tel: 9344 7248. AGM and annual reunion held second Friday in February and social and commemorative functions held about six times each year. Monthly luncheons held at Anzac House, last Thursday each month from around noon. Further information please contact any of the above.

HMAS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS’ ASSOC.
President: Mr TK (Trevor) Lloyd, 48 Bell St, Rockingham 6168, Tel: 9527 1817. Secretary: Mr TE (Tom) Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont 6010. Tel: 9384 3042. Treasurer: Mrs PD Ingham, Unit 79/96 Guildford Rd, Mt Lawley 6050. Tel: 9271 1826. Further information please contact any of the above.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
State President: Mr KJ Emberson. 48 Fleetwood Circuit, Woodvale, Tel: 9409 3037. State Secretary: Mr A McMorland, 10 Ridgeway Pl, Mahogany Creek, Tel: 9295 3459. State Treasurer: Mr HG Fowle, 11 Mirador Rd, Morley, Tel: 9275 1259. AGM 3rd Saturday in March. QGM: 2nd Saturday in June, September and December. Meetings held at Belmont Sub Branch, 22 Leake Street, Belmont at 10am sharp.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS’ ASSOC. OF WA (INC)
(“Wingies and Stumpies”) President: PR Collins. Secretary: Mrs Rosemary L Maddren, 80-82 Henley St Como 6152. Tel: 9450 6428. Postal Address: Bag Lot No. 2, Post Office, Como 6152. Meeting first Wednesday each month except January, 1:30pm. Office hours: 9-11am Tuesday, 9-12 noon Wednesday, 9-12 noon Thursday.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOC. WA
President: Mrs Joan Dowson, MBE OAM, 3 Bay View Tce, Mosman Park 6012, Tel: 9384 6712. Secretary: Mrs L (Tuck) Fealy, Unit 156, 10 Morrison St, Como 6152, Tel: 9313 0456. Meetings as called. Annual reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

“N” CLASS DESTROYER ASSOC.
President: Mr Noel Sinclair, 289 Sydney Rd, Gnarabup 6065. Tel: 9405 1598. Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy Higgins, 69 Spigl Way, Bateman 6150, Tel: 9332 5723. For meeting details contact Secretary on 9332 5723.
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Oliver Lovelle, 22 Lynmouth Rd, Dianella, Tel: 9276 1676. Vice President: Mr Bill Scott, 10 Glenten Way, Fremdale, Tel: 9458 1750. Secretary: Mr Des Casey, 5 Johnston Way, Padbury Tel: 9307 2070. Treasurer: Mr Terry Healy, 473 Grand Prom, Dianella Tel 9276 2540. Please address all correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box Y3023, East St Georges Tce, Perth 6832.

NAVAL ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President/Secretary: Mr AD Needham, 16 Warragoong Cres, Attadale, Tel: 9330 3411. Treasurer: Mr SG Thomas, 91 Coleman Crest, Melville 6156, Tel: 9330 3427. Meetings: 1130 hrs last Monday each month at Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle 6160.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
President: Mr Ben Haseldine, 71 Lynton St, Mt Hawthorn 6016, Tel: 9444 3762. Secretary: Mr John Ross, 1 Benwee Rd, Floreat 6014, Tel: 9387 6960. Meets 4th Tuesday of each month commencing at 8.00pm at 71 West Parade, East Perth. All correspondence to the secretary at the above address.

NAVAL ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA SECTION) INC.
President: Mr Jack Appleby, 143 McDonald St, Joondanna 6060. Tel: 9444 3598. Secretary: Mr Tom Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont 6010, Tel: 9384 3042. Correspondence to Hon State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling St, Perth 6849.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA INC.
President: Mr E Baints, 154 Wood St, Inglewood 6052. Secretary: Mr J Kuijpers, 18A Daunntless Way, Duncraig 6025, Tel: 9448 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.

NORMANDY VETERANS’ ASSOC.
President: Mr JE Mayers, 15 Finlay Ct, Rivervale, 6103, Tel: 9478 2071. Secretary: Mr R Bruce, 2/159 Fitzroy Rd, Rivervale 6103, Tel: 9362 3597. Meetings to be held on 1st Tuesday each month at Anzac House at 11.00am.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOC. 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 Rd, Scarborough 6019, Tel: 9341 6151.

PEGASUS (AIRBORNE FORCES) ASSOC. OF WA (INC)
President: Don Newman, Tel: 9246 1738. The Hon Secretary: John Hately, 14 Purley St, Bayswater 6053 Tel: 9279 8626. General meetings held at Riverton RSL first Sunday of every third month, commencing February at 2.00pm. Informal luncheon meetings first Wednesday of every month 12 noon, Anzac Club, Perth. Ladies welcome both meetings.

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC. SUB-BRANCH No. 9
President: Dr W Gorski, OAM, Tel: 9387 7347. Secretary: S Zalewski, Tel: 9274 6280. Hon Treasurer: Z Slowinski, Tel: 9298 8426. Correspondence to 33 Eighth Ave, Maylands 6051.

RAAF ASSOC. MANDURAH BRANCH
President: Ron Lopaten, Tel: 9335 7830. Secretary: Trevor Martin, Tel: 9537 7101.Clubrooms: Phone & Fax: 9535 8217, 0900-1200 hrs, Tuesday to Thursday. 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 467-463 LANCASTER SQUADRONS ASSOC. WA
President: Mr John McKenzie, 186 Weaponess Rd, Wembley Downs Tel: 9341 1358. Secretary: Mr Angus Belford, 59 Sulman St, Wembley Downs Tel: 9245 1828. Meetings four times a year at the RAAF Association, Bull Creek.

RAEME CORPS COMMITTEE (WA BRANCH)
Information on the RAEME Corps can be obtained by contacting the Information Officer – Don Horsley, 11 Celestine St Wanneroo 6065, Tel: (08) 9306 2946.

RAEME OFFICERS' ASSOC. 5MD (WESTERN REGION) INC.
President: Maj Steve Cartner, Tel: 9457 1720 (h), 354 4993 (w). Secretary/Treasurer: Capt Perry Beor, 38 Emily St, St James 6102, Tel: 9458 3952 (h), 9420 3354 (w). Maj Stephen Sinclair, Tel: 9401 1713 (h), 9491 8151 (w). Maj Neil Stewart, Tel: 9450 1140.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Kevin Scott, 24 Wilberforce St, Mt Hawthorn 6016, Tel: 9444 4655. Secretary: Mr WC (Bill) Mahar, 272 Marmion St, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 9339 2187. Meetings: Committee meets second Tuesday each month at 1pm at the Anzac Club.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Sqn Ldr TF Agnew, Secretary, WO1 BF Cooper JP, AIMM, Tel: 9409 6577. Fax: 9409 6577. Treasurer: Sgt RA Hinton. Tel: 9387 2237. All correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meets the second Wednesday of each month at the ISI Rooms, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta at 1400 hours. Any member is welcome to observe.

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOC. (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: Mr Norman RT Jarrett, Tel: 9247 1354. Secretary: Mr Maurice McDaiden, 161B Gibson Ave, Padbury 6025, Tel: 9401 5839. Treasurer: Mr John Brigden, Tel: 9247 1302. Further information/details, contact Secretary.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOC. (WA DIVISION)
Twelve branches and nine affiliated groups. A fully licensed club is open to members daily. For further information and meetings details contact the State Secretary. Tel: 9332 4444.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOC. WA DIVISION INC. BULLCREEK BRANCH
President: Allan Steward, Tel: 9310 7239. Secretary: Tel: 9310 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 ASSOC.
President: Mr J (John) Williams, 11 Cornish St, Armadale 6112, Tel: 9399 3452. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr RJ (Ray) McMahon, Unit 6/52 Keymer St, Belmont 6104, Tel: 9478 2598.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOC. WA BRANCH
President: Mrs Judy Gibson, 19 Carnegie Way, Padbury 6025, Tel: 9401 7138. Secretary: Mrs Olga Greig, 9 Napier Road, Morley 6062, Tel: 9276 3493.
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC. (WA)
President: Mr JAT Hobbs, 10 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant 6153; Tel: 9364 2568. Secretary: Mr Doug Morris, 178 Empire Ave, Wembley Downs 6019. Treasurer: Mr JA Shurman, 40 Carlyle Cres, Duncraig 6025, Tel: 9447 1423. Meet on third Monday each month at 10am, Anzac House downstairs. If public holiday, following day. Meetings are open to all members and members of affiliated Associations.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOC. OF WA
President: Mr MJ Ryan OAM, Bus Ph: 9481 0205 A/H 9307 2385, Mobile 015 446 666. Secretary: Mr NJ Clark, Bus/Home Ph: 9342 5808. Mobile: 019 102 338 Meetings: 2nd Sunday in February, April, June, August and October at 10.30am at 13Fd Sqn RAÉ, Sappers Way, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY – ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS
President: Mr Neville Philp, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount, Tel: 9294 1798. Secretary: Mrs B Philp, 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: 9330 6596. Meetings: Anzac Day (AGM) 1300, Navy Club, High St, Fremantle. Correspondence to the President.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOC. (WA)
State President: J Appleby, 143 McDonald St, Joondanna 6060. Tel: 9444 3598. State Secretary: J Shephered, Unit 45, Ocean Gardens, 60 Kalinda Dr, City Beach, Tel: 9385 8400. State Treasurer: M Corry, 4 Nottingham St, East Victoria Park, Tel: 9361 2824. Meetings: February, May, August, November.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOC. WA (INC)
President: Mr John Brierty, 221 Erindale Rd, Hamersley 6021, Tel: 9342 5606. Vice President: Mr Bert Lane, 6 River Rd, Maddington 6111, Tel: 9493 5252. Secretary: Mr Brian Macauley, 173 Hardey Rd, Belmont 6104, Tel: 9277 1406. Treasurer: Mrs Avis Macauley (as above). Meetings: 1st Thursday each month (except January) at 7.00pm at Anzac House. All Signallers welcomed.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOC. (WA) INC.
President: Mr Ray Sargeant, 29 Bouvardia Way, Greenwood 6024. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Philip Bray, 33 Nalpa Way, Duncraig 6023. Meetings: Anzac Day, Corps Birthdays (July) and Christmas.

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND
President/Secretary: Mr John Martin, 9 Gladstone St, St James 6102. Tel: 9361 3390. Airforce and Associated Units (e.g. Chindits serving in 14th Army Theatre 1939-1945).

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES’ ASSOC. OF WA
President: Commander Pete Shield RN (Ret’d), 19 Fifth Rd, Armadale, 6112. Tel: 9399 4243. Secretary: MEM (Michael) Pearson, 12 Kooyong Rd, Rivervale 6103, Tel: 9470 3282. Meetings: Leederville Bowling Club, 2nd 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.
TPH Memorial Estate, Bag Lot 2, Post Office, Como 6152. President: Mr Geoff Dunne. Secretary: Mr Dennis Connelly, 80 Henley St, Como, 6152. Tel: 9450 1893 or 9450 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 ASSOC. WA BRANCH
President: Mr Jack Patterson, 15A Greyley Way, Girrawheen, Tel: 9342 0142. Secretary: B Thomas, Victoria Estate, Unit 18-19 Bulrush Dr, Bibra Lake, Tel: 9417 8585. Meetings: First Monday each month (except January) Anzac Club 11.30, when Monday is a public holiday, first Tuesday. All ex-Water Transport welcome.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOC. WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brig NE Manuel (ret’d), 398 Belmont Ave, Kewdale 6105. Tel: 9277 2367. Secretary: Ben Colquhoun, 5 Oakdale Ave, Cloverdale 6105, Tel: 9277 4814. Meetings: second Tuesday each month at the Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sylvia St, Nollamara.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr John Barton, Unit 7/5 Sepia Ct, Rockingham 6168. Tel: 9525 3351. Secretary: Mr Len Kebbell, 17 Glengarry St, Parkwood 6147. Tel: 9457 5027. Meetings: Every third Wednesday of the month. Contact either of the above for information.

THE HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOC. (WA)
President: Ed Cole, 1/22 Day Rd, Mandurah, Tel: 9535 5853. Secretary: Max Davey, 8/228 Albert St, Osborne Park, Tel: 9344 2114. Social Meetings: 2nd Monday each month at Anzac House; for further information please contact Secretary.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOC.
President: Mr Garnet Buckley JP, 23 Quakrum St, Wanneroo, Tel: 9306 4232. Secretary: Mr RJ McMahon, U6/52 Keymer St, Belmont, Tel: 9478 2598.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Ken Barrington, Tel: 9446 4227. Secretary: Mr Kevin Trent, 3 Broad St, Kensington 6151, Tel: 9367 7794. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday at 8.00pm in February, April, June (AGM), August, October & December. For venue please call the Secretary on 9367 7794. All correspondence to the Secretary.

THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOC. WA BRANCH
President: Mr Gordon Norton, V/President: Mr Graham Chapman. Actg Secretary: Mr Alex Richards. Treasurer: Mr Don Getliffe. Meetings: The Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle, 8.00pm the last Tuesday of every month, including public holidays. Address for correspondence: The Acting Secretary, 27 Orion St, Rockingham, 6168, Tel: 9592 1474.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC. FREMANTLE (WA) INC.
Chairman: David Wiseman, Tel: 9592 1458. Hon. Secretary: FH Cooke-Willis, 23 Foss St, Palmyra 6157, Tel: 9339 5573. Meetings: first Tuesday of each month (except January) at the Navy Club (Inc) 64 High St, Fremantle at 7.00pm.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC., PERTH (WA) INC.
Chairman: Mr IR Hunter, 9 Derwent Pl, Rockingham 6168, Tel: 9527 1612. Secretary: Mr Geoff Paice, 106 Landsdowne Rd, Kensington 6151, Tel: 9367 1945. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at RSL Hall, Leake St, Belmont at 7.00pm.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC. (ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS) BRANCH
Chairman: David Slowley, 18 Welch Wy, Warnbro 6169, Tel: 9593 1279. Vice Chairman: Derick Ramsdale, 6 Falcon Crt,
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS cont.
Rockingham 6168, Tel: 9527 9515. Hon Secretary: Dorothy V Rawe, 62B Frederick St, Shoalwater 6169, Tel: 9592 6148. Hon Treasurer: Ted Haines, Lot 32 Malley Dr, Amario, Karnup 6176, Tel: 9357 1599. Meetings: first Tuesday each month (except January) at TS Anzac, Point Peron Rd, 7.30pm.

THE SPITFIRE GROUP
Organiser: Eric Carpenter, Tel: 9342 2779. Luncheon meetings are held in the VC Room, Anzac House, St George’s Tce, Perth on the 4th Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November commencing at 12.00 hrs. All Ex-Spitfire Squadron Members are welcome.

THIRTYNINERS’ ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA
Meeting dates: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, 4th Wednesday March, May, July, September and November. All enquiries to the Secretary. State President: Mr JP Hall, AM BEM JP, Unit A/3 Hellam Gr, Booragoon 6154. Tel: 9364 7776. State Secretary: Mrs FE Johnson OAM, 38 Renwick Street, South Perth. Tel: 9367 5949.

UNITED KINGDOM-COMBINED EX-SERVICES FEDERATION
President: Mr G Norton RM, Tel: 9418 8284. Secretary: Mr EH Martyn JP, 9B Wilson Place, Belmont 6104, Tel: 9277 2061. Meetings with Association Delegates arranged four times a year. Annual Dinner and Remembrance Commemoration (11th Nov) Parade in Perth and service Wesley Church. Other functions as arranged by the Committee. Contact either of the above for further information. All correspondence to the above address.

V.A. & A.A.M.W.S. (A)
President: Mrs Glyn Cody, 138A Karriyup Rd, Karriyup 6018, Tel: 9341 3323. Secretary: Mrs Ena McGinn OAM, 9 Castille St, Wembley Downs 6019, Tel: 9446 3742. Meetings: Arranged monthly at members’ homes. Contact Secretary for information.

VIETNAM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC).
President: Vic Boreham, 8 Hollis St, Samson 6163, Tel: 9337 8885(h), 9334 2489(w). Vice President: Mike Beasley, 8 Highcliffe Rise, Currambine 6028. Tel: 9300 6769. Treasurer: China Hammad, PO Box 69, North Fremantle 6159. Tel: 9019 374 3238. Secretary: Brian Long, 38 MacArthur Ave, Padbury 6025. Tel: 9402 0241. Meetings: 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: 9227 6961 or 9227 6963.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH INC.
PO Box 21, Maylands 6051. Office: 219 Railway Pde, Maylands, Tel: 9370 3011. Fax: 9332 4964. President: Mr Rob Cox, Tel: 9332 4964. Secretary: Mr Keith Jones, Tel: 9443 1530. Welfare Officer: Mrs Joe Cox, Tel: 9332 4964. Meetings: Held three monthly, Peninsula Hotel Building – 219 Railway Pde, 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: 9401 1546.

WA RSL BOWLS SECTION
Management Committee meets third Monday of each month at the Royal Park Bowling Club, Charles St, North Perth at 10.00am. President: Mr Doug Piggott, Tel: 9446 1331. Hon State Secretary: Mr Ted Philp, Tel: 9450 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 Walde on 9349 1829.

WAAAF BRANCH RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)
President: Mrs Olga Sullivan, Tel: 9332 8693. Secretary: Mrs Kathleen Quan, 65 Burnett Avenue, Leeming, Tel: 9332 1798. Meets 2nd Monday each month at 10.30am.

WRAA ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mrs May Tomich, 2 Ludlards St, Morley 6062, Tel: (08) 9276 8616. Secretary: Lyn Lovell, Tel: (08) 9426 7700(w). Treasurer: Jean Pearce, Tel: (08) 9367 4705. All correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 6149, East Perth 6982.

WRAAF BRANCH - RAAF ASSOCIATION
President: Mrs Laeraine Ewen-Chappell, 35 Lakeview Dr, Edgewater 6027. Tel: 9306 2681. Secretary: Mrs Judy Bland, 2 Graphic Ct, Beldon 6027, Tel: 9401 8296. Meetings held at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Meg Olive Room at the RAAF Association at Bullcreek.

Z SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.
President: Capt. LA (Lou) Reid MBE RL, 40 Halvorson Rd, Morley Tel: 9276 1535. Secretary: Lt Col EW (Ted) Dubberlin ED R JP, 28a Houston Ave, Dianella 6059, Tel: 9275 1348. Meetings arranged by committee.

Z SPECIAL UNIT INTERNATIONAL (INC).
PO Box 490, Kalamunda 6076. Chairman: Jack Sue, Tel: 9250 2737. Vice Chairman: Ross Davidson, Tel: 9383 7654.

1st AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION WA BRANCH
President: Mr Bill Rose, 19 Jukes Way, Glendalough 6016, Tel: 9444 6858. Secretary: Mr Ron Waters, 25 Clivo Way, Kallaroo 6025, Tel: 9307 0709.

2BN MALAYA MERDEKA VETERANS (WA)
President: L Phenna, MBE, JP, Tel: 9349 3859. V/President: B Dennis. Secretary: J Wimbridge. Treasurer: R Rupe. Meetings: every first Wednesday each month at Anzac House at 1400hrs in the Board Room.

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS WA
Chairman: LA Preedy, 152 Keightley Rd, Shenton Park 6008. Tel: 9381 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 R Finklestein, 317/130 Cresswell Rd, Dianella, Tel: 9276 7160. Secretary: Mr JW Carey, 13 Stoddard Way, Bateman Tel: 9332 7050. Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10am Anzac House.

2/3 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION WA
President/Secretary: Mr WST Stacy. Tel: 9337 6227. Treasurer: K (Sandy) Leek, Tel: 9337 1908. Address for correspondence: 3 Jull Court, Kardinya. Meets second Wednesday each month, 11am at Anzac House.
2/3rd MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when necessary. President: KE Eckermann, 31 Tranquill Rd, Kelmscott 6111, Tel: 9390 6072. Secretary: FJ (Bano) Binstead, 101 Star St, Carlisle 6101. Tel: 9361 8762.

2/4th MACHINE GUN BATTALION AIF ASSOC.
President: Mr EW Wallin, 3/63 Constance St., Nollamara 6061. Tel: 9349 1409. Secretary: J. Kyros, 19 Almondbury Rd, Ardross 6153, Tel: 9364 2639. Meetings: third Tuesday each month, Anzac House, 10.00am.

2/7th AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT ASSOC.
President: Mr Peter Landon, 1 Pinafore Ct, Duncraig 6023. Tel: 9448 0845. Secretary: Mr Bill Woods, 4/2 Lewington St, Coolbellup 6163, Tel: 9476 1166. Meetings: second Tuesday each month, Anzac House.

2/7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOC.
President/Secretary: Mr John F MILton, 451177 2th Field Room, Elizabeth St, Coolbellup 6050, Tel: 9444 1927. For meeting details contact the Secretary.

2/16th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOC.
President: Jim Smith, 1/113 Edward St, Osborne Park 6017, Tel: 9444 4748. Secretary: JS Miller, 120 Lockhart St, Como 6152, Tel: 9450 4170. Treasurer: KP Nicol, 31 Valerie St, South Sreet, 6162, Tel: 9276 2146. Editor Pigeon Post: DK Norrish, 6 Magnolia Way, Forrestfield 6058 or PO Box 26 Forrestfield 6058, Tel: 9453 2001. Committee meets Anzac House on the first Wednesday each month at 10.30am.

2/28th BATTALION & 24th ANTI-TANK COY. ASSOC.
President: Mr A Henderson, 45/177 Dampier Ave, Kallaroo 6025, Tel: 9307 3627. Secretary: Mr E Harrod, 13 Hadley St, Safety Bay 6169, Tel: 9527 6833. Committee meets Anzac House 2nd Wednesday of each month. Visitors welcome, AGM second Wednesday in August.

2/32nd BATTALION ASSOC. (WA)
President: Mr Fenton Smith, 184 Shaftesbury Ave, Bedford 6052, Tel: 9271 6492. Sec/Treasurer: Mr Colin Edmiston, 3/456 Main St, Balclutha 6021, Tel: 9349 0799.

2/43rd BATTALION ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Eric Treloar, 2 Alison Rd, Attadale 6156, Tel: 9330 4764. Secretary: Mr Wally Hughes, 20 Aberle St, Hamilton Hill 6163, Tel: 9337 2088. Meets 3rd Wednesday each month.

3 TELECOMMUNICATION UNIT ASSOC. (RAAF)
President: Mr RJ Squiers, Tel: 9349 0955. Secretary: Mr Ray De Fraine, 10 Cordova Court, Craigie 6025, Tel: 9401 3293. Lunch must 2nd Thursday each month at Anzac Club, 1100-1300. Committee meetings and social events as arranged.

7 ARMY TROOPS COY RAE ASSOC.
President: Mr Jack Benari, 38 Roebuck Dr, Salter Point 6152, Tel: 9450 3876. Secretary: Mr Colin F Wilson, 41 Herald Ave, Willetton 6155. Annual reunion last Friday of September. Past members most welcome.

7th THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (Pig) BATTALION ASSOC.
President: Mr Royal Walsh MM, 63 Sexton Rd, Inglewood, 6052, Tel: 9271 5769. Secretary: Mr Don Angwin, 7/6 Mt Henry Rd, Como 6152, Tel: 9450 1833. Reunion and other meetings as arranged. All correspondence to Hon Secretary Mr Don Angwin.

11th BATTALION AIF 13th BGDE WWII
President: Mr Roy Walsh MM, 63 Sexton Rd, Inglewood, 6052, Tel: 9271 5769. Secretary: Mr Don Angwin, 7/6 Mt Henry Rd, Como 6152, Tel: 9450 1833. Reunion and other meetings as arranged. All correspondence to Hon Secretary Mr Don Angwin.

11th DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOC.
President: Mr WEM (Gerry) Bateman, DFC, 69 Blenheim Rd, Bayswater 6050, Tel: 9330 7263. Secretary: Mr Cliff Tabblyn, 9384 5008; Mr Tubby Whitfield, Tel: 9458 9983. Annual reunion early January, other functions as arranged by Committee.

25 SQUADRON BRANCH
Royal Australian Air Force Association. President: Mr AJ Ferrier, Secretary: Mr RG Podmore, 61 Anglesey Dr, Kardinya 6163, Tel: 9314 1447. Meetings held at 2000hrs Meg Olive Room, Airforce Memorial Estate, Bullcreek Dr, Bullcreek on 2nd Tuesday each month.

44th BATTALION ASSOC.
Committee meets when called. Annual reunion on advice. President: R. Collins, 134 Roseberry St, Bedford, Tel: 9271 4448.

48th & 2/48th BATTALION ASSOC.
President: Mr Tom Easom, 568 Marmion St, Booragoon 6154, Tel: 9330 7387. Secretary: Mr Brian Corboy, 11A Ventrer Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153, Tel: 9364 7829. Meetings and luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East, at 11.30am on third Monday each month.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOC.
President: WEM (Gerry) Bateman, DFC, 30 Norton Ridge, Winthrop 6150, Tel: 9332 5051. Secretary: NB Johnson, 63 Kirwan St, Floreat Park 6014, Tel: 9297 4229. Treasurer: TR Gallop, 19 Felstead Crs, Hammersley 6022, Tel: 9447 4037. Meetings are held four times a year.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS' ASSOC.
Meets first Tuesday each month Anzac House (Club), 28 St George's Tce, Perth at 1.30pm. President: RH Duncafe, Tel: 9295 1689. Secretary/Treasurer: Peter W Hessell, Tel: 9344 1756.
Entries shown in the Autumn 1997 issue of 215615, T.J. Dunne, Riverton, and WX26531 A.B. Brown, Mosman Park, as deceased were incorrectly recorded; any embarrassment caused is deeply regretted.

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FRAMED EMBLAZON
British Commonwealth Forces Drum Heraldry has over the centuries faithfully recorded the glorious history of the individual regiments and services, which by tradition is graphically depicted on their drums.

The emblazon is an accurate replica of this Drum Heraldry, screen printed in an average of nine colours on durable foils. It is mounted and traditionally framed with a Hogarth reproduction frame in black and gold. The overall display size is 12" x 9.5".

Price: $95 plus $25 Postage each

DRUM ICE BUCKET
These interesting minitures are reproduced in detail from the original military drums, many of which are now found only in museums. Every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, both in regard to the military heraldry and also in the actual construction.

Thermal insulation within the double walled cavity of the drum ensures efficient conservation of the ice. Apart from this very useful function, these fine scale models make an ideal decorative piece. The drum has a capacity of approximately 2.5 pints with excellent insulation that will keep ice for approximately 5 hours.

The size of the drum is 6.5" x 6.5" high. Each reproduction is attractively gift packed in a smart outer carrying box.

Price: $95 plus $25 Postage each

FRAMED CLOCK
This presentation clock is decorated with the true representation of the individual military emblazon, screen printed by hand as a true replica of the "colours" carried on the Regiment or Service Band’s Side Drum. The clock has a fine quality quartz movement, and is powered by a 1.5v battery (not supplied). It is framed in a solid wood surround and presented in a clear PVC case. The overall display size is 12.5" x 6".

Price: $95 plus $25 Postage each

For more information about the full range of British Commonwealth Regiments and Services available, send a 3 1/4" x 8 5/8" business envelope to:

SERVICE COMMEMORATIVES PTY. LTD. ACN 059 615 753
P.O. Box 386, Mornington, Victoria, 3931, Australia.
Hollywood Private Hospital's Stage One, $20 million redevelopment is almost finished. If you have to go to hospital, go in style. Hollywood welcomes you with a luxury, four-storey high atrium entry featuring tall tropical palms and plants. You've come to expect five-star service and now we have accommodation to match with wood-panelled bedrooms, service at the press of a buzzer and even a small fridge in every room to make your stay more enjoyable. Hollywood has always offered aid and will continue to offer priority access to eligible Veterans and War Widows. Hollywood Hospital might look like a resort, but we like to think we've added a few comforts that Veterans and War Widows deserve.