LEST WE FORGET –
11th NOVEMBER

"In Flanders' fields the poppies blow ..."
HELP FOR VETERANS

The Department of Veterans' Affairs recognises that Veterans and War Widows want to remain independent and in their own homes for as long as possible.

The Department has several programmes that will give information and help you use local community services to maintain your independence:

- Advice about your local community
- Day Club Development
- Joint Ventures Programme
- Volunteer Support Programme
- Respite Care Assistance
- Carer Support Programme
- Hostel Development Programme
- Health Promotion Programme
- Financial Information Service

The Department continues to provide a wide range of benefits including pensions, allowances and health care.

If you want to know more please call the Veterans' Affairs Network

366 8444

Country Callers Toll Free
1800 113304
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### Deadlines for Listening Post Contributions

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

If possible submissions should be typed, double spaced. Photographs can be black and white or colour glossy.

This is your journal and contributions are welcome and should be addressed to:

**The Editor**  
Listening Post  
RSL  
P.O. Box Y3023  
East St Georges Terrace  
Perth 6832

**Cover:**  
State War Memorial – Kings Park  
Courtesy: Ms Judy Almond
State Secretary’s Notes

Another State Congress has passed resulting in the formation of a well balanced State Executive Committee comprising a healthy mix of newly elected and long serving members.

The theme for the coming year is how to make the League work better and continue into the future with a steadily growing membership. With regard to the former, the State Executive is always delighted to receive ideas from our members and, in the case of the latter, it pleases me greatly to inform you that WA branch membership continues to increase at a far greater and steadier rate than Branches in any other State.

Veteran Services at Anzac House have improved with the employment of our own Veterans’ Review Board (VRB) officer, Mrs Margot Harness, and the expansion of the Services Joblink programme into assistance with Veterans’ Pensions. Members are encouraged to access these very valuable services where needed.

I remind you all that State Executive Committee welcomes ideas from any of our members to improve the service which we provide.

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.

MARGOT HARNESS
Regional Secretary

Anzac House Office Staff

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State Secretary ..................................... Jock Geldart
State Accountant .................................. Roy Isaacman
Office Co-ordinator .............................. Judy Almond
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- Welfare Assistance
- Overseas Pensions
- West Australian Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Trust Fund

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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
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JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT
J.J. Hannah B. Com

STATE SECRETARY
J.L. Geldart

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K. Parish (Upper South-West)
A.M. Coffey (Lower South-West)
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Vacant (Lower Great Southern)
R.L. Hatch (Goldfields)

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K. Broadhurst, FRAIA, ARIBA
R.N. Stone, AM, JP
T.K. Lloyd, JP
To become President of an organisation composed of men and women who comprise a group I most respect is an honour like no other. I have been fortunate to hold senior positions in other organisations but to me the League represents those members of our community who, in war and peace, have truly "paid their dues". Being elected President is part of the process – deserving it is the other; and that can only be earned by performance!

I am ever mindful of Napoleon’s words: "There are no bad troops just bad leaders!"

In terms of leadership we are fortunate: Vice-Presidents John Holman and John Hannah are very much hands-on in their approach. The State Secretary, Jock Geldart, is well known for his efforts and the State Executive is peopled by those who have willingly and enthusiastically accepted their leadership role.

In the coming months the management methods of the League will alter, reflecting the changing management principles in the commercial world. What must never change, of course, is the heart of the League: that is, “caring for one another!” Everything we do must, in the final analysis, be directed toward that aim. As we institute portfolio management to give our leadership more responsibility and the attendant authority examines our financial system to better use information technology and initiate innovative programmes to more effectively use our resources, we must ensure that as Executive members we strive to adjust and adapt to these changes with a sense of service and purpose.

In return the members, having by the electoral process given the Executive the mandate to govern the League’s day to day operation, should remember, when assessing the Executive’s performance, the words of the English social reformer Samuel Smiles:

“We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.”

As we move toward the new millennium the problems facing the RSL will increase and rather than seeing this negatively we should see it as an opportunity. In the American civil War they talked of “Summer Soldiers”; they were the ones who came forward when everything was going well – they were talkers, not doers! We all know this type; however, there are, I believe, few in our organisation and frankly, who needs them?

We have arrived at this point in our history and in this shape because of those who went before; they most certainly were not “Summer Soldiers”. Our tribute to them must be to continue to build an RSL that is worthy of their contribution.

Therefore I encourage ALL members of the League to honour the past by taking part in our future: support your committees, do your share, actively recruit, encourage one another, particularly in difficult times, and think a moment about these words I normally have before me on my desk as a continuous challenge:

"Lead, be led or get out of the way!"

I look forward to sharing the days ahead with you.

LEST WE FORGET

KEN MURPHY
ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

This year a Western Australian was the recipient of this prestigious award: Mrs Julie-Ann Gray.

Mrs Gray typifies the Anzac spirit, maintaining a high profile in the field of nursing care and support of Australian Veterans. She was Director of Clinical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital from February 1994 to February 1997 when she resigned to take up family duties. Born and educated in Tasmania, Mrs Gray completed her General Nursing Training at Royal Hobart Hospital in 1975 and qualified as Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing) at the Tasmania State Institute of Technology. The professionalism, integrity and devotion to duty displayed by Mrs Gray during her years of service with Veterans and War Widows in Tasmania and WA make her a worthy recipient of this award.
In the past 6 years alone, RSL Members have received over **11 MILLION DOLLARS**

in guaranteed cash benefits from the RSL Cash Accident Programme.

"Thousands of RSL Members have expressed their delight at receiving a refund cheque on the 10-year anniversary of their RSL Cash Accident Policy. 

"Not only have they been protected against serious injury and fatal accident worldwide under this exclusive RSL programme, but having qualified by not making a claim, they are now also able to enjoy a helpful ‘nestegg’ after 10 years of continuous cover.

"If you’re not currently enjoying the guaranteed benefits of the Cash Accident Programme, please watch your post for your personal invitation to enrol.”

THE RSL CASH ACCIDENT PROGRAMME – OVER 40 WAYS TO COLLECT:

1. Pays you up to $75,000 for accidental loss of use of limbs or sight;
2. Pays $37,500 for a fatal accident;
3. Pays you up to $17,500 for a serious fracture of the hip or pelvis ... plus cash benefits for over 40 types of other accidental injuries, from fractures to burns;

PLUS

4. Pays you a $1,000 lump sum if you survive 10 years of continuous cover and don’t make a claim.

- Low premiums, guaranteed not to increase for the 10-year term of your policy;
- Hassle-free, no questions asked enrolment;
- Free cover period to inspect your policy without obligation;
- Protection that members may not have under any other insurance programme.

These are the reasons thousands of your fellow members enrolled in the RSL Cash Accident Programme when it was offered by Oceanic Life Limited. Oceanic now forms part of the Tyndall Group, and Tyndall Life Insurance Company Limited will post you full details of the Programme, along with your personal invitation to enrol, shortly. Please don’t miss your opportunity.

Return your Enrolment Form during the Special Enrolment Period ending in November 1997. Or, if you have any further questions, please call Oceanic, free of charge, on 1800 022 566. Policies can only be issued upon completion of an Enrolment Form.

**THE OFFICIAL INSURANCE PROGRAMME OF THE RSL**

Issued by
Tyndall Life Insurance Company Limited
ACN 001 698 228
Level 24, 2 Market Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Issued September 1997, Expires November 1997
KOTT GUNNING
YOUR LAWYERS

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR LONG
ASSOCIATION WITH THE RSL AND
ARE PLEASED TO PROVIDE
MEMBERS A
FREE HALF HOUR CONSULTATION.

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

Mr Leonard C. Keynes
AM, BA, JP

In the Australia Day honours this year former State
President of the RSL Len Keynes was appointed a Member
of the Order of Australia (AM). The honour was a just
reward for the many years of dedicated service Len gave
to the veteran community for WA.

Len was the first post-World War II veteran to hold the
office of State President. Before this he had been a member
of the State Executive since 1985, State Junior Vice
President for two years and State Senior Vice President
for three years. Len also was very involved on behalf of
the WA veterans in the hand-over of the Hollywood
Repatriation Hospital when it was privatised. He worked
very closely with DVA in ensuring the 1995 Australia
Remembers programme was a success. He became
involved in a scholarship in WA for young Aboriginal
persons seeking to obtain tertiary studies when he
established the Reg Saunders Scholarship.

Len also was the founding chairman for the WA
Regional Committee, Australian Vietnam War Veterans
Trust, which resulted in many of his ideas being copied
by other State Committees in the efficient running of this
organisation.

During Len’s term as State President he was instrumental
in nominating many dedicated workers in the veteran
community for awards, which they subsequently received.

Left to right: The Governor of WA Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery,
Mark Keynes, Leonie Keynes, Len Keynes and Ann Keynes
at Government House after presentation.

People will remember Len as being a “quiet achiever”,
who often worked very hard behind the scenes to achieve
the best for the veteran community. By his rational and quiet
approach he was accepted by many of the leaders in our
society as a dedicated person worthy of representing the
veterans and successful in ‘opening many doors’. Even after
his severe heart attack, he was more concerned with seeing
that the veterans were receiving their appropriate benefits.
When informed by the Honours Secretariat of his pending award, Len was somewhat hesitant in accepting it as he considered there were many others in the veteran community more worthy of an award. However he accepted it on behalf of the veteran community, and to acknowledge the support given him by his wife, Anne, children Leonie, Brett and Mark and daughter-in-law Phoebe.

One can only say to Len ('the quiet achiever') well done and well deserved.

KEN MURPHY

Mr Michael C. Hall OAM, JP

A long serving member of the State Executive of the WA State Branch, Mike Hall has been honoured by being awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for long and outstanding service to the veteran community.

For many years Mike was a volunteer driver with the Anzac Day Transport Committee, transporting disabled veterans from their homes, hospitals, nursing homes and the War Veterans’ Home to enable them to be part of the Anzac Day commemorations.

From 1957-63 he was Treasurer of the City of Perth Sub-Branch and as such he organised and assisted in fund raising for the welfare of members: this included car rallies and picnics and dances in Anzac House ballroom.

Mike was elected President of the Australian Ex-Servicemen’s Association in 1965 and served in that office until 1969. The members of this Association were mainly veterans who had served in World War I. As part of his duties as President he organised wreath laying services at the Cenotaph, Anzac Day Services, annual dinners and home visits. He represented the Association at many functions, both service and civilian.

He lived in England from 1967-1970 where, with other Australians, he formed the Australian Rules Football League to raise funds for the victims of the Tasmanian bushfires. He continued to arrange games in many parts of London and nearby counties against Royal Australian naval personnel stationed in Portsmouth and numerous schools and rugby clubs.

As a member of the State Executive, he has served on all sub-committees of the WA branch, including War Veterans’ Homes, Finance, Anzac Club, Anzac Day, Poppy Day and Membership. He is also a member of the Blackboy Hill Commemorative Committee; this was formed in 1956 to preserve the area that was the birthplace of the Australian Army (WA) in 1914, which was part of the first AIF. Over the years the committee has assisted the Greenmount Primary School, standing on part of the site, with its Anzac Day Services, that incorporate all schools in the area. This has now been gazetted as a Heritage site.

His other activities include: Vice-Chairman, Belmont Senior Citizens’ Management Committee; Manager, East Victoria Park Football Club; President, Belmont Park Bowling Club; RSL Bowls Section as Liaison Officer from State Executive; member of the Committee of the Veterans’ Health Week organised by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and, in co-operation with the Red Cross and Directors of Hollywood Private Hospital, organised our annual dance in the Red Cross hall at the hospital.

In recognition of his long and outstanding service to the RSL, Mike was awarded the RSL Meritorious Medal in 1989 and received Life Membership of the League in 1978.

KEN MORRISON

THE MERITORIOUS MEDAL

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

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

The first awards of the Meritorious medal were made in September 1983: this year we are pleased to announce that two West Australians have received the award.

Mr Bernard Joseph Barden (Geraldton City Sub-Branch)

Mr Barden joined the League in 1947 and has been an active member ever since. He has occupied numerous positions on the Committees of a number of country Sub-Branches, serving with distinction on all. As a journalist, Mr Barden’s contributions to The Listening Post, local print media and items broadcast on the ABC, both regionally and occasionally nationally, have been of great value to the league. His special interest in the frail aged and ailing
The Meritorious Medal cont ...

members has resulted in his conducting home visits over a number of years. Mr Barden is renowned for his public Osipiredness. He has directed his attention to publicising the activities of School Cadet Units by encouraging the presentation of League awards. He has played and officiated with distinction at football and cricket in the Mullewa district, served on the local Cemetery Committee and encouraged schools to participate in the Australia Remembers year. Mr Barden has represented ratepayers at Geraldton City Council and has served on the War Memorial Trust managing Birdwood House since 1979. He closely supports the Aboriginal community and Geraldton Museum, giving wide publicity to Aboriginal returned and ex-servicemen.

Mr Douglas Whitehorn
(Narrogin Sub-branch)

Mr Whitehorn joined the league in 1946 and has served with distinction since that time. His tenure of service as both Vice-President and President of the Narrogin Sub-Branch spans a period from 1964 to 1997, throughout which time he has undertaken exemplary work. Further to this he has held other Sub-Branch Committee positions for a period totalling 14 years. Mr Whithorn is a community-spirited member who represents the League on the Committee for reformation of the Narrogin High School Cadet Unit. He undertakes visits to sick and infirm veterans throughout the district. He is a well-respected member of the community who has provided a lifetime of service to the League.

HAS YOUR SERVICE BEEN RECOGNISED

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS FOR:
- COMBATANT SERVICE
- FOREIGN SERVICE
- SEA SERVICE
- VOLUNTEER SERVICE
- AVIATION SERVICE
- NATIONAL DEFENCE
- ARMY SERVICE

For Information send a STAMPED self addressed 3½” x 6½” business envelope to:
Service Commemoratives -
P.O. Box 173, Dromana, Victoria, Australia 3936

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Because Life Membership Awards are usually granted on the recommendation of Sub-Branches it is unusual for such awards to be presented at State Congress. In this case the recommendation comes from the State Branch in recognition of outstanding service which far exceeds the required 15 years.

Mr Ian George Medcalf
AO, ED, QC
(Highgate Sub-Branch)

Ian George Medcalf has been a member of the League since 1947. He has for many years performed the duties of the State Branch Honorary Solicitor, a task undertaken as his former Parliamentary duties permitted. Mr Medcalf has provided sound advice on the League’s legal position within a wide range of subjects. Such advice has been of considerable benefit in successfully dealing with the many complex legal problems.

ININTI
SOUVENIRS – CAFE

½ km from Uluru (Ayers Rock) at the newly-built Cultural Centre.
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Also situated within the Centre is an Aboriginal interpretative display and Maruku Crafts for locally produced Aboriginal artifacts.

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Telephone: (089) 56 2214
Fax: (089) 56 2438
A.C.N. 052 247 873
The Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge is the highest award made by the League to a person who is not a member of the League. It is presented by the National Executive to persons who have rendered outstanding service to the League, ex-service personnel or their dependants. This year there are three recipients from Western Australia.

Mrs Jessie May Irwin
(Murray Districts Auxiliary)

Mrs Irwin was a foundation member of the Dwellingup RSL Women's Auxiliary, joining in 1950. She received Life Membership in 1971, having held the office of Secretary, Treasurer and President.

On the closure of Dwellingup Auxiliary, Mrs Irwin transferred to Murray where she continued her good work until entering Beddingfield Hostel; she continues to support the Auxiliary in any way she is able.

Mrs Vera Lewis
(Nollamara-North Perth Auxiliary)

Mrs Lewis joined the Nollamara-North Perth Auxiliary in 1958; her service has continued to the present day. Mrs Lewis served initially as a Trustee on the Auxiliary Committee; in 1979, after receiving the Service Certificate, she was elected Auxiliary Secretary, a position she held for six and a half years. In 1982 Mrs Lewis received her Life Certificate. She was elected Nollamara-North Perth Auxiliary president in 1990, a position she still holds. A tireless worker for the Sub-Branch, Mrs Lewis sells raffle tickets throughout the year and poppies on Remembrance Day.

Mrs Norma Turner
(Darling Range Auxiliary)

Mrs Norma Turner joined the Women's Auxiliary of the Millen Sub-Branch in 1970 where she served continuously as Secretary until the Auxiliary closed in 1988. From that time Mrs Turner acted as Treasurer of the Darling Range Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary. She has for a period of 16 years worked tirelessly as a member of the Mt Lawley War Veterans’ Home Raffle Committee and gives willingly of her time and ability to serve anywhere the League needs her help.
What of the RSL into the 21st century - have we a role?

This question is posed by journalists around Australia on a regular basis. It seems that somehow the knockers of the RSL believe that we will fade away in the classical description of what old soldiers do. I’d like to speak about this proposal tonight for I believe it is important that we understand our raison d’etre as time changes from our origins at Gallipoli to the present time with Australia no longer a part of the British Empire, no longer isolated in the world by five or six weeks of sea travel and no longer isolated by way of world news.

Our beginnings from the landing of Gallipoli started a movement that today has a financial membership of some 230,000 with the strong support of a similar number of families or more. But does anything really change? Let me quote Peter Ryan, the noted literary scholar in Melbourne, who still writes for Quadrant. Peter Ryan was an outstanding soldier and was awarded both an MM and MID. In his magnificent book Fear Drive my Feet, a classic of the Island campaigns of World War II he wrote:

“I sat down on a shaded boulder, head bent, sweat running in a chain of drops off my nose and chin... The rushing water lapped my feet and filled my boots. I wriggled my toes around inside them, luxuriating in the cool sensation...

“Wall of mosquitoes, hum of aircraft engines, roar of swirling water, and the constant pat-pat-pat of dripping sweat. ‘There’s the whole orchestra,’ I thought. ‘There goes the non-stop background music for God knows how many months to come. Let’s see just what sort of mess I’m in anyway.’... The facts came out in a sort of verbal column, like an inventory or shopping list:

‘I’m 18 years old, and I’ve been in New Guinea a couple of months.
‘A day’s walk to the east is Lae, and some thousands of Japanese troops.

‘North, a few hours ahead of me, is the Markham River, and somewhere nearby in the jungle is Bob’s, the camp from which a few hopelessly outnumbered Australian commandos are carrying on the war against the Japs.

‘Across the Markham, just visible through the trees where I sit, are the Saruwaged Mountains, so high that you can’t see the tops for clouds; among those incredible blue ranges, somewhere or other in an area of roughly 3,000 sq. miles is another lone Australian, Jock McLeod.

‘Object of my journey: to find Jock and place myself under his orders in his dual job of ‘governing’ some tens of thousands of natives and watching the activities of our Japanese enemy.’...

“By this time I felt a lot happier ... Napoleon himself, I thought complacently, would have made his appreciation of the situation in much the same way.

“His purpose clearly stated, obviously Napoleon’s next step would have been a consideration of resources of ways and means. Again, the verbal list;

‘Resources: reputedly a fortnight’s rations, but really only enough to last a hungry man about a week.
‘No compass.

‘No maps.

‘One old rifle with a damaged foresight.

‘A 30-year old revolver with ten rounds of ammunition.

‘Bottomless, unbounded ignorance of the country.

‘Only the slightest acquaintance with pidgin English, the language needed to converse with the natives.

‘For assistance, one keen but emotionally unstable native police boy, whose home is hundreds of miles away, and whose ignorance of this part of the country is paralleled only by my own.’

“I realised that my verbal listing had turned almost imperceptibly into a sort of double entry book-keeping, and that every item so far had fallen on the debit side.”

“All right,” I thought, “let’s fill in the credit side of the ledger.”

“There was a pretty long silence ... that hot afternoon in 1942, as I rested in the shade.”

This story of Peter Ryan typifies the way Australia has entered each war: unprepared, with few armaments, no training but a determination to save our country and our
loved ones at home. So nothing has changed and, if the world should go mad tomorrow, I trust that the Australian youth will again meet the challenge as have all our service men and women since the beginning of our nation.

The returning diggers from Gallipoli formed the RSL and they laid down quite specifically in their objects, that the League would undertake “to provide for the sick and wounded and needy among those who had served, and their dependants;” that we would “inculcate loyalty to the nation, to guard the good name ... of members of the defence force,” and “to promote our policy on national questions” ...

This was founded on the twin pillars of the League – mateship and nationalism – and I believe, very strongly, that these objects hold as true today, and into the next century, as when first stated 81 years ago.

One look at our nation today shows us all that there are many problems in a very wide range of areas. We have the questions of Mabo and Wik, the question of the authority of the High Court. We have the many movements that eat at the very heart of our country, including those that wish to change our Flag and those who wish to change our country to a Republic.

At the same time we have had the most unbelievable attack, with success, into our most sacred and fundamental plank – the family – the traditional family.

Let me speak briefly on each of these in turn:

Mabo and Wik: My reading of the Mabo decision has always made it clear to me that the question of land ownership by indigenous peoples in Australia specifically relate to long occupancy of the land in question and development of that land, for and by the group concerned. I would have thought, therefore, that this ruling would apply to very few, if indeed, any groups on mainland Australia. If that is so, it follows that the Wik decision is fallacious and perhaps is an aberration of certain members of the High Court, for the decision, which is so profound for Australia’s future, was made on a four/three majority vote. I find this astounding.

The High Court: Without a privy Council to refer judgements to for impartial opinion, we now have the High Court making decisions that are final, with appeal only to an international Court – the United Nations! On top of this, the judges of the High Court are stating that they are entitled to develop policy, that is, Australian law. I think many of us contest both of these propositions for I, for one, believe the law should only be developed by the elected parliaments of our nation. This bears a great deal more careful thought and consideration.

The Republic and our Flag: We will soon have a Constitutional Convention on the republican issue, and it is of vital importance that the Australian people and the RSL are aware of the issues involved. The republican movement has stated categorically that if we become a republic, God forbid, our present flag will be changed, as will the National Anthem. Let me be quite clear, I cannot agree with any of this: we love our flag, our anthem and the name of our country – Australia – and we must keep them.

In regard to the family, I am horrified, as I am sure you are, with the changes that have occurred in our society today. I suspect the rot set in when Lionel Murphy introduced changes to the divorce laws, and from this we now have a movement that has destroyed the dignity of the family as we know it.

The family that we have so carefully defined in our policy which, I remind you, calls on government, both State and Federal:

“... to acknowledge the existence of a core of cultural and traditional values which is shared by the majority of Australians and these include the concept of a traditional family – a man and a woman legally married to each other and living together with their children.”

By this we do NOT include “de facto relationships”, or “partners” as is the current jargon. We mean husbands and wives, we mean stable committed marriage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my answer to the question “what of the RSL into the 21st century – have we a role?” is simply that we have a massive role, we have a huge task ahead of us that I don’t think will ever be satisfied. We, the RSL, are needed as a voice of stability, we are needed today, perhaps more than ever, to not only look after the welfare of our veterans, but to look after and speak up on the welfare of our nation. Let me conclude with the magnificent quotation of Edward N. Luttwak, a military writer of the U.S. Centre for Strategic and International Studies, who wrote in November 1995 the following:

“Why are so many Americans so unhappy, in spite of life opportunities still so ample that they excite the envy of much of the world? All manner of plausible causes present themselves, but the master cause maybe the most elemental: *homo sapiens*, a familial animal like the wolf or hyena rather than solitary like the bear, is genetically unequipped to live without the emotional support of uncles, aunts, first cousins and second cousins, in addition to siblings, parents and children.

“Just as wolves and hyenas need frequent lickings and cuddlings to hunt successfully and survive, *homo sapiens* cannot maintain a tolerable level of serenity amid the vicissitudes of life without the resilient, many-sided support that only an entire panoply of relatives can provide. Parents and children suffice to hug each other, but any family celebration – or that necessary loan or gift – requires uncles and aunts, and while it might take a properly devoted second cousin to secure a job, first cousins complement siblings in good times and bad.

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The National President’s Address cont ...

... marriage and death, the much more frequent celebration of birthdays, ... anniversaries and seasonal feasts, as well as webs of less formal socialising, all service to keep the machinery of human families in (good) working order.

“That is how people live all over the world in village, town or city – but not in contemporary America, where the dislocations of a turbo-charged economy undergoing accelerated structural change, or merely the phenomenon (efflorescence) of a most extreme individualism, prevent the upkeep of families.”

There surely is a message for Australia in these words of Luttwak. I suspect we too are heading in the direction of America, for we too have many unhappy people of all ages in Australia today.

We in the RSL have much to do. Please keep going. WE ARE NEEDED. WE HAVE A ROLE, A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE FOR OUR VETERANS AND OUR COUNTRY.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to officially open the 1997 RSL State Conference of Western Australia.

God bless you all.
DIGGER JAMES

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Legacy expands its scope of support

For nearly seventy years Legacy in Western Australia has been dedicated to the welfare and support of the widows and children of deceased war veterans who took part in any of the operational campaigns in which Australia has been involved. These range from World War I though to the Gulf War and includes various peace-keeping operations.

This past year has seen a major change – a broadening of Legacy scope. Legacy now embraces the welfare and support of the widows and children of service personnel who have died as a result of hazardous service or in training accidents such as last year’s Black Hawk helicopter disaster in Townsville.

Perth and Fremantle Legacy have registered some 8,500 widows, including 334 from World War I as well as 90 children and disabled dependants. With current enrolments increasing in excess of 750 each year, the work of Legacy is by no means finished.

This year Legacy has an annual budget of $400,000, however aims to raise $500,000 to enable Legacy to continue its ongoing support and quality care of our ageing widows and their dependants.

Buy a Legacy Christmas Pudding and you could win a trip for 2 to Conrad Jupiters Casino

Once again, our quality puddings will be made locally by Mills and Wares (100% Australian-owned). This year we are selling an 800g pudding for $7.00, with each purchaser being eligible to enter a draw of a prize of a holiday for two – flying Qantas and enjoying five nights’ accommodation at Conrad Jupiters on the Gold Coast. (Meals are not included in this package.)

Individual puddings can be purchased from Home Building Society and ANZ Bank branches and Legacy House in South Perth and Fremantle. For orders of whole cartons (12 puddings) with free delivery throughout Western Australia, contact Terry Healy, Fundraising Officer, on (08) 9367 5799 or order by fax on (08) 9474 2528.

Legacy Military Auction

Our next Military Auction will be held at Legacy House, 64 Mill Point Road, South Perth on Sunday, October 26, commencing at 10.00am. Items of military memorabilia such as badges, swords, uniforms, buttons, medals, hats, war souvenirs, documents or any item you believe may be suitable should be delivered to Legacy House by Friday, October 17, where a receipt will be issued. Items sold at auction will directly benefit Legacy with 20% of the sale price going to Legacy with 80% to the vendor. It is most desirable that a reserve price be placed on each article.

It is believed that this auction will attract many military collectors, so please check your cupboards, drawers and garage for any item you believe suitable and support this project. Who knows – you may have a fortune in that old trunk and turn it into cash!!

INSPECTION TIMES:
SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 10.00am - 4.00pm
SUNDAY , OCTOBER 26 9.00am - 10.00am

For further information contact Terry Healy, Fundraising Officer, on (08) 9367 5799.
During the course of the 1997 State Congress Mr David Gibson (SO1) and Mr Andy Deville of the Medals Section, Central Army Records Office, provided an excellent presentation on the current situation regarding Military Honours and Awards.

This is an area in which Anzac House staff receive innumerable enquiries.

The following is a transcript of the presentation complete with other valuable information for veterans wishing to pursue enquiries related to medals entitlement and other related issues.

**Imperial System of Honours & Awards**

The Imperial system of Honours and Awards applied across many countries of the Commonwealth of Nations. Awards within this system were bestowed by the governments of each of those countries. In most cases, the elements comprising the Imperial system were regulated by Statutes, Royal Warrants or Regulations issued in the United Kingdom. Amongst other things, they provided for the designation, conditions of eligibility and ceremonial considerations associated with each award.

The Australian Government was entitled to make recommendations on altering or including matters in the Royal Warrants and did so on a few occasions. In addition two awards were instituted on the recommendation of the Australian Government, those being the Australia Service Medal 1939-45, for service in World War II and the Vietnam Medal.

The Imperial system of honours and awards consisted of operational and non-operational components.

**Operational Awards** – were made to service personnel and eligible civilians and included:
- awards for gallantry, distinguished service and meritorious service;
- campaign medals to recognise participation in a major campaign or theatre of war and general operation awards for minor campaigns; and

**Non Operational Awards** – were made to civilians and service personnel and included:
- awards for distinguished or meritorious service, published in half yearly honours lists; and
- awards made for bravery in peacetime, for special service and for long service and good conduct in the civil and military services.

**Australian System of Honours And Awards**

The Imperial system of honours and awards ceased when solely Australian awards were introduced by the Labour government and approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 14 February 1975.

The Honours consisted of the Order of Australia, The Companion, Officer, Member and Medal of the Order of Australia.

**Australian Bravery Decorations** – Australian bravery decorations approved at the same time to recognise acts of bravery consisted of the:
- Cross of Valour;
- Star of Courage;
- Bravery Medal; and
- Commendation for Brave Conduct.

The National Medal was also introduced on 14 February 1975 and replaced all Long Service Medals previously awarded to the armed forces, police, fire brigades and ambulance services. In 1982, the National Medal was discontinued to the armed forces and three new awards were promulgated:
- The Defence Force Service Medal;
- The Reserve Force Decoration; and
- The Reserve Force Medal.

Further changes occurred in September 1988 when the Australian Active Service Medal and the Australian Service Medal were instituted by the Queen.

The Australian Active Service Medal is awarded for service in a designated area of war, Kuwait and Somalia being the only two areas so far designated.

The Australian Service Medal is awarded for service in non-warlike operations with the United Nations or other peace keeping roles. A Clasp identifies the area for which the award is made. To date this medal has been approved for 16 areas – Uganda, West Sahara, Namibia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sinai, Middle East, Iran/Iraq, Iraq, Kuwait, Balkans, Peshawar, kashmir, Cambodia and recently for Guatemala.

**Conspicuous Service Decorations** – Conspicuous Service Decorations were instituted by the Queen in October 1989 and consisted of:
- the Conspicuous Service Cross; and
- the Conspicuous Service Medal.
These are to be awarded to members of the Australian Defence Forces to accord recognition for outstanding or meritorious achievement or devotion to duty in non-warlike situations.

**Gallantry Decorations** - Gallantry Decorations were instituted in January 1991 to recognise acts of gallantry in action or in circumstances similar to armed combat or actual operations.

The Victoria Cross for Australia was instituted by the Queen on 15 January 1991 and is the highest award for according recognition to persons who, in the presence of the enemy, perform acts of the most conspicuous gallantry, or daring or pre-eminent acts of valour or self sacrifice or display extreme devotion to duty. Other Gallantry Decorations consisted of:

- The Star of Gallantry;
- The Medal For Gallantry; and
- The Commendation for Gallantry.

At the same time two Unit Citations were introduced to recognise gallantry in action or outstanding service in prescribed warlike operations in situations where it would be appropriate to recognise collectively the performance by all members of a unit. These unit citations are:

- The Unit Citation for Gallantry; and
- The Meritorious Unit Citation.

**Distinguished Service Decorations** - in 1991 Distinguished Service Decorations were introduced to recognise distinguished Command or Leadership in action or a distinguished performance of duties in a warlike operation. These awards are:

- The Distinguished Service Cross;
- The Distinguished Service Medal; and
- The Commendation for Distinguished Service.

The Committee appointed for Stage 1 had a strong sense of obligation to do justice to the quality of service that has been rendered by the Defence Force personnel of this country. It became apparent to the committee that the depth of feeling expressed by some about the lack of recognition through not receiving an award or medal, stems from a general sense that society had failed to appreciate, or acknowledge, the sacrifices these people made in the service of the nation.

**CIDA Recommendations**

In its report dated 10 March 1994, CIDA recommended, amongst other things:

- the establishment of an Australian Service medal 1945-75, to recognise service in a prescribed peacekeeping or non-warlike operation for the period from 1945-75 where recognition had not extended previously through an award; for example, Japan, Thai/Malaya Border, Ubon, PNG, Kashmir, West New Guinea, Middle East etc.
- eligibility for the 1939/45 Star for those service personnel who served in Darwin at the time of the Japanese air raids between April 1942 and November 1943; and
- Eligibility for the Africa Star for the Syrian Campaign.

It must be remembered that eligibility for CIDA awards are assessed by Navy, Army and RAAF but approved by the Governor General. Once approved, the medals are issued to the relevant services for engraving and issue.

**Government Medals Initiative**

The current Federal Government, after broad consultation with the ex-service community, found that there were a number of outstanding questions which were not covered by CIDA and needed to be addressed. In late 1996 the Minister for Defence industries, Science and Personnel announced the following:

- reduction of qualifying period for the Australia Service Medal 1939-45 from 18 months to 30 days. This will allow many veterans who were able only to enlist for shorter periods, such as those cut short by the end of the war, the opportunity to qualify for the ASM 39-45.
- extension of eligibility to the 1939-45 Star to include ground and air crew personnel who were based in the UK during World War II outside the Battle of Britain period in 1940, and to these Australians who served overseas but due to the end of the war did not complete the qualifying period of six months. For VDC personnel,
Imperial System of Honours and Awards (Medals) cont ...

the 3 year qualifying period is reduced to 90 days for PTD service and 30 days for FTD service.

- The Australian Service medal 1945-75 – The Government extended the CIDA recommendations by issuing the ASM 45-75, plus the appropriate Clasp, to Australian personnel who served overseas between 1945 and 1975.

These included:

- Berlin Airlift Personnel – Air and ground personnel between 26 June 1948 and 30 September 1948, with Berlin Clasp.
- BCOF – Australian service personnel who served for 30 days or more between 1 July 1947 and 28 April 1952, with Clasp Japan.
- Korea – personnel allotted for duty in Korea for 30 days or more between 28 July 1953 and 26 August 1957.
- New Guinea – Australian service personnel who served for 30 days or more from the conclusion of World War II until Independence in 1975. This is with Clasp PNG.
- Far East Strategic Reserve – Australian service personnel posted to those ships of the RAN formally allotted or assigned to, and participating in, the Far East Strategic Reserve, who served for 30 days or more between 2 July 1955 to 30 October 1971 with FESR Clasp.
- South West Pacific Area – Awarded to those Army personnel who served for 30 days in the SW Pacific area, other than in Papua and New Guinea, in the Netherlands Indies, Portuguese Timor, Sarawak, Brunei, British Borneo, Philippine Islands, Solomon Islands, Nauru and Ocean Islands, Burma, Malaya and Singapore, and including all islands and waters forming part of those territories during the period that commenced on 3 September 1945 and ended on 24 November 1946 and for RAAF personnel who served on operations on Morotai between 3 September 1945 and 10 July 1948. With Clasp SW Pacific.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Unclaimed Medals

Approximately 40,000 World War II Army veterans have never claimed their medals. This works out at around 160,000 unclaimed medals. Please encourage your members to apply to SCMA or RAN or RAAF if they have never received their medals.

Confirmation of Medal Entitlement

A new Tri-Service medals application form is available at most RSLs. Use these to request any medals you think you may have an entitlement to. Suggest you apply direct to the Medal Office of the service organisation you belonged to. Their addresses are shown on the form.

Forfeited Medals

Those ex-service Army personnel who forfeited their entitlement to medals, for whatever reason, should be encouraged to apply to have those medals restored.

Replacement of Medals

Medals, once issued, come the responsibility of the owner. Army will replace lost medals once only and only to the original recipient of those medals. If the original recipient is deceased the medals cannot be replaced.

Official Medals

There are many companies and individuals around today offering veterans and their families the opportunity to buy commemorative medals of one sort or another. These are not official Defence awards. Any medal you are required to pay for is not an official Defence medal. Medals issued by the Government of Australia through its service organisations are issued free of charge.

Copies of Service records

Any serving or ex service member of the ADF may apply for copies of their own service records. No cost is associated with this request.

The address to write to for these records are as follows:

Army: Soldier Career Management Agency
CARO
GPO Box 393D
Melbourne VIC 3001

Navy: Department of Defence (Navy HQ)
DSCM (SOR)
D-2-24
Russell offices
Canberra ACT 2600

RAAF: Discharged personnel Records (Air Force)
Air Force HQ
Department of Defence
Russell Offices
Canberra ACT 2600
VVTEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Vietnamese Veterans Trust Education Assistance Scheme (VVTEAS) provides help with the cost of post-secondary education for selected veterans' children. Each year, the scheme offers a limited number of new grants of $3,500 per annum. The grants are paid for the whole of the approved course if some simple conditions are met.

To be eligible to be considered for a VVTEAS grant a person must be:
- The child of a Vietnam veteran and under the age of 25 when applying;
- Enrolled in, or planning to enrol in, a full-time, post secondary course in Australia at up to the first employment qualification level;
- Within the VVTEAS means test.

For VVTEAS, the veteran must have been in Australian Army, Navy or Air Force on service in or near Vietnam during that war. The child can be natural or adopted. A step-child is eligible under prescribed conditions. There is only one VVTEAS award allowed from amongst the children of the same veteran.

The course chosen must not be for a higher degree or for post-graduate study and must be of one or more academic year's duration. Courses may be at University, TAFE, business college, or a recognised private institution. A proportion of each year's grants are set aside for students planning vocational studies.

EX-POW ASSOCIATION

Memorial Adoption Ceremony

Mount Lawley Senior High School students have undertaken to adopt the Associations' Memorial in Kings Park and, on Friday 13 June 1997, I was privileged to represent the State President at the initial Memorial Adoption Ceremony.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event with a commemorative service held on the second Friday each June.

The students conducted the service, music was provided by the school band and head girl Tammy Ellis read a poem, Remember Then, which she had composed for the occasion.

The ceremony was most impressive, and I am sure that, with students from our High Schools becoming involved in such activities, we can rest with the knowledge that Memorials of this type will not be lost to the passing of time. We now know that the younger generation will always remember and will say with pride.

"THEIR SERVICE OUR HERITAGE"

GEOFF TANNER

The VVTEAS means test is eligibility on financial grounds for Austudy.

Only a limited number of VVTEAS grants are made each year and there are other requirements for selection. Those selected are the most deserving candidates of merit. The scheme seeks to encourage courses which will help Veterans' children to gain satisfying employment or enter rewarding careers. From those eligible, who meet the academic and other requirements of their chosen course, those in the most financial need are favoured.

Since the scheme started in late 1990, 1518 have applied and 176 grants have been made. These are enabling veterans' children throughout Australia to undertake full-time education which they may not have been otherwise able to attempt or complete without real financial difficulty.

Applications open on 1 September and close on 31 October. More information is available from:

Vietnam Veterans' Trust
PO Box K978, Haymarket  NSW 1240
Voice Mail: 1800 620 361
Tel: 02 9281 7077, Fax: 02 9281 9164
E-mail: vvt@accsoft.com.au
Internet: http://stc@nepean.uws.edu.au/VVT

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Mundaring, W.A. 6073
VETERANS’ HEALTH WEEK

Veterans’ Health Week is on again! DVA, ex-service organisations and community agencies have got together to arrange a range of activities that go on before and after the official week. The week starts on 12 October and activities go through spring and into summer.

‘Enjoying Life’ is the theme of the Week. So come along and join in a game of botanic golf or go on a historical walk. There’s bowls, nine holes of golf and much more. Veterans, war widow(ers), and your family, friends and carers are all invited.

Calendar of Events

**September**
- **Tuesday 23**
  - Carpet Bowls – 2/2nd Commandos – Mandurah
  - Ph: Paddy 9534 3223
- **Thursday 25**
  - Walk around East Perth
  - Ph: George 9271 1501 or Geoff 9367 1945

**October**
- **Wednesday 1**
  - Gala Dance – Mandurah
  - Ph: Len 9535 6186
- **Wednesday 8**
  - Bowls – Forrest Park
  - Ph: Bernie 9457 5620
- **Thursday 9**
  - Launch & Garden Party
  - Government House
  - Ticket holders only
  - Ph: Gaynor 9366 8341
- **Friday 10**
  - Trots – Gloucester Park
  - Ph: Terry 9339 2166
- **Monday 13**
  - Golf – Corvettes – Hammersley
  - Ph: Terry 9339 2166 or Ben 9444 3762
- **Thursday 16**
  - Red Cross Tea Dance – Hollywood Hospital
  - Ph: Catherine or Jayma 9346 6716

**November**
- **Sunday 2**
  - RSL Bowls – Claremont
  - Ph: D. Edward 9386 1705
- **Friday 14**
  - Diggers Day Lawn Bowls – Armadale
  - Ph: Chris 9399 6890 or Reg 9450 5852

Register an event for Veterans’ Health Week.
Do you have an activity or series of activities that are fun, stimulating, interesting, historical, social or would help people get together to try something new and make new friends?
If you have an activity or event that would fit in with the Veterans’ health week theme of ‘Enjoying Life’, we’d love to hear from you.
C’mon, register an event, Now!
Contact GAYNOR, Community Health Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Ph: 9366 8341

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60 Simpson Drive, PADBURY WA 6025
$1.6 Million Memorial Complex

Australia's ex-POWs, conscripted to work on the Burma-Thailand Death Railway, are to be remembered by a new memorial complex. Funded entirely by the Australian Government, construction is presently underway at Hellfire Pass, in the River Kwai region of Thailand. Anzac Day 1998 is currently being planned for the Official Opening.

Some 250 Australian visitors and expatriates, now living in Thailand, attended a first peg-driving ceremony held on Anzac morning this year. Ex-POWs assisted Air Vice Marshal Alan Heggen AO, FRAeS (who has recently retired as Director of the Australian War Graves Office, Canberra) on this special occasion.

Many of the visitors had, in the days preceding, walked part of the trail now running on the disused rail bed, from Hellfire Pass to beyond the former Hintok station site. Queenslander Rod Beattie, the local Project Manager for the Museum, and his wife, have cleared over 11 kms of the track during the past 3 years, by hand. Rod, an engineer by profession, is also Superintendent of the Commonwealth War Cemeteries at Kanchanaburi and Chungkai.

1998 Pilgrimage

Ex-POW Bill Toon, of Victoria, has arranged Anzac Day Pilgrimages to Hellfire Pass each year, since 1987. For 1998, Bill's program will include special features:

- Attendance at both the Dawn Service (hopefully to be followed by the inauguration of the new Museum) and the Memorial Service, at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.
- Inspection of the displays in the Museum.
- A walk along the former rail route from Hintok to Hellfire.
- Extended time at Wampo Viaduct – an engineering feat.
- Full train ride from Namtok to River Kwai Bridge.
- Accommodation at the brand new Baiyoke Sky, Bangkok (at 94 floors, the world's tallest hotel), and the five star Felix River Kwai Resort.

The Pilgrimage will depart from Perth on both 18 and 20 April. It is inclusive of Thai International air travel, accommodation, breakfasts, 4 lunches and touring. Share twin room prices are from a low $1340 per person. An extension is also available to the War Cemeteries in neighbouring Burma (Myanmar). The program may be obtained by simply contacting World Holidays (licence 31677) – Freecall 1 800 813331 or fax (03) 9614 7027.

Listening Post – SPRING 1997 – Page 19
CHINESE AUSTRALIANS AMONG THOSE WHO HELPED TO FORGE THE ANZAC LEGEND

William (Billy) Sing served with the 5th Light Horse Brigade at Gallipoli and won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Croix de Guerre for 'conspicuous gallantry' and courage as a sniper.

But, legally, he should not have been in the forces. He had a Chinese father. This meant that under the 190 Commonwealth Defence Act, Billy Sing was ineligible for service in the AIF.

The Act amended military and naval regulations to exclude those not of substantially European descent. However, many Chinese Australians served their country despite the discrimination, usually because they did not look 'predominantly Asian'.

This led to some family members being accepted for service and others rejected.

In 1916 George Kong-Meng travelled to the recruiting depot at the Melbourne Town Hall. He received a certificate with the words: “not substantially of European origin”.

George Kong-Meng was born in Victoria in 1877. His father was a British subject who was born in Penang and arrived in Australia in 1854, and his mother was born in Tasmania in 1854. He had received six years of military training with the Victorian Rifles and the 8th Australian Light Horse. George’s brother was serving with the 1st Australian Division.

In 1994 in an adjournment speech, Queensland National Party senator Bill O’Chee spoke about this discrimination in an attempt to gain recognition for the part Australian Chinese had played in serving their country.

"Despite these regulations many ethnic Chinese did enlist in the AIF, and their heroism and bravery and sacrifice showed them to be truly the stuff of which the Anzac legend was made," Senator O’Chee said.

Lionel Nomchong, a World War II veteran is one of a group of Chinese Australian veterans who recently held a reunion in Sydney. Lionel enlisted in the Australian Army at Goulburn, NSW, in August 1940, and served in various positions until his discharge in 1945. He was a Warrant Officer Class 1. This picture was taken shortly after he enlisted.

Senator O’Chee recounted the records of Chinese Australian Anzacs, among them Private Caleb Shang, a North Queenslander who won the DCM and Bar as well as the Military Medal.

Under the 1909 regulations, Caleb Shang should not have served either and the clause remained in place until the 1950s. But despite this, many Chinese Australians enlisted in World War II.

They served in all branches of the services – from fighter pilots like Squadron Leader Roy Goon to sailors like Bo Liu and member of the elite Z Force, Jack Sue. Many who were rejected for the armed forces joined the Australian Merchant Marine.

The exclusion clause was dropped following public outrage when Squadron Leader Roy Goon, with an outstanding war record as a fighter pilot, was told he could not serve in the multinational peace-keeping force in Japan because he “looked too Asian”.

From then on, Chinese Australians could legally serve their country in the defence forces, a duty they accepted in subsequent conflicts in Korea and in Vietnam.

In 1989 Morag Loh and Judith Winternitz interviewed and documented the experiences of Chinese Australians who had served in the defence forces in their book Dinky Di: The contributions of Chinese immigrants and Australians of Chinese descent to Australia’s defence forces and war efforts 1899 – 1988, which was published for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Their book was the catalyst for the first reunion of Australian Chinese ex-service men and women which was held at the Chinese Cultural Club in Sydney early in 1996.

Those who attended the first reunion were: Kate Quan who served in the WAAF in World War II; Lionel Nomchong, Les Young, Keith Ah
Pictured at the Sydney reunion of Chinese veterans is Lionel Nomchong today (centre) with his two sons Gregory (left) and David, both of whom were national serviemen between 1970 and 1972.

Chee, Harry Young, Colin Young, Reg Long, Stan Bing On who served in the AIF in World War II; Bo Liu who was in the RAN, World War II; Ray Kim, Abbie Yum, Tom Cheong, Gilbert Jan, Les Kum Jew, Jack Goon who were in the RAAF, World War II; William Young who served in Korea; and Paul Yeun who was in the RAN, Vietnam.

Brothers Greg and David Nomchong, sons of Lionel, who were both national servicemen from 1970 to 1972 also attended, as did other family members of the veterans.

For more information contact Gilbert Jan on (02) 9905 3630.

COURTESY: VETAFFAIRS.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**BATTLES OF GREECE AND CRETE**

On Monday 19 May 1997, representatives from the following organisations, plus wives and lady friends, travelled by coach to Margaret River:

- 2/3 Field Regiment (10 people);
- 11th and 2/11th battalion (12);
- 2/7th Field Ambulance (4);
- Thirtyiners' Association (4);
- Highgate Sub-Branch (3);
- Greek Australian RSL (7) and the Cretan Brotherhood (2), plus Father Stylianos and his wife, Mr & Mrs Ken Johnson and Mr Theo Economou from the Greek Press.

Highgate members Peter Hummerston RFD and John Low represented the Warden, Deputy Warden and Sub-Wardens of the State War Memorial.

Mr Theodore Tsakiris, the Greek Consul, and the Cretan brotherhood were responsible for arranging the service and the overall organiser was the Greek Vice Consul, Mr Euthymios Mexis.

Members of the Margaret River RSL also attended the service in the Chapel, just west of the township, and a delightful hot meal was later served in the hall.

The Consul welcomed guests and thanked the volunteer helpers. Further speeches were made by representatives from the various organisations.

It was unfortunate that, due to ill health, Geoff Edwards was unable to attend; he and his wife Beryl were responsible for funding and building the Chapel and donating it. Members of the Margaret River Sub-Branch help with its care and maintenance.

It is hoped that this function will become an annual event.

PETER HUMMERSTON RFD
Memories of World War II came flooding back when the nuclear-powered Royal Navy submarine HMS Trenchant berthed at HMAS Stirling on July 7 for a 10 day visit.

Today's air-conditioned, deep-diving, nuclear-powered 5200 tonne HMS Trenchant is a far cry from her predecessor, the wartime Trenchant, a 1575 tonne submarine which wrote her name into naval history while based at Fremantle as a unit of the British 4th Submarine Flotilla between 1944-45.

It was the first Trenchant, commanded by Commander Arthur Hezlet, DSO, RN, which hit and sank the 13,000 tonne Imperial Japanese navy heavy cruiser Ashigara with five torpedo hits in the entrance to the Banka Strait near Sumatra on 8 June, 1945, at a range of 4000 yards.

Ashigara, which was escorted by a destroyer, was steaming at 22 knots and heading for the open sea crammed with troops, capsized and sank in a cloud of steam in a matter of minutes. This effectively removed the last serviceable Japanese cruiser from the area on the eve of the Australian landings in Borneo.

Described as "one of the most brilliant attacks of the War", this exploit saw Commander Hazlet awarded a bar to his DSO and the Legion of Merit by the Americans - the highest honour the USA can bestow on a foreign commander.

Not only was Ashigara the largest enemy warship sunk by a Royal Navy submarine in any theatre during the war, but it was also the last major submarine action of World War II.

A previous major success by the first HMS Trenchant was torpedoing and sinking the German submarine U-859 in the entrance to Penang Harbour on 23 September 1944. This escapade, with a Japanese boom defence vessel only a couple of hundred yards away, created a great deal of anxiety and panic with the Japanese military!

She also despatched a number of Japanese vessels by gunfire with her 4-inch gun, including special minesweeper No. 105, a Japanese army-manned schooner, and in company with her sister HMS Terrapin, submarine chaser No. 5.

Commissioned in 1944 and spending the war in the Far East, the first Trenchant was broken-up at Faslane, Scotland, in 1963 with the new Trenchant being laid down 21 years later in 1984.

Inheriting the battle Honours for Malaya 1944-45, the new Trenchant was launched on 3 November 1986 with Vice Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet KBE CB DSO and Bar, the captain of the wartime Trenchant, present. The submarine was commissioned into service on 14 January 1989 as the fifth of the Royal Navy's Trafalgar-class submarines.

Today's Trenchant, commanded by Commander David Forbes RN, took part in the annual Australian-sponsored anti-submarine exercise "Lungfish '97" off the WA coast after departing from HMAS Stirling.

Other submarines in the exercise were HMAS Onslow and the United States Navy's USS Cavalla, P3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft of the RAAF and the USAF, along with Royal Navy helicopters.

A further link with the past was the fact that HMAS Stirling - Fleet Base West - had seven submarines alongside prior to "Lungfish '97", the largest number of submarines seen in Western Australia since 1945.

Alongside were: HMAS Collins, HMAS Onslow, HMS Trenchant, HMS Trafalgar, USS Cavalla, the alongside training submarine Owens and Orion laid-up in reserve. It was also the first time that Fleet units from these three Allied navies had been present at HMAS Stirling at one time.

Between 1942-45 the Port of Fremantle was the largest Allied submarine base in the Southern Hemisphere, hosting US Navy and Royal Netherlands Navy submarines from 1942 and Royal Navy submarines from 1944 until the end of the war. More than 170 Allied submarines made war patrols from Fremantle, sadly some never to return.

Pictured outside his headquarters at HMAS Stirling, the Commander of the Australian Submarine Squadron, Captain Peter Clarke RAN (right) presents a framed photograph of the first HMS Trenchant entering Fremantle in 1945 to the Commanding Officer of today's Trenchant, Commander David Forbes RN, to commemorate the occasion of the submarine's first visit to the waters her predecessor knew so well.
Minister Opens Hollywood

At the official opening of the redeveloped Hollywood Private Hospital were, from left, Mr Paul Ramsay, Chairman of Ramsay Health Care Australia, the Hon Bruce Scott, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Hon Richard Court, Premier of Western Australia and Mr Roger Snell, Executive Director of Hollywood Private Hospital.

The newly-developed Hollywood Private Hospital was absolute proof of a successful partnership between the Federal Government and Ramsay Health Care, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Scott, said today.

Opening the redevelopment, which included new entrance and admission areas and an extra 122 beds in single room ensuite configurations, Mr Scott said the partnership had been built on a shared commitment to providing veterans and their families with the best health care available.

"Hollywood’s management and staff are, and have always been, committed and dedicated to the care and wellbeing of veterans and war widows," Mr Scott said.

"Tradition, commitment and innovation remain the hallmarks of Hollywood, while the interests of the veteran community continue to guide the development of the hospital, demanding standards second to none.

"It occurs to me now, as I stand here at the opening of this stage of the redevelopment, that these wonderful new facilities are, in their own way, a tangible testament to our veterans.

"They are a most practical response to our duty to remember, and to continue to serve those Australians who served their country and those Australian families who supported them."

Mr Scott acknowledged the WA RSL and the WA Treatment Monitoring Committee, who represent a number of key ex-service organisations, for their support, advice and encouragement during the Hospital’s redevelopment.

Five-star welcome in new building

Hollywood Private Hospital now has the look of a five-star resort, but with the benefits of a large, acute-care private teaching hospital.

Architects Silver Thomas Hanley have designed a hospital quite unlike any other in Western Australia.

The three-storey atrium lobby – with its open balconies, palm trees, water feature and large artwork – creates a hotel-like atmosphere for patients, visitors and staff.

According to Silver Thomas Hanley Architects Director Rod Mollett, the emphasis is on a quiet elegance.

“We have achieved a delightful environment, using quality surface finishes, subdued colour, concealed lighting, understated landscaping and water features,” Mr Mollett said.

“We wanted the lobby to be as interesting and welcoming as possible – and we feel this has been achieved.

Ward areas have also been designed to give the hospital a hotel-like atmosphere.

“The exterior of the hospital reflects a University style of architecture which fits in well with the residential nature of the Nedlands streetscape and maintains a harmonious relationship with the existing buildings.”

Mr Mollett said the hospital’s new entry provided a distinctive focal point and resolves a long-standing problem for campus occupying 29 acres of land.

The new foyer of Hollywood Private Hospital is impressive.
ATTACK ON HILL 710
WEENAK 14 TO 27 MAY 1945

A personal account of this operation as experienced by B.S. (Ben) O'Dowd, follows:

I have L.J. Williams' account of the attack in his excellent, well-researched paper in the Battalion history and have no argument about what he has written. However, to my knowledge, there is no eye witness account of the action which took place during this period and my intention is to expand on his work. There is one correction I must make before going any further. On page 167 Lou states that Bayly only had one officer left at the end of the attack, Syd Snow. Syd had been a D Company platoon commander in the past but at the time of the 710 action he was with John Mott in B Company. During the 710 attack I was awarded a Field Commission and was the only Lieutenant in D Company, albeit a very raw one.

In this operation I commanded 17 Platoon, D Company of 2/11th Battalion. Officially I was the Company Sergeant Major, but a few weeks earlier the previous commander of 17 Platoon, Lieutenant Abbott, was promoted to Captain and appointed to Second in Command. To replace Abbott, the Officer Commanding D Company, Captain Bayly, instructed me to take over his platoon. 17 platoon was recognised as a very good outfit, carefully trained and nurtured by the conscientious Bill Abbott. It had a highly developed spirit of mateship, so essential where men are required to share dangerous situations.

On the afternoon of the first attempt to take the feature we marched to the foot of 710 where Bayly informed me that 17 Platoon was to lead the attack. We had no information about the enemy strength on the objective and, to gain some ideas of what we were up against, the commander of the nearby native unit, John Godwin, brought two of his trusted New Guinea scouts along to reconnoitre 710. (Godwin and I have maintained a close friendship to this day.) After a lot of jabbering in pidgin the boys dropped their lap-laps and took off. In a matter of seconds they were back and from the ensuing chatter I learned the problem was the noise made by our soldiers' boots. I sat everyone down, imposed a silence and the boys proceeded with the reconnaissance. After what seemed like an eternity the scouting party returned to be thoroughly interrogated by Godwin. One did not require a comprehensive knowledge of pidgin to get the message they had for us:

"Ed belong this fella hill how many Japaniman e stop?"
"Too many Japaniman e stop ed belong this fella hill."

This destroyed my hopes for a cardboard pushover. I assumed "too many" to mean they ran out of fingers and toes.

I had an artillery FOO (Forward Observation Officer), so the next problem was to register supporting fire. The difficulty with registering guns in the jungle was that by the time we had the target visual we were on top of it so the FOOs resorted to the unreliable procedure of sound ranging, as opposed to observing fall of shot. I patrolled the platoon up the narrow ridge leading to 710 until I estimated we were close enough for ranging and sent for the FOO. He went through the ranging procedure until we considered it was as close to the target as we were going to get it. I then pulled the platoon back and arranged it in attack formation, bayonets fixed and waited for the guns to fire for effect. When the FOO advised "Last rounds on the way" I got the platoon on their feet and they charged up the hill until brought to a halt by an unexpected obstacle.

The artillery had done an excellent job except that the 25-pounder shells had landed between the enemy and our start line, smashing treetops, strewing the ridge with debris and laying a tangled obstacle in our path. The men ignored the fire and took many casualties trying to scramble over and through this mess but it was an impossible task right under Japanese fire. I put them to ground to work out the next step.

From this position we had a good observation of the objective. The ridge we were climbing ran forward to a knob on the north end of 710 then turned 90 degrees to the right and for 50 to a 100 yards was a bare, flat stretch disappearing into a jungle edge...

Those were the days before radio communications to platoon level and we employed the trusty old platoon runner to get messages through. My runner was a soldier by the name of Wally Pearce and I told him to go back and advise the OC of my problem and that I needed the FOO back to register again before we could make another attempt. (Met Pearce some years later in Japan and he reminded me of this unwelcome order.) Wally backed apprehensively away, trying to make himself as inconspicuous as possible. In response the OC and the FOO came forward to take a look at the situation. The gunner registered again and, having little trouble adjusting his shot from the previous registration, put one right on the nose. It was now getting towards late afternoon and too close to dark to attempt another attack: Well do I remember Bayly's comforting words;

"Get a good night's rest O'Dowd and do it again in the morning."

It can be recorded as one of my worst night's rest.
Early next morning we were back at the obstacle course area, deployed with bayonets fixed and ready for another attack. The gunner opened fire and blasted the objective with a very comforting, thundering barrage. When the FOO advised "Last rounds on the way," the diggers charged up the towards the objective and to our surprise did not draw fire from that direction but from the jungle line across the gully. To avoid the barrage the Japanese had retreated to the safety of the wooded area to wait it out. Now they were firing on us from there while some were attempting to make their way back to their weapons pits on the knob. At this stage 17 platoon were only part on the objective and taking heavy casualties from the enemy while returning fire to keep the Japanese back in the timber line. I saw that it was safe to approach the objective via the brow of the feature on our left and shouted for 16 platoon to come through by that route. For whatever reason they started to come up on our right and under the enemy fire across the gully. It was at this time that 16 Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Harding, was shot in the lung and subsequently died. I yelled to get 16 Platoon shifted and they swung across to the covered approach, successfully making it to the north end of 710 and the two platoons were connected. Captain Bayly came through with 16 Platoon (with Harding killed he probably took it over) and called 18 Platoon forward to make the company complete on the objective.

From their position of advantage in cover from the jungle edge, the enemy had an excellent clear field of fire and continued to harass with intense fire at any movement or exposure by D Company. Bren gunners and riflemen returned fire whenever they thought they had a target. Two-inch mortar bombs were sent down at low angle trajectory but still the enemy fire did not slacken. Out on the right flank either Paddy O’Niell or Pat Winter was alongside a tree and doing an effective job sending grenades into the timber from an EY rifle. Unfortunately he poked his head around once too often and took a bullet in the face. The enemy attention made it impossible to put weapon pits down and with night approaching the company was in a very vulnerable position.

It was at this time that the battle took a dramatic turn. Inexplicably, enemy fire ceased, and an eerie silence settled over the contested ground. The Diggers, curious as to what was going on, began to look around and half stand to better study this unexpected situation. Then it came! From out of the timber arose a blood curdling scream of "Banzai, Banja!" and a line of Japanese soldiers, bayonets fixed, charged us down the intervening stretch of ground. They were led by a sword wielding officer, everyone gave him one, then settled down to killing off the remainder, some men kneeling, some standing, pouring fire into the advancing line. I remember out on the left flank, Joe Middleton, a recognised good shot, standing in full view having the time of his life pumping rounds. Some Japanese actually made it into our forward defences before toppling over dead. Now the irony of the situation was clear; we had laboured away unsuccessfully for two days to get at these Japanese and now they offered themselves up.

The enemy let it be known that the banzai had not expended all their resources and made their presence felt. However, at this time their attention was less serious and we were able to consolidate the feature; weapon pits down, reserve ammunition brought by the acting CSM, Jim Stuart, casualties evacuated etc. The casualty evacuation down the steep, narrow track was a major task which went on all night. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Green, arrived to check the situation out and consult with the OC.

The night passed quietly with only one incident worth reporting. On the objective there was a small attic hut with a three-leg stool in it. During the night a Japanese soldier paddled down to no man's land, passed between our forward pits and into the hut and sat on the stool. The men in the pits were so astounded by this arcane conduct they did not challenge. The Japanese soldier shuffled around in the hut with a 16 Platoon man tracking him with an Owen gun; eventually the Jap gave his position away by breaking wind and a short burst did the job.

Next morning it was clear that the enemy had reinforced his position and once again any movement or exposure received instant attention. Colin Bayly now had a stand-off on his hands; the Japs had demonstrated the penalty for unsupported frontal attacking, but we were too close to the enemy for substantial artillery preparation. We settled down to a protracted period of patrolling. For a few days the company was reinforced by a platoon from B Company, commanded by Lieutenant Danny Ryan, positioned on our right front. However, when it became evident the enemy did not intend to go on the offensive, this platoon was withdrawn.

Three or four days after the attack I was instructed to report to the CO at Battalion Headquarters. Assembling a small patrol we descended to the coast area where the headquarters was located. The Adjutant, Ted Byers, paraded me to the CO who told me I was to be interviewed regarding a commission and took me to Divisional Headquarters where I was ushered into the presence of Major General Jacky Stevens. Following the preliminaries the conversation went like this:

"What did you do before the war?"
"I worked underground on the Norseman Goldfields sir."
"What did you actually do?"
"I was a bogger sir."
"What is a bogger?"
A miner who works with a shovel sir."
"You mean you were a labourer."
"Yes sir."
ATTACK ON HILL 710
WEWAK 14 TO 27 MAY 1945 cont ...

"What is your educational background?"
"Very little. I left school at fourteen sir."
"What Army Education Corps courses have you done?"
"None sir."
"You've done absolutely nothing to improve yourself?"
"No sir."
"You can go, O'Dowd."

Following this embarrassing interview I wrote myself off for a commission and looked forward to resuming my CSM duties, where I was very comfortable. However, some days later whilst still on 710, I was to discover that my contribution to the attack had gained me a commission in spite of the poor impression I must have made on the good general. I did not know it then but this promotion was to start me on a 34-year military career, irrevocably altering the course of my whole life. Incidentally I met Jacky Stevens at a Signal Corps function 20 years later and introduced myself as an officer he had created in Wewak. He studied me quietly for a while and I got the distinct impression he did not regard this as one of the great achievements of his career.

Back on the hill the stand-off continued with the enemy having the initiative from a position of excellent concealment and uninhibited observation of our every move in the forward pits. The main problem came from tree snipers, particularly one located in a tall forest tree. Fortunately they were generally poor shots but you never knew when one of them might get lucky. A number of counter-measures were tried to flush them out, including creeping Vickers fire from base to tree top but to no avail. Captain Vane Green, a very serious ex school teacher, remembered that he had read somewhere that a method of detecting tree snipers was to lie on one’s back and stare up into the branches. He selected a spot just outside the perimeter and settled in for a long wait. Within minutes a shot rang out flicking bark off a tree uncomfortably close to his head. Vane quickly sought a less exciting occupation.

Patrolling became a regular activity in search of some way to get at our enemy but reports only confirmed that he knew about all round defence in depth.

One patrol Bayly sent me on was to discover the snipers’ secret. I took about a dozen men and one of Godwin’s native scouts and dropped over the east side of the hill. We worked our way around the flank until the patrol was just below the Japanese position and climbed to where we could see the edge of the enemy defences. There I turned the New Guinea boy loose to take a closer look. On return he guided me to where climbing spikes could be seen running up the back of a large tree. There was no way a man could be observed climbing the tree and little of him would be visible while he monitored our activities or when he decided to take a shot.

The remarkable capacity of these native boys to operate in enemy territory was demonstrated when our scout produced a bandoleer of rifle ammunition he had stolen from a Japanese weapon pit. Imagine the consternation of the Japanese soldier as he searched for his ammunition!

All this was not helping Colin Bayly’s problem; we still had not taken Hill 710. We sat on one end and shared with the Japanese on the other. The answer to attacking lay in close follow up to a massive artillery preparation. However, the company was too close to the enemy position to use artillery without being included in the beaten zone of such a barrage, but that was just what Colonel Green decided we should do.

The gunners were brought up to register a divisional target which included D Company’s forward weapons pits. This would not have been a difficult task as our present Defensive Fire Tasks already included the enemy position. A couple of the forward weapon pits were strengthened and reinforced with overhead cover to convert them into bunkers from which the Bren gun crews could command the bare stretch separating us from the enemy. The plan was for the Company to surreptitiously drop just below the brow of the hill in the pre-dawn dark, leaving the Bren gun crews in the bunkers to hold the fort while the artillery did its job. Then, moving fast to take advantage of the post barrage confusion, the Company was to attack. To hold our ground during the attack 7 Platoon of A Company, under Lieutenant John Korner, was brought in to occupy it until the consolidation phase.

The day before the attack Bayly issued orders for laying on this delicate operation. Obviously it was imperative that the evacuation of our defences be conducted without the enemy becoming aware of our intention. Response to the barrage had to be immediate and the momentum of the attack maintained until the enemy was completely overrun. The attack was to be executed by 18 Platoon with 17 Platoon following up to support as necessary. 16 Platoon was uncommitted at this stage.

The day before the attack Colin Bayly had two major problems. For some days he had been suffering from a badly infected hand which had now reached the unbearable stage. Bad timing as it was the doctor had to be called in to provide some relief. The second problem was not so easy to fix. The night before the attack was due to go in the 18 Platoon Commander became unavailable to lead them. With 18 Platoon critical to the operation it was imperative an officer be found to take them in. Bayly met this problem by bringing Captain Bill Abbott back to lead 18 Platoon during the attack.

Next morning the attack got under way exactly as planned. The platoons silently stole from the defensive
APPOINTMENT OF NEW ADVOCATE

Department of Veterans’ Affairs funding has enabled the League to re-appoint a full-time advocate to assist veterans with appeals to the Veterans’ Review Board (VRB).

Mrs Margot Harness (RSL Pensions Officer throughout 1994/95) now occupies the position, relieving Mr Norm Johnston who has been maintaining the office as a part-time volunteer for some time.

Please give Margot a call on (08) 9325 9799 if you require assistance.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Association (WA) Inc
c/- 16 Lorrimar Place, Murdoch W.A. 6150
Telephone/Fax: (08) 9310 3618

Mr Ian Blacklaw
Manager
Returned & Services League W.A. Branch (Inc)

Dear Ian,

I write to most sincerely thank you and your staff for staging what was a first-class function for us last Saturday, 12 July. Everyone who attended had nothing but praise for the standard of food and service provided by yourself and your team.

My colleagues have in the past drifted away fairly quickly after previous dinners but this time the vast majority were still there at 11.30pm. a sure sign that they were enjoying themselves. I personally had to clear the last 10 out at midnight to give your staff a chance to get home at a reasonable hour.

I am confident that all our future functions of this nature will be conducted at Anzac House as a result of what have now been two very successful functions there. Congratulations to you all and thank you again for the personal assistance provided to me.

Kindest regards.

WARREN G. EVANS
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret)
President RAAOC Association

Note: It is pleasing to note that the high standard of the functions provided by the Club Manager and his dedicated staff has prompted a recent client to respond with a letter of appreciation.

EDITOR

RSL TAKES TO THE AIR-WAYS

Left to right: Ann Keynes and Ken Murphy prepare to interview Les Cody 2/4th MGBn about his new book Ghosts in Khaki.

An idea to be able to take the RSL’s message to the public, by the medium of radio, was realised in April this year when ‘On Parade’ began broadcasting on Curtin University Radio 927 6NR, in the AM frequency band.

This half-hour weekly programme – the brainchild of Len and Ann Keynes – goes to air every Wednesday at 12.30pm and is sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital and Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

‘On Parade’ features interviews, music and up to date information from the Hospital and DVA. The programme is co-hosted by Ken Murphy (the State President) and Ann Keynes and co-produced by Esmail Mir Fakhrai.

A regular feature each week is ‘Military Moments’, written and narrated by Wayne Gardiner, Curator of the Army Museum Fremantle, who talks about aspects of the Army, Navy, Airforce and Merchant Navy.

‘Notice Board’ is another segment, enabling sub-branches, auxiliaries and Unit and Kindred organisations to advertise any functions etc. they are having. These messages are broadcast to a wide section of both the veteran and non-veteran community, and are available free.

For any further information contact the producer, Ann Keynes on 9277 3516.

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WEWAK 14 TO 27 MAY 1945 cont ...

area to cover beneath the brow of the hill. Stretcher bearers were in position to look after casualties and 7 Platoon of A Company was ready to occupy our defences. In the first-light gloom there was perfect silence while we waited for the umpire to bounce the ball. Then it came! Continuous ear-splitting thunder of hundreds of 25-pounder shells smashing into the enemy defences. To be so close to such savagery was an awesome experience.

Immediately the barrage ceased, Bill Abbott led 18 Platoon in the charge on the Japanese defences and with determined aggression completely overran it, killing every Japanese there. Then by Murphy’s law things started to go wrong. Bill Abbott was killed, the attack stalled and an enemy started firing from somewhere outside the position just taken. To start the operation moving again Bayly told me to take 17 Platoon in and continue the attack. We rushed to the far end of the position 18 Platoon had just taken and discovered that a track ran off it from the left, over a small creek and up a rise the other side. It was here that a delaying force of some sort had set up business and was doing a good job of harassing. There was only one way to go at it and that was a frontal dash. We exchanged fire while the platoon got organised and then moved in, but it was an anti-climax. The enemy must have considered their job done and departed without taking 17 Platoon on.

And so ended the battle for 710. What was intended as a one-day show on 14 May took until May 27, and in the process cost us many good men, killed and wounded. Somewhat hard to justify in the context of the Pacific War at that time: the Americans in the Philippines, next stop Tokyo. Nevertheless the D Company soldiers conducted themselves in the best tradition of the Digger, with determination, guts and aggression. 2/11 Battalion can be proud of its achievements on that hill. Using Lou Williams’ figures, the bill in terms of lives was two officers and six other ranks killed and 28 other ranks wounded.

NOTE: When Colonel Green arranged for me to be commissioned neither could have foreseen that we were destined to serve together again, five years later in Korea. This time I was one of his company commanders. I was but a few yards away from him when a fragment from an artillery shell ripped his stomach open, killing him. Charlie Green’s death was indeed unfortunate for he was destined for big things following his tour of duty in Korea. He was highly regarded for his coolness, drive and determination. Our brigade served for some time as part of the 1st US Cavalry Division and its GOC, General Hobart Gay, is quoted as describing Green as the best battalion commander in Korea. Our Commander of the British Commonwealth Brigade, Brigadier (later General) Coad wrote of his high regard for Charlie and that wherever he went Charlie’s photograph was on his desk.

Death robbed him of a second DSO and an unlimited career.

C’est la Guerre!

COURTESY: LT-COL B.S. O’DOWD MBE (RL)

NATIONAL EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATION

It may interest members who served with British Forces to know that a new ex-service organisation is being formed in Britain, entitled National Ex-Service Association. The foundation stone of the new Association will be a monthly newspaper entitled NESA NEWS.

The idea first originated when the British public requested that those who served their country so courageously in time of war be honoured by way of a day of remembrance and celebration. It was pointed out that Australia has Anzac Day and both New Zealand and Canada show their respect in a similar way.

Successive British governments have been noted for their ungenerous attitude to war pensions, ever since the Peninsular wars of a bygone century. The new NESA would work alongside the British legion, SSAFA and other service charities in an attempt to obtain a better assessment of the needs of the 14 million men and women who served their country in time of need.

In the new national newspaper NESA will be able to publish the truth, which is currently difficult, plus details of current events, compensation and pension claims and legal advice. It also hopes to publish articles and memoirs etc. and, most of all, be able to include a job search and offers.

Once NESA has become established, and a sufficient number of members enrolled, nominations will be sought for people willing and able to take over the running of the Association and to draw up a constitution for future advancement.

Further details are obtainable by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Mr Arthur Lane, 61 Charles Street, Stockport, SK1 3JR, U.K. Fax No: 161 480 0116.

The writer of this article could supply a photocopy of the application form.

CHRISTOPHER BRIGGS MBE
3 McCallum Crescent
Ardross 6153
Tel: (08) 9364 3973
The Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) has engaged private contractors to maintain official memorials in selected civil cemeteries in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and the Roma district in Western Queensland.

OAWG currently maintains more than 200,000 post-war graves and the number is growing at a rate of approximately 6,500 a year.

The memorials are maintained in perpetuity.

“The ever-increasing number of official grave site memorials to be maintained is beginning to exceed the capacity of the OAWG staff to maintain the high standards expected by the Australian public,” said OAWG Director, Air Vice Marshal Alan Heggen.

“In assessing the tenders, the Officer placed much emphasis on the contractors’ demonstrated experience in the monumental masonry industry, and their proven ability to carry out the work,” AVM Heggen said.

Throughout the life of each two year contract, OAWG will retain management responsibility for the graves, and will closely monitor work of contractors to ensure specifications are met and existing standards maintained.

There will be an increase in operational efficiency, but no reduction in OAWG staff. The maintenance of those graves not let to contract, as well as war cemeteries, will continue to be undertaken by OAWG.

The contractors selected to carry out the work are Premier Memorials in Sydney, Lilydale Memorials in Melbourne, D.S. & G.F. Evans in Brisbane and V. & D. Kearney in the Roma district.

COURTESY: VETAFFAIRS

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.

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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 Each @ $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

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THE RECRUIT AND HIS
SENTRY BOX

Many years ago, at a barracks not many miles from Gosport, an old Sergeant was notorious for his love of practical joking which nearly got him into serious trouble. It happened thus:

Whilst drilling a squad of raw recruits one morning, one of the recruits, a native of Somerset – or, as he would say ‘Zummerzett’ – caught sight of a sentry box and being desirous to know its uses, the following conversation took place when drill for the day was over. “I zay, zargunt, what’s that’ere little ‘ooden ouze vur?”

“Well, my sunny,” replied the Sergeant, “that will form part of your kit. All the men of this Corps must have one of those. You will want one as soon as you have learnt your drill properly.” “Ow much be ‘um, zargunt?” asked the recruit. “Oh, about a couple of pounds or so,” replied the artful old Sergeant.

“Lord mussy! wheer be I to get vorty shilluns from?”

“Well, never mind,” replied he, “I’ll manage it for you. I can see there is the makings of a smart Marine about you, (with a quiet wink to a few old hands who were listening to the conversation) and as it is well known in the Corps that Sergeant W.Y. Bilkinson is always willing to assist all young recruits, I tell you what I will do. As that sentry box is nearly as good as new, I’ll sell you that one for five shillings and a quart of porter.” Of course the offer was gladly accepted and the porter drunk.

The whole affair might have remained a secret but for what followed. The next morning, as the Adjutant was walking round the barrack square, he noticed a recruit busy cutting away at a sentry box with a large clasp knife.

The Adjutant in a thundering voice shouted out:

“Hi there, you infernal scoundrel, what do you mean by spoiling Her Majesty’s property in that manner?”. To which the recruit replied, “No I bain’t zur, this ’ere ’ouze is my own. I bought un paid vur un.”

“What the deuce do you mean, sir?” shouted the Adjutant, purple with rage.

“Well, you see zur, Zargunt Bilkinson told us as how I should ‘ave to buy one of ‘em and so I gi’e ‘im vive shilluns and a port o’ porter ver un, and so that I should know un from t’others. I jest cut my name on un.”

“And, sure enough, staring the officer hard in the face, in letters varying from two to six inches in length on the front of the sentry box, were the words: ‘Roger Whacksraw, Krooksham, Zummerzett’.

The end of this little game was not so laughable for the poor recruit was punished for damaging Government property, while old Sergeant Bilkinson had to refund the five shillings, be severely reprimanded and have a new front put on the sentry box at his own expense.

It was rare fun for his messmates, which the old man bore in good part. The recruit eventually became a Colour Sergeant with three medals and was never ashamed to own up that he was the raw recruit who bought the sentry (I beg his pardon, he now says ‘sentry’) box.


COURTESY: THE BULLETIN
BRITISH EX SERVICES ASSN, WA.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day is a special day
When people are silent and they pray
For those who fought in any war
And, sadly, aren’t with us any more.

We celebrate every 11th of November
For this is the day that we remember
That same day in 1918
When the end of World War One was seen.

At 11 am an armistice was signed
And all the fighting was left behind.
Sadly though lots of soldiers were too
And people with families like me and you
Who were left back home to grieve and mourn
But now new generations have been born.

We remind them on Remembrance Day
That thanks to others they’re free to play.
They fought bravely and died for their country
So that people like us could be free.

So on the 11th November people gather round
And for two minutes you can’t hear a sound.
At 11 am we show our respect
For those in war graves who were left.
We hang our flag at half mast and wear red flowers
On the 11th of November at the 11th hour.

by STEPHANIE WILSON
37 SQN CELEBRATED 30 YEAR MILESTONE

Raising a toast to A97-159 are former members involved in the ferrying of the C-130E to Australia.
L-R: Dennis Carter (Plt), Stan Cooper (FltEng), Jack Fordyce (FltEng), W/Off Bob Pearman (ex AFFIT now LOADM, RAAF Reserve) and Jim Bovell (FltEng)

Thirty years ago, on 23 August, 1966, to be exact, the first of the new C-130E Hercules touched down at RAAF Richmond to begin operations with the newly reformed 37 Sqn.

To celebrate the arrival of the first aircraft, A97-159 and the total of 277,000 accident-free hours throughout its fleet of 12 aircraft, a birthday part was held, with A97-159 taking pride of place. Past and current members spent the afternoon reminiscing about C-130E operations and the humanitarian missions that the squadron had been involved in.

The pilot involved in flying the first of the C-130Es to Australia, W/Cdr Dennis Grant (Rtd), was present, along with three Flt Engs, Stan Cooper, Jack Fordyce and Jim Bovell, all involved in the crewing of the first three aircraft from the US.

Dennis Grant, who also flew Dakotas and the old ‘A’ models with 36 Sqn, said he was very impressed with the performance of the ‘E’ model and its ability to just ‘step across’ the pacific in two stops. “With the ‘A’ model we used to spend three days getting there. Sometimes coming back from the US in the ‘A’ model, we had to wait on the west coast for the prevailing winds to die down”, Say Dennis. “With the ‘E’ model, we’d just jump in the aircraft and point it at Australia”.

Dennis also commented on how the operating techniques and procedures on the aircraft, first established back in 1966, have stood the test of time. “To get 30 years out of it is quite an achievement – and a credit to the people who have been operating and maintaining the aircraft. As the aeroplane ages, the task of maintaining it becomes a bit more than just technical skill – it requires dedication,” Dennis said.

And dedication is what has given 37 Sqn its reputation, carrying out its humanitarian missions throughout the pacific, SE Asia and also within Australia. Cyclone, flood, earthquake and bushfire relief fights have become part of the squadron’s life. Aircraft and crews were the first into Darwin after Cyclone Tracey in December 1974. In March 1975, the squadron was called in to help evacuate Australian Embassy staff from Phnom Penh in Cambodia. The squadron’s C-130Es also flew wounded Australian soldiers out of Vietnam in 1967 and were involved in the airlifting of refugees from Vietnam in 1975 after the fall of Saigon.

After replacement of the twelve C-130Es with Lockheed’s new Hercules, the ‘J’ Model, late in 1997, the old E models will be put out to pasture for a well-earned rest. Who knows, they may even be operating for another 30 years!

COURTESY: RAAF NEWS

SPECIAL REVERSE MORTGAGES FOR RETIRED HOMEOWNERS

You may need money for a variety of reasons: to buy a new car, go on the holiday of a lifetime or to boost your bank account.

There is now a Reverse Mortgage available specially designed for retired home owners.

To qualify you simply need to be over 68 and own a home valued at more than $100,000. You can apply for at least $20,000 which you can use for any purpose at all – and no monthly repayments are required.

For more information call (08) 9309 2345 (Mon-Fri 9-5)

FINANCE SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Listening Post – SPRING 1997 – Page 31
From left:
Mrs Joan Hutcheson,
Mrs Patricia Rowland,
Mr Norm Johnston.

From left:
Mr Len Keynes,
Major General W.B. "Digger" James,
Mr Ken Murphy.

From left:
Messrs Laurie Ferguson,
Damien Clark,
Allan Hutcheson, Derek Smith.

From left:
Mrs Joycelene Mitchell,
Mrs Joyce Holman,
Mr Bruce Scott,
Mr Robert Mitchell,
Mrs Jeanette Murphy,
Mr John Holman.

The Minister for the Hon [name] delivers [speech].
OPENING
ONGRESS
997

From left:
Mr Len Turner,
Mr Peter Phillips,
Mrs Phillips,
Brigadier Gerry Warner.

From left:
Messrs John Quinn;
Percy White,
Michael Michael.

From left:
Miss Sandra Howell,
Mrs Anne Dalton,
Mrs Julie-Anne Gray,
Miss Patricia Gurney.

From left:
Mrs Kath Meredith,
Mr Don Meredith,
Mr John Holman,
Mr Bob Smith.
**Enlisted VA & AAMWS Association**

The annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday 11 December 1997 from 11.30 am at the Novotel Langley Hotel, 221 Adelaide Terrace, Perth. All ex-VA/AAMWS are cordially invited. Contact Ena McGinn Hon. Sec. Tel: (08) 9446 3742 for further information.

ENA McGINN
Hon. Secretary

**90th Anniversary – 1907 to 1997**

**Australian Intelligence Corps**

Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand, USA and Canada

The Australian Intelligence Association (WA) Inc. extends an invitation to all past and current serving members to attend the formal Corps Day dinner, Anzac House, St Georges Terrace, Perth on Saturday 29 November 1997.

Please reply to the President, Neil Chaplin, Australian Intelligence Association (WA) Inc, PO Box 1724, Wangara 6065 for your prepaid tickets, prior to 30 September 1997.

Tel: (08) 9307 8460 or fax (08) 9302 2552.

NEIL CHAPLIN
President

**11th & 2/11th AIF BNS Association**

The annual reunion of 2/11th Bn Association will be held at Novotel Langley Hotel, St Georges Terrace, Perth at 12 noon on 24 September 1997. All members, wives and partners are welcome to attend and the cost is the same as last year – $25 per head. Our last function was a great success, so please advise other 2/11th Bn members who do not receive the Listening Post or LEM of the fixture. New members to the association are welcome. Please contact the secretary, John Watson, Tel: (08) 9364 2126.

JC WATSON
Hon Sec/Treas

**BCOF Commemorative Rally and Dedication – Rockhampton**

A Commemorative and Dedication Rally, at Rockhampton, Queensland, from 24 to 26 July 1998, has been organised for all former BCOF personnel by the BCOF National Association (Qld) Inc.

**Venue:** Rockhampton Leagues Club, Cambridge Street

**Friday 24 July:** Evening – getting to meet the delegates

**Saturday 25 July:** Tours and own choice activities, 6 pm for 7 pm dinner

**Sunday 26 July:** AM. March and Dedication of Memorial – Service of Worship. Noon. Smorgasbord/finger food luncheon – farewells.

As so many programmes are arranged for this year, we decided to set our sights well ahead, so that more people are able to attend.

We want this to be a reunion type gathering where old friendships are renewed and memories evoked. Further details of the rally may be obtained from:

Organising Secretary
The Reverend Robert J. Walker JP
93 Vogel Road, Brassal Q 4305
Tel: (07) 3201 6926, E-Mail <rjwalker@gil.com.au>

**118 Aust. General (Military) Hospital – Northam 1941-45**

Members are invited to a reunion in Saw Avenue, Kings Park (opposite Rokeby Road) on Sunday, 2 November 1997, from 11 am to 3.30 pm. BYO picnic lunch.

For further information, contact Sue.
Tel: (08) 9328 5952.

**RAAF Base Momote**

Ex-RAAF Personnel who served at RAAF Base Momote on Los Negros Island in the Admiralty Islands group, Papua New Guinea, during the 1950s, and wish to attend a reunion in August/September 1998 at a venue to be decided, are asked to contact the organiser, Kevin Riley, 1 Bokharra Circuit, Kaleen ACT 2617, (02) 6241 5278.

**2 Transport Platoon Vietnam 1967 - 1970**

30th Anniversary Reunion
14/15 March 1998
Wagga Wagga, NSW

Those who served in Vietnam with 2 Transport Platoon during 1967 to 1970 are requested to send in their postal details no later than September, 1997 to ensure their inclusion on the invitation list.

Please contact Bob Hartmann – (07) 3889 4595 or Russ Dinte – (07) 3206 3028.
National Beaufort Reunion

The Beaufort Squadrons Association held a most successful reunion in Melbourne during Anzac Week. Almost 250 attended the reunion when thousands of hours were flown again, tons (in the old system) of bombs and even the odd torpedo were dropped and thousands of rounds of ammunition fired. All sorts of adventures were recalled — some to the wide-eyed amazement of the wives present — “you didn’t really do that, did you, darling?”

An official dinner on the Wednesday night was addressed by former Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal J.W. (“Jake”) Newham, AC (Retd).

War Crimes

In his opening remarks, Air Marshal Newham raised the issue of resort to international crime and crimes against humanity. He said that there has been a resurgence of comment lately and fresh information on hitherto unrevealed crimes, horrifying events and a revision upwards of casualty figures, especially amongst the civilian population. More evading war criminals have been exposed and many ask if it is not time to let these matters rest, that it seems ruthless to pursue these people for so long, so relentlessly. He wondered about this because the crimes were so terrible and so cruel. Quoting from Lord Russell of Liverpool’s publications The Scourge of the Swastika and The Knights of Bushido, the Air Marshal said that neither is pleasant reading. In one, Lord Russell states, in the midst of the most sickening events, “and what happened next is too horrifying to commit to print.” Thus Australia’s former No. 1 airman said he had no qualms about bringing alleged criminals of this ilk to account.

He observed that the Germans had faced up to the history of the Nazi regime, not so the Japanese. He did not make this statement to inflame the hurts or to fan the embers of war, as he believed we had been honourable in victory and generous in forgiveness. It is a basic tenet of our way of life that we do not punish the children for the sins of their parents, or type a nation or group by the actions of some members of society.

Nevertheless a flaw remains: the crimes of the ruling military class have not been openly acknowledged by Japanese leadership. Indeed he said: “I put it to you that the Japanese people still do not know about them. There remains a gaping hole in their home consumption history.”

He quoted a discussion he had with a Japanese who had been a POW at Cowra. When the prisoner returned home, he did not speak of the war, or what he had done, and no one in his village asked or commented about the subject.

There was also the case of a Japanese Embassy officer who, while completing a post-graduate study at Oxford, had researched the war and found much information that was not available to him in Japan. Most Japanese still do not know the truth about the war.

Until the truth of the war is more widely known to the Japanese, many of them will continue to believe that the fire storms that raged after the B29 bombing raids were the acts of a cruel aggressor. Likewise, the atom bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the ultimate acts of inhumanity and injustice. To this day the annual Hiroshima commemoration carries with it implicit propaganda of a monstrous crime against the Japanese citizens of the two cities. The events, terrible though they were and properly attracting sympathy, are not put into the total context of the war, or what the effects might have been of other options open to the Allies, or the realities of extant military rule of Japan in 1945. This deceit is not worthy of a great people.

The Air Marshal expressed his concern that the Japanese leadership refuses to openly acknowledge the truth and implies an annual criticism of the Allies at Hiroshima.

He also expressed concern that a number in this country believe that dropping the bomb was indefensible and that another route should have been taken. What were the alternatives?

A demonstration drop?
A blockade? (Japan was already beaten.)
An invasion?

The first option had been canvassed thoroughly by President Truman. All his advisors, including scientists, recognised that the whole of the country must experience this new force to trigger a surrender. An order had been promulgated for the execution of POWs; their lives had to be saved and Allied casualties minimised. It was not a time for speculation or taking risks.

There is little doubt that the second option would have cost not only the POW’s lives but those of perhaps millions of Japanese women, children and indeed anyone not in the military. Japan had been ruled by a mad military clique for nearly two decades. The nation was approaching starvation. Civilian casualties would have been enormous.

Invasion would have produced a bloody battle. MacArthur estimated a million casualties. Later estimates put the figures much higher, given the Japanese track record, its ethics and the homeland factor.

The moral issue is clear. Japan surrendered. Even as the Emperor’s voice went out to the people, who had never before heard him speak, young officers searched the palace for the wire recording of the speech. Prolongation of the war was out of the question — too many Allies would have died, few of the Allied POWs would have survived. The net loss of Japanese lives was less than otherwise.
Reunions cont.

Beauforts in the S-W Pacific

The former CAS went on to speak about strike operations.

He recalled the major part played by the Beaufort units in the South West Pacific. When World War II began, the RAAF had virtually no strike capability. Australia was very much the junior partner in a theatre of war that suffered the lowest priority for the supply of weapons and munitions. Eventually a strike element was equipped with Australian built Beauforts.

The 10 squadrons so equipped carried the brunt of the strike operations in an area where conditions were vastly different to those in Europe. There was no concentration of cities and road systems; no clearly defined front line; every bay, every island and the expanses of water in between them all potentially hostile; a hundred or so front lines. Difficult and dangerous terrain, with destructive weather rarely seen in Europe, but the norm in the South West Pacific area. Elusive targets and enemy fighters of superior performance were quickly deployed between the islands. Natural hazards abounded which made the avoidance of enemy generated hazards that more difficult. Living conditions were appalling and the environment for maintenance impossible. Air Marshal Newham paid special tribute to the ground crews who kept the Beauforts in the air. He said that without their skill, dedication and ingenuity the operational squadrons could not have been as effective as they were.

The Air Marshal said that effectiveness is sometimes challenged. When in doubt, he said, ask the enemy. Their assessments leave no doubt that the greatest factor leading to their defeat was our relentless and determined prosecution of air strikes. The feats of the Beaufort squadrons are enshrined in history.

Anzac Day Parade

The Beaufort squadrons had the largest contingent for many years. Nearly 200 marched behind the Association’s new banner on a perfect Melbourne day. Immediately following the march the group attended at the Beaufort Memorial Tree adjacent to the Shrine of Remembrance for a brief service conducted by the Reverend Stuart Eiseman, a former member of no. 7 squadron.

A post-march luncheon wound up a week of memories of good times and bad, of excitement and boredom, frights and fun.

Acknowledgement

At the end of the luncheon, the Chairman of the organising committee, Leo Plumridge, thanked his committee for its efforts. He then paid a special tribute to the Secretary of the national body of the Beauforts, “Bing” Dowling, from Adelaide. “Bing” has “kept the show on the road” for many years and without his untiring work the Beaufort Association would almost certainly not exist today. His efforts were acknowledged by all present.

Next Reunion

Beaufort reunions are held biennially and the next will be in Queensland in 1999. John Lemcke is President of the Association in that state and can be contacted at 17 Webster Street, Caboolture QLD 4510.

Beaufort Restoration

A9-261 – a Beaufort from No.32 Squadron, one of the ten which operated in the S-W Pacific.

John White, Curator of Aircraft at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, advised that the restoration of a Beaufort has commenced. He expects the work to be completed by December, 1999; so hang in there all you ex-Beaufort types!

HUGH ROCHE
2/2 Beach Crescent, Newhaven VIC 3925
Tel: (03) 5956 6267

ANZAC CLUB
The club with a difference

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28 St Georges Terrace, Perth
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Contact:
Club Manager, Ian Blacklaw
Tel: (08) 9325 9079

No fees if financial RSL member

Meet you at the Anzac Club
Currently, the Defence organisation in Australia is undergoing a major upheaval in the wake of the recently announced Defence Efficiency Review. While the upheaval is being felt with particular ferocity in the upper levels of the organisation, which have had to cope with a rapid, 20% reduction in numbers, there are few sectors of the organisation that are not affected in some way or other.

For the past decade both the military and civilian arms of the Defence organisation have been subject to a continuing, and in many ways necessary, programme of change. This programme has been marked by staff cuts and a major shift from the in-house provision of services to commercial contract, all in the interests of “efficiency”. What is different about this latest Review is not the nature of change but the pace. Indeed, so rapid has the pace now become that there is a very real danger of a serious breakdown within the organisation.

At the individual level, service members are becoming increasingly uncertain of their own careers within an organisational structure that even today is hardly recognisable compared with a mere 10 years ago. How it will look even 10 months from now nobody can tell. All we know is that it will be markedly different in both size and form.

Individuals and organisations alike can only absorb change at a finite rate before suffering from what has been called “future shock”. If the pace of change is too great, the mind tends to go blank and to be unable to cope even with routine tasks. Let us hope that such a “melt down” in the Defence organisation does not occur.

In situations such as this, organisations like the RSL have an important role to play – that of public advocate for effective defence and security. Serving members of the military are constrained as to the criticisms and comments that they may make about defence changes. Serving members cannot speak openly about the impact of change on morale, esprit, retention, operational capabilities and equipment procurement.

The RSL knows through the experiences of its members the cost of neglecting national defence and preparedness. We have a right to express concerns which those currently serving cannot. The League must therefore continue to be made aware of the changes proposed for the structuring of Australia’s defence and security. The League as an organisation acting in the public interest has an obligation to remain informed and to freely comment on defence issues. By doing so the League honours its heritage and serves its members, those currently serving in the defence of the country and the Australian community.

ROBERT MITCHELL
WA Defence Policy Committee

STOP PRESS

REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

There will be no Remembrance Day luncheon this year at the RSL is organising the City of Perth international Tattoo from Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 November 1997.

Joan Dowson, MBE, OAM

MEDALS MEDALS MEDALS MEDALS

MEDALS

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9.00am-1.00pm Saturday

Wally Dennison, Member of Nollamara/North Perth RSL
WAR CEMETERY BURMA

Mr Joe Matthews of the 2/4th Machine Gunners Association wishes to locate families or friends of servicemen buried in the POW Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Burma. He has photographs of 34 headstones of graves which he would like to pass on as the cemetery is isolated and difficult to visit.

The names of the servicemen are:-

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Mr Matthews can be contacted on: Tel: (08) 9384 2553

CATALINA FLYING BOAT A24-104

This aircraft was one of three allotted to 113 Air Sea Rescue Flight to escort No 81 Wing from Labuan to Japan in February 1946. The RAAF Museum is currently restoring a PBY5A Catalina to be representative of A24-104 as it was when it flew this mission.

The undersigned, a member of the Catalina Club, is endeavouring to complete a chronological history of the aircraft’s missions from the time it left San Pedro, USA, until it at last returned to Rathmines in June 1946 from Japan. Any details of missions from June 1946 until it was decommissioned in 1953 would also be welcome including its period of operations with JATO. If any crew member who flew any mission at all in this aircraft could forward photocopies of the relevant pages of their log book they may help fill some of the gaps that are apparent in the records already to hand. Any photographs of relevance for copying and return would also be appreciated. This is being done to form part of the display when the completed restoration is housed in the Museum.

Contact with all living members of the crew including supernumery members who were on the mission to Japan is being undertaken. To date the following members have not been located, so if they (or any person knowing their whereabouts) could make contact it would be appreciated.

Flying Officer Jack McMahon Wireless Air Gunner
Sergeant Kevin Vaughan Fitter Air Gunner
Corporal Roy Mills Instrument Maker

The details given for the last named may not be accurate.

Contact: W.K. (Bill) Newton, Catalina Club, 25 Kalima Street, Essendon VIC 3040, Tel: (03) 9370 7749.

WUNDOWIE WAR SERVICE HONOUR BOARD

The Wundowie Progress Association is developing a War Service Honour Board of those from the area who worked in the charcoal iron industry. It is seeking the names and records of service of those eligible to be honoured.

Of particular importance are those men and women who came to Wundowie after the cessation of World War II to work in the burgeoning pig iron industry.

Anyone with information is asked to contact me on (08) 9397 6248. It is hoped to have the honour board ready for Anzac Day, 1998.

BENJAMIN SEABROOK
Honorary Secretary
Wundowie Progress Association
104 Peet Road, Roleystone 6111
By the time this report is published construction of the Frail Aged Centre will be well progressed. After a lengthy approval process from Commonwealth, State and local government agencies all necessary approvals were in place by mid-July. A contract was signed with BGC, the successful tenderer, and by 28 July the site was being fenced and prepared. Site Offices are now being emplaced, drains excavated and the pad compacted. With the construction phase started, the 40 weeks to building completion will quickly pass.

The impact of the Frail Aged Centre on Homes operations will be significant. For the first time at Mt Lawley, there will be a purpose-designed care facility incorporating nursing home features. This means that the Board will have achieved care its strategic objective of increasing the range of aged care accommodation options available. It also means giving effect to the many resolutions of State Congresses for a facility of this type at Mt Lawley.

In its quest for this outcome, the RSL has had the continuing support of its members who have lobbied tirelessly on behalf of veterans’ care. The support of elected members at State and national level and the support of the Departments of Health and Family Services and Veterans’ Affairs are the direct result of State Branch, Sub-Branch and community advocacy for this facility.

After the capital grant of $2.1 million from the Department of Health and Family Services, the RSL War Veterans’ Homes must find an additional $1.2 million in funding to complete the project. About half of this amount will come from the building fund. Contributions are also being sought from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the WA Lotteries Commission. Some support will also come from entry contributions. The accompanying diagram gives an indication of the size of the new facility and the care services which it will incorporate.

While the construction project has occupied considerable time, the ongoing needs of residents continue to be met. Through the efforts of board, staff, volunteers and residents, the Mt Lawley Hostel passed the first step of the Accreditation process by achieving Interim Certification. This ongoing inspection, audit and standard evaluation process will continue under the new aged care funding arrangements. Mt Lawley achieved an above average rating in terms of its facilities and care programmes. This reflects the impact of the ongoing maintenance, training and resident care programmes initiated as part of the Board’s Strategic Plan, “Future Care”. Similar inspections will also be taking place at Meadow Springs and Geraldton.

During August and September, the care-needs of all residents will be re-evaluated to ensure that their needs are met and that Commonwealth funding is maximised under the revised aged-care regulations which come into effect on 1 October 1997. Greater emphasis will be placed on documenting the care provided as all aged-care providers make the change from hostel to aged-care facilities.

Tradition continues to form part of the Homes. The residents would like to thank the many staff, volunteers and members of State Executive who assisted at the Christmas in July functions at Mt Lawley and Meadow Springs. Our thanks are also extended to the Raffle Committee members for their untiring effort in the administration and support. Particular mention should also be made of the Women’s Auxiliary for their continuing support of the Building Fund and resident amenities through two major donations presented to the Homes at their Congress. Book dedications to commemorate the service of departed comrades continue to provide major contributions to be residents’ library. The next service is planned for October.

As members will know from newspaper reports, major changes are taking place within aged care. In order to plan for the future, the Homes Board is undertaking a policy and facilities review to map out where the Homes will be in the next century as a provider of aged care. Through the funding support of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, this study will take place between August and December 1997. The report will provide a framework for assessing options, making informed choices and implementing decisions in a thorough and balanced way. This is the latest in a series of similar studies which DVA has undertaken with Ex-Service organisations across Australia.

KEN MURPHY
RAAF 1945 Christmas Party

Going through some old RAAF papers recently, I came across a Souvenir Programme, "RAAF Records 1945 Xmas Party" signed by the following, all from Victoria:

Joe Purcell, Coburg; Bill O'Brien, Coburg; Alan Grimshaw, Sunshine; Frank Serpell, East Kew; Stan Wilson, Glen Iris, Vic.

I would be delighted to hear from any of these men even though 51 years have passed since I last saw them at RAAF Headquarters (Records) Prahran, Vic.

JOHN P BANNO
31 Winmarley Street, Floreat 6014
Tel: (08) 9383 9142

2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion

The story I am sending you concerns an Adelaide resident who by pure change, picked up a book in a library which happened to be the history of the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion. This led to an interesting set of events.

F.J. "BANJO" BINSTEAD
101 Star-Street, Carlisle WA 6101
Tel: (08) 9361 8762

Note: The relationships formed during the war years have to be experienced to be fully understood.

The Maggie de Laine Story

This story involves a little Adelaide girl who was nine years old at the outbreak of World War II. Her memories of a member of the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion have lingered with her ever since. Now, by a remarkable set of circumstances, two wartime families, who were unknown to each other have been brought together.

Maggie de Laine lived with her family in East Glenelg, SA during the war. Her mother was a member of the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund and billeted servicemen needing a temporary home while on leave. Mort Holland, a WA member of the 2/3rd machine Gun Battalion, always spent his leave at their home and, as Maggie has said, "became like a son and brother that they never had". While at their home he received news from his wife that their only child, Glenys, had been born. He was at their home for Christmas 1940, as the West Australian could not get enough leave to return home and he was also there for her 10th birthday.

When the battalion received new colour patches, Maggie’s mother sewed them on to Mort’s uniform and he gave Maggie his old ones as keepsakes, which she has kept all these years.

When Mort left for overseas in 1941, it is easy to imagine how sad young Maggie must have been. Mort’s tragic death from cholera in 1943 was not known by those at home until 1945. Maggie still has the telegram that his widow sent to her mother advising her of his death. Among other keepsakes are photos of Mort taken in Perth, one taken in Syria, and one of his grave in Thailand.

The feeling of devastation for this young teenager when she learned that her "big brother" would not be coming home must have been horrific. Although she grew up and became Mrs Maggie Phillips, and had a family of her own, she never forgot the man she admired so much as a child.

Last January, I received a letter from Maggie that set off a chain of events that can be described only as remarkable. She told be that she had recently retired and had joined a library. Whilst looking along the shelves she saw a book called From Snow to Jungle, the history of the 2/3rd Machine Gun battalion, written by John Bellair. Imagine her emotions when on page 64 she saw the name Mort Holland.

Memories flooded back, and she decided to contact John Bellair in Melbourne to find out whether Mort’s family and his brother Stan (“Sharkey”) were still alive, and if so, their whereabouts. John gave her the address of Geoff Fox in Melbourne, who sent Maggie photos of 15 Platoon taken at Warradale SA and the march through Adelaide in April 1941, plus a photo of “Sharkey” taken at the WA Anzac Day celebrations last year.

After Geoff Fox gave Maggie my address in Perth, she wrote to me. I contacted "Sharkey" with the news and he gave details regarding Mort’s widow and daughter, who contacted Maggie. “Sharkey’s” daughter, who lives in Adelaide, is now on visiting terms and their families corresponding.

When my wife Joyce and I visited Adelaide in March, Bill Schmitt and some of the South Australian members and their partners organised a luncheon. Maggie was thrilled to bits, albeit a little emotional, about being accepted by both Mort’s family and us of the battalion in such a friendly way.

So ends another chapter in the history of our Battalion that I have been privileged to write. I end by quoting Maggie’s words: "Whilst there are people like me around and we pass it on, you men will never be forgotten".

BANJO BINSTEAD
**SPRING 1997 - Page 41**

**The Army Museum of Western Australia**

I am trying to trace any family member of my cousin Ralph T. Bilby. As I remember (being a child during World War II), I was told that Ralph was missing after being shot down over Hamburg, Germany.

Ralph stayed with us for a weekend before leaving the Catalina Base at Rathmines on Lake MacQuarie NSW. I came across an old address of his parents – Ralph and Lilian Bilby, 11 Salisbury Avenue, South Perth.

I wrote to the Department of Defence in Canberra requesting information but was advised:

"Where the Ex-member is deceased then the relative information is available to a member of the immediate family, e.g. wife/husband, children, parent, brother, sister or the Executor of the Estate."

After trying electoral rolls, phone books, Telecom and Local newspapers, I rang the WA Tourist Centre who suggested I write to The Listening Post.

(MRS) BEVERLEY LINDSAY

131 Ocean Street, Dudley NSW 2290
Tel: (049) 447 474

**Army Museum of WA**

The Army Museum is in the process of restoring a Bren Gun Carrier which was recovered in reasonable condition from a farm near Moora.

The help of your readers is sought to identify markings which can still be discerned on the vehicle. On the outside of the vehicle and on both sides of the driving compartment the letters “MX” can be made out. They are 8” high clearly a part of the Carrier’s original paintwork. While these letters will be reproduced on the paintwork of the restored vehicle, it would be nice to know what they mean. I would be happy to speak to anyone who might be able to provide the answer or a clue, and can be contacted on (08) 9311 2535 during working hours.

If anyone has any Bren Carrier bits and would like to see them in a good home, we are always on the lookout for equipment which will add to the authenticity of the finished product.

J.A. McROBERTS

The Army Museum of Western Australia

Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle 6160

**Bougainville 1945**

Can any reader satisfy my curiosity and let me know how Slater’s Kroll came to be named?

I recall that we, the 2/8th Commandos, were up in the hills the night that the real shooting war started and lasted a couple of hours. The Battalion, which I believe had tank support, formed a perimeter with tanks inside doing most of the damage to the Japanese. I understand that 720 Japanese were buried by a bulldozer. Can anyone tell me if any Australians were killed or wounded in this action?

ALLAN A. LEE

PO Box 49, Dowerin 6461

**HMAS Sydney**

Through your publication I wish to make contact with the families of the ship’s company lost in action in HMAS Sydney II on 19 November 1941.

I am compiling the stories of the families of those lost with the intention of writing a book. If you are able to help me in any way I would be most grateful.

KEITH SHEGOG

16 Brock Street

Port Adelaide, SA 5015

Tel: (08) 8447 6669

**DVA Gold Card (Health) for All World War II Veterans**

My letter the Autumn issue of The Listening Post, regarding the issue of a Gold Card to all World War II Veterans brought a response from several members.

In West Australian, 30 April 1997, we read that the Equal Opportunity Commission did not approve of granting the Gold Card to all World War II Veterans on the grounds of legislation related to cost.

This action was taken early in 1997 by four complainants – including one from Western Australia – who considered that some World War II Veterans were not given the Gold Card because of means testing. They felt that they were disadvantaged, as ex-service women who served in hostile areas were granted this card in 1987, without any restrictions as applied to males.

Before this concession was granted in 1987, the Federal Government received assurances from the RSL, speaking on behalf of the ex-service community, that this would not establish a precedent for other groups.

I have been a member of the RSL for more than 50 years and I was never aware that this concession was granted. I am sure that other member would have contested this at State Conferences.

An active group has been formed to campaign Federal MPs for their support and we hope that the RSL will pursue their stated policy with greater vigour.

Once again, I ask all members to write to your Federal MPs seeking their support in giving all World War II Veterans the DVA Gold Card (Health) as recognition for their service to Australia in war and peace.

J.N. ROBERTS

12A “The Rise”, 133 Drabble Road, City Beach 6015

Note: Your letter of 28.7.97 is acknowledged

EDITOR
Membership Pennants

A total of 43 Sub-Branches have increased their paid membership by 10% or more during 1996 and are entitled to a Membership Pennant. They are:

Bellevue
Brookton
Capel
Coolgardie
Denmark
Donnybrook
Dumbleyung
Eastern Hills
Gnowangerup-Borden
Karridale-Augusta
Lake Grace
Manjimup
Mount Barker
Narrogin
Newman
Perenjori
Port Kennedy
Riverton
Vietnamese Services
Wubin-Dalwallinu
Wyndham
York

EDITOR

Last Post

Last Post is the call sounded each evening to inform the soldiers that they should be inside their quarters for the night. It signifies the end of the day’s activities and ushers in a period of rest and quietness. It is sounded at military funerals and commemorative services to indicate that that soldier has completed his life’s work and has entered into his rest.

Reveille

Reveille is the trumpet or bugle call sounded in all military barracks and camps first thing in the morning to awaken the soldier and tell them to get up and dress. It is also sounded at military funerals and commemorative services to signify the resurrection of the body after death and the awakening of the soul into a new life.

Lost Trails

Jack Robert Neill

Mrs Neill would appreciate hearing from anyone who was with Jack Robert Neill, RAAF, while on Morritai in 1944.

If you can help please ring (07) 3287 3999, or write to Mrs Neill, 20 Balmoral Street, Eggleby, Queensland, 4207.

John Kerr

I am seeking information about my late father’s younger brother, John Kerr, who was born in Scotland.

He joined the Royal Navy either during World War I or a little after.

One ship on which he served was HMS Valiant. He later transferred to the RAN after which no trace can be found of him. His known siblings were Andrew, Jim, Mary and Kit.

If anyone can assist, would they kindly contact me. Barrie Kerr, 7 Alida Court, Leopold, Victoria, 3224.

22 Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers

The 22 Construction Sqn Association is anxious to contact all personnel who served with Sqn during its service from 1949 to 1991. This includes all those who served with the Sqn workshop, and particularly those who served as national servicemen. For further details contact: Blue Dupuy, President, on (08) 9344 5841, or Secretary Nev Clark on Tel: (08) 9342 5808.

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
Service nurses' national memorial site dedicated

The site of the Australian Service Nurses’ National Memorial was dedicated on Saturday February 15 – the 55th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and a time of historical significance to service nurses.

The Memorial will be located on Anzac Parade, Canberra, between those dedicated to the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy, and opposite the site for the Korean War memorial.

February 14 was the anniversary of the sinking of the Vyner Brooke two days out from Singapore with its complement of Australian Army nurses, 12 of whom drowned or were killed in the water.

Two days after that, a further 21 of the remaining nurses were massacred by Japanese soldiers on a beach at Banka Island.

In dedicating the site, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Scott, said, “I have been impressed and moved not only by the professional dedication of the service nurses, but also by their courage as they faced dangers and shared the physical and emotional traumas of conflict and imprisonment as prisoners of war.”

The erection of the Memorial and the Government’s $100,000 contribution to its construction, honour an election commitment.

The Memorial design will be agreed between the Royal College of Nursing Australia and the National Capital Authority following a public design competition.

It is expected the memorial will be completed by October 1999.

A recent letter from national president “Digger” James asks Sub-branches to support this program.

Veterans denied benefit of interest rate falls

Inaction by the Federal Government means that the loans barely retain their concessional purpose, and in some cases actually exceed those charged by commercial lenders.

As most DSH loans have two or three components, the average total effective interest rate is claimed to be 6.85%. One case involves an ex-service man with an outstanding loan balance of $21,000 who is paying 10.00% interest on $15,000 of the amount owing and 3.75% on the other $6,000. Another with an outstanding balance of just under $20,000 is paying 10.00% interest on $10,000, 7.25% on $2,000 and 3.75% on $8,000.

Budget papers show that the interest subsidy paid by Veterans’ Affairs to Westpac for defence services loans has fallen from $30.20 million last year to $22.07 million this year.

PM launches Prostate Video

The Prime Minister has launched an education video on prostate disease. The video features older men discussing problems associated with prostate disorders in an open and positive way. With one in five Australian men over the age of 65 a veteran, it is a significant health issue for the veteran community.

(From the full story: Media kits are available to Sub Branches. These include photographs, case studies, prostate disease fact sheets and video and audio tapes.)

Contact: Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Tel: 9366 8222

Vietnam veterans’ widows urged to take part in health study

A Vietnam Veterans’ Health Study is currently collecting data from the entire Vietnam veteran community to develop an accurate assessment of the state of health of veterans, their partners and children.

The original questionnaire was sent to all Vietnam veterans but the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Scott, is keen to have input from the widows of the 3,350 veterans who have died since returning from Vietnam.

The details of their families’ health and that of veterans’ separated partners, which otherwise might not be included in the survey, are important to complete the picture.

We are appealing to these widows, widowers and separated partners to volunteer to complete a special

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version of the questionnaire. The more information we have, the more reliable and useful the findings.

Widows, widowers and separated partners of Vietnam veterans can obtain a special version of the questionnaire by ringing the help line on 1800 55 048.

Contact: Melissa McKerihan
Tel: (06) 277 7820 or 0419 607 783

Cabinet rejects review plan
by Roderick Campbell,
Legal Reporter

The Federal Government has rejected a proposal for the radical restructuring of the administrative review system which would have seen the existing independent tribunals replaced by a non-independent government agency.

In a major rebuff for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which was championing the proposals, Cabinet rejected last week any change which would undermine the independence of the administrative review process.

It is understood that PM&C was strongly supported in its approach by the departments of Finance and Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

An inter-departmental committee, chaired by PM&C, was proposing the abolition of the five existing tribunals and their replacement by a Commonwealth Review Agency, funded largely by the departments whose decisions it would review, and headed by a bureaucrat who would be answerable to a board of management of departmental heads.

Such an agency would have none of the statutory independence enjoyed by the existing tribunals.

The Attorney-General, Darly Williams, announced yesterday that Cabinet had reaffirmed its decision in March to streamline the merits-review system by amalgamating the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, the Social Security Appeal Board, the Veterans Review Board, the Immigration Review Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal into a single, independent Administrative Review Tribunal.

The Government’s announcement revives the possibility that the president of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Justice Deirdre O’Connor, will relinquish her post to become the head of the new tribunal. She is a former president of the AAT.

The president of the Law Council of Australia, Peter Short, praised the decision, saying the review system must remain independent and provide a proper balance in the decision making process.

DVA healthy lifestyle encouragement grants

Health promotion is the process of enabling people to improve and increase their control over their own health. The Health Promotion Section of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs aims to do just this. It coordinates programs such as Veterans’ Health Week, Veterans’ Quality of Life education workshops and other health promotion projects.

Healthy Lifestyle Encouragement Grants are designed to provide funding for projects which promote health to the veteran community. The grants provide opportunities for the veteran community to participate in new and existing health enhancing activities, to improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle and promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Examples of health promotion activities include organising a walking group or a health education workshop, a social group or a bridge competition.

This funding is available to ex-service groups and community organisations. If you are interested in information about funding for health promotion activities or ideas for projects please call Fiona Stawell on 9366 8365

BARBARA CLINTON
Veterans’ Affairs Committee
Type VII U-Boats by Robert C. Stern

The Type VII U-boat, of which more than 700 were built, is the class which springs to mind whenever the topic of the fierce World War II Battle of the Atlantic is raised.

Type II U-boats is not an operational history of the class, but a detailed technical description of the Type VII as a weapons system. It does include some typical operations as examples and is laced throughout with dramatic tales of action.

This book carefully analyses how the Type VII U-boats had certain characteristic elements (sensors, propulsion, weapons, etc.) which allowed it to perform its primary task of sinking enemy shipping. Descriptions of technical details are accompanied by narrative sections taken from recollections of survivors of U-boats crews.

After reading Type VII U-boats, I cannot but have a begrudging respect for the men, many conscripted, who fought and died in these small, cramped, humid, damp submarines, normally without fresh food, or water for washing, and with only one onboard head in operation up forward, the aft head being used as a food storage locker.

First published by Arms & Armour Press of London in a 1991 hardcover edition with a then retail price of $60, Type VII U-boats has just been re-released in a softcover edition at $29.95, thus putting it in the price range of a greater number of readers.

The book is divided into five sections: Part One - Design Genesis, covering the evolution of the class; Part Two - Physical Characteristics of the System, covering hull, crew, propulsion, provisioning, sanitation; Part Three - Weapons and Targeting Systems, covering torpedoes, mines, deck gun, flak guns, experimental weapons; Part Four - Sensor Systems, covering radios, radar, radar detectors, hydrophones, infra-red sensors; and Part Five - Countermeasures, covering anti-radar coatings, anti radar decoys, anti-sonar coatings, anti-sonar decoys.

Supporting this interesting and most informative book are a glossary and three appendices, plus 166 black and white photographs — many never seen before — and 11 line drawings or sets of plans.

Distributed in Australia by New Holland Publishers of 3/2 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest, NSW, Type VII U-boats is highly recommended as an in-depth look at the German U-boat and the Battle of the Atlantic.

VIC JEFFERY, OAM

Barbarossa

The Russian German Conflic 1941 - 1945 by Alan Clark

Barbarossa is the story of what was then the greatest clash of arms the world has ever seen. Let us hope for the sake of mankind it is the last the world will ever see.

“When Barbarossa begins, the world will hold its breath.” (Adolf Hitler, 3 February 1941)

The invasion (Barbarossa) began on 22 June 1941. The might of the German Army powered its way into Soviet Russia and indeed the world did hold its breath, as nothing appeared capable of stopping it crushing everything in its path. The Russian Armies were in complete disarray, with nobody able to give any direction or leadership. It seemed that victory was just a matter of course, and that the whole world would be shown that resistance to the power of the German Army is hopeless.

The turn-around of this perceived situation can be attributed to many factors:

- The OKG (High Command of the German Army) and OKW (Organisation of the Supreme Command of the German Armed Forces) worked independently of each other and it was only through Hitler that the two Commands could communicate effectively.
- The German Generals in charge of their own armies, racing ahead of each other, ignoring orders from OKH and OKW, and with a degree of jealousy trying to outdo each other to reach and objective before the other so as to capture the spoils of war.
- Lack of imagination and adaptability which was a recurrent characteristic of German Military attitude. The structure of the German Armies, and their Generals’ private jealousies playing a part in the downfall, along with Hitler himself wanting to be the ultimate strategist and, when his mind was made up, could not be swayed by the advice of his experts in the field.

The huge losses of men and machines, the shortage of supplies, spare parts, fuel, and adequate clothing to ward off the Russian winter in temperatures to minus 20 degrees or more had men freezing to death in the appalling conditions. Finally the sheer arrogance of the Germans that they did not believe their own intelligence sources...
when told of the amount of armour the Russians were building up, insisted they were mistaken and that, in any case, it would be inferior, and not able to withstand the superior forces of the "Reich".

They also underestimated the Russian strength and the tenacity and resilience of the Russian soldier.

Barbarossa will interest those who want a complete understanding of this conflict. It gives an insight into the strategic and operational decision-making of both the German and Russian Military Forces.

Published by Phoenix Giants, Barbarossa is available through Allen and Unwin, PO Box 8500, (Atchison Street), St Leonards, NSW 2065. Recommended retail price $24/95

GEOFF TANNER

Torres Strait Force

by Reg A Ball

This is an account of the units that became the nucleus of Torres Strait Force which also covered Merauke Force in Dutch New Guinea.

It begins with early defences from 1939 to 1941 and includes details of Japan's entry into the war, the 1942 defence build up, the 1943 Moultrie Plan for defending Merauke, the Torres Strait Islands and Cape York, and guarding sea and air routes from Cairns to Moresby and Darwin. The 1942 bombing of Horn Island and those that followed are documented, as are the clashes with the Japanese in Dutch New Guinea.

The RAAF Operational Base Units at Iron Range, Jacky Jacky (Higgins Field), Horn Island and Merauke are covered and the comprehensive appendix has a full list of all units that served in the Force. These are followed by extracts from several Army War Diaries and RAAF Operational Record Books. Smaller units and the Torres Strait Light Infantry are also examined. More than 600 Thursday Islanders signed up to defend their homeland and several Dutch and American units also receive appropriate coverage.

Torres Strait Force is published by Australian Military History Publications, in hard cover format, and comprises 315 pages with photographs and maps.

The recommended retail price is $545, including postage, and it is available from Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus, NSW 2232. Tel: (02) 9521 6515.

CLIVE BAKER

Soldiers in Politics

by Chris Coulthard-Clark

Australia's past is studded with senior military figures who have been active in shaping the nation's political direction, in some cases moulding institutions at both Federal and State level. Over the years there have been a number who have served in a Vice Regal capacity, been leaders of pressure groups and, in some cases, have aspired to lead secret armies.

The book takes the reader through periods of time where leadership was lacking in the country and circumstances were such as to allow the proliferation of groups who endeavoured to assist in clandestine ways. There are also many names of ex-servicemen who have given service over the years in the political scene; these people are not confined to one political party and the reader get the opportunity to study their motives and philosophies. The chapters dealing with pressure groups and secret armies are particularly interesting to those naive enough to think these things do not happen. The book is written in an easy style and is quite absorbing as it reveals many interesting facts from the past.

Soldiers in Politics is available from Allen & Unwin, PO Box 8500, St Leonards NSW 2065.

The Spell Broken

by Peter Brune

The Spell Broken: Exploding the Myth of Japanese Invincibility is the story of the battles for Milne Bay, Buna and Sanananda in the extreme east of Papua New Guinea. It is a completely different story but at the same time a companion volume to Peter Brune’s other two accounts (Those Ragged Bloody Heroes and Gona’s Gone) of the battles that were fought against the Japanese during the Pacific War of 1942-43. During the seven month period beginning July 1942, three battles were fought: at Milne Bay, the Kokoda Trail and the Gona-Sanananda-Buna beachhead to contest the Japanese Pacific advance- and possibly an invasion of Australia. Those Ragged Bloody Heroes, tells the story of the Australian soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Trail. Gona’s Gone is an in-depth look at the capture of Gona, the first of the beachhead strongholds to fall. The Spell Broken tell the story of the defeat of the Japanese and is the final volume of these battles.

The story starts with the invasion by the Japanese at Milne Bay in August 1942 and the desperate defence by the Australian 7th Brigade. This is followed by the 18th
Brigade’s advance against the Japanese in what was the first Japanese defeat on land in the Pacific War. Finally it tells the story of the Australians’ capture of Japanese positions at Buna and Sanananda on the northern beachhead of Papua New Guinea.

The conditions were horrific and it was during these battles that Australian soldiers developed the mastery of jungle warfare for which they are still renowned. The Australians’ capture of the Japanese positions proved to the Americans how good Australian soldiers were.

The history of these battles is told through the official records of those campaigns and the diaries, photographs, files and recollections of the survivors. It is a vivid account which, as Sir Thomas Daly says in his foreword, ‘revived memories of the clamour of the battle, of the foetid odours rising from primeval mud disturbed by slogging feet and the sickly sweet scent of decaying bodies. Although I have spent much of my life among soldiers I could not but be moved by this factual account of brave persistence and undemonstrative heroism.’

The recommended retail price of this hardcopy book is $39.95 plus postage and it is available from the publishers:- Allen & Unwin, PO Box 8500, St Leonards NSW 2065. Tel:(02) 9906 2218

EDITOR

Lost Anzacs
by Greg Kerr

Greg Kerr, a Melbourne journalist, has long been intrigued by the grandfather he never knew – a survivor of Gallipoli and a powerful figure in his childhood. Then, in 1995, his grandfather’s diaries became available – tantalising in shorthand and singed by fire. In Lost Anzacs he goes in search of the enigmatic soldier-grandfather and unravels a remarkable episode in his family’s past. He traces the paths of two orphans from a broken home who enlisted in World War I in different battalions, using different surnames. The result is a graphic account of two profoundly different experiences of war, as seen through the eyes of two brothers.

Hedley Kitchin, the author’s great-uncle, took part in the Gallipoli landing and disappeared on the morning of 25 April 1915. His diary accounts of the preceding months evoke the excitement and occasional apprehension during the preparations for that disastrous campaign.

George Kitchin Kerr, the author’s grandfather, who landed after his brother, was subsequently wounded and survived execution by the Turks in remarkable circumstances (as vividly portrayed in the book). Greg Kerr draws on George’s compelling diary to describe the long journey across Turkey and his three and a half years in Turkish prison camps. Few of those captured by the Turks at Gallipoli survived: George Kitchin Kerr managed to do so because of his innate determination and resourcefulness. Coping with privation and despair, he battled to survive at the hands of his adversaries and tried to discover the truth about his younger bother’s fate. Just as Hedley had documented the prelude to Gallipoli, George kept an extensive diary and took a series of unique photographs, many of which are included in this book. Until now, practically nothing has been written about the Anzacs’ experiences as prisoners of the Turks.

Greg Kerr has written a moving account of two Anzac stories – Hedley’s encapsulating the Anzac legend in abrupt, tragic detail, and George’s exploring less familiar themes of brutalisation, despondency and survival in captivity. Throughout the book are countless vignettes of heroism and futility, casting a new light on this remarkable episode in modern Australian history.

Lost Anzacs is published by Oxford University Press, 253 Normanby Rd, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205. Fax: (03) 9646 3251. Recommended retail price: $39.95.
ARMADALE

Anzac Day 1997 started on a beautiful calm morning with the Dawn Service, held in our Memorial Park in Jull Street. This year the parade was led by a mounted horseman resplendent in the uniform of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. During the wreath laying ceremony, Mr Matthew Cormack, a piper from the Armadale Pipe Band, played a lament which was quite poignant in the early morning stillness. The attendance at the service by all the organisations, family groups and young people was gratifying to see, and the numbers are increasing each year.

As usual, the all-night vigil was kept by the Armadale Police Rangers Unit and Cadets from the 52 Regional Cadet Unit formed the ceremonial guard around the Obelisk during the service.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Jason Venables, a young man who has played the bugle at our Anzac and Remembrance Day Services for a number of years. Jason started playing when he was attending high and has continued since then.

The Service was followed by a Gun Fire breakfast in the clubrooms, served by our Women’s Auxiliary. The ladies also served a beautiful buffet lunch – yes, they really did spoil us and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done, ladies. Another Anzac Service was held later in the morning for the residents of J.E. Murray Homes. Numerous requests were received by the Sub-Branch for members to attend Anzac Services at the various school in our area, and I congratulate all schools for their excellent presentations. At long last, the clubroom site is now vested in the RSL and we currently are progressing with plans to extend the clubrooms, which will greatly add to the comfort of our members and provide us with more scope for community activities.

Once again we had the pleasure of entertaining residents from the War Veterans’ Homes at Mt Lawley to lunch and fellowship. This twice-yearly event is organised and catered for by the Women’s Auxiliary.

This year the Sub-Branch will celebrate its 78th birthday at the annual dinner on 18 October. Membership, both ordinary and social, is steadily increasing.

We were greatly honoured to be presented with the Newdegate Cup at the 1997 State Congress and Ken Nicolson has been presented with his Life Membership. Well done, Ken.

BELMONT

What would we do without them? Every organisation has them ... the never tiring volunteers who, rain or shine, keep the show going. It takes a lot of work to keep a clubhouse looking A1. The Sub-Branch may have many members, but only a handful come and do the work around the place. Thank heaven we have the Dads’ Army boys, the Women’s Auxiliary and the bar staff, committee and officers, who make our club a successful venue. The volunteer spirit that prevails amongst the members is terrific and to be commended. Because of our high standards, many other units and organisations use our facilities: we are proud to offer the best. No wonder our membership is always increasing. So, if you live in this district, come and pay us a visit.

Our annual dinner was well attended with some 120 members, ladies and guests, who included the Mayor of the City of Belmont, Cr Peter Passeri JP, and Lady Mayoress, Lorraine Passeri, State President of the RSL, State President of the Women’s Auxiliary, representatives of three services and their partners, Councillors, Members of Parliament and, of course, our patron, the Hon Fred McKenzie. Our director of ceremonies, Olga Greig, Rene Reynolds, Bill Skerman and numerous volunteers made the occasion a success. Bill Winfield and Frank Turner were presented with Certificates of Service by the State President.

Many members and their ladies are on holidays; this time of the year these migratory birds fly north and avoid the cooler weather. Many have even flown overseas, and we understand others are leaving shortly, but these homing-pigeons always land back safely, usually to be ready for the next bowling season.

On June 29, we had our Trophy Day and the 10th anniversary of the social bowlers’ club of our Sub-Branch. There were many visitors, including MLA the Hon Don Randall and other guests, all welcomed by the Hon Fred McKenzie, who thanks the visitors, members and helpers for making this a special occasion. An excellent luncheon was enjoyed. Fred gave a talk on the RSL Club and bowling.

Congratulations to the hard-working committee for keeping alive the ideals of the League and for the contributions made to the community.

BRIAN DAXON
Secretary
green, which has been an asset and of great benefit to those who play; all have a lot to thank Ron Gwynne for. Full details of the day, including the results of the competitions are in the September/October issue of the Belmont bulletin. The Bugle, as we do not have enough space to list them here. In excess of $5,000 has been raised by the bowling club for the Sub-Branch, and we thank you.

Also within the Sub-Branch is the active fishing club, which has donated hundreds of dollars to the Sub-Branch, including a new video and television set. In the bowling club, Maxine Britten is the driving force, and Mitch Cadden in the fishing club. People like Max and Mitch create enthusiasm, and look at the results!!

Our State Executive member, Mike Hall, who received an Order of Australia Medal for his work with the RSL, has been on the sick list, together with our Welfare Officer. Good to see them back. Sadly, we have lost several of our members in Ray Morrissey, Tim Hutchinson, Jack Monger and E Ashton. To the widows and families, we extend our deepest sympathy.

CARL F. CAUBO
Publicity Officer

CANNING DISTRICTS AND VICTORIA PARK

Many thanks to those people who came to our social functions which were a great success and enjoyed by all.

Any family with a members in hospital is asked to please contact Bert Neil, our hospital visitor, on (08) 9277 6016.

The Merrymakers Day Club meets each Monday between 10am and 2pm at the RSL Club, 162 Wharf Street, Cannington, where members, wives and friends and people from the general community use the facilities. Pool, darts, mini golf and quizzes are but a few of the activities to be enjoyed.

Periodically we hold smorgasbord lunches when members being a variety of dishes and we frequently have entertainers such as the Cloggers and Belly Dancers or maybe a speaker. Our latest bus trip was to a Christmas in July dinner at Kalamunda Hotel; we have also visited Serpentine, Penguin Island, the Zoo and other spots of interest.

Our members are aged from 40 on and the club is for people who wish to get out and into a friendly atmosphere with genuine people of their own ilk. We have all become great friends and usually spend the first half hour chatting over a cup of tea. There is no joining fee; just $2 to cover the tea and biscuits.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our day club members, Mr Don Sellers. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Lorna and family.

For information on our day club, please ring Jim or Carol on (08) 9451 4696.

All members and ex-members of the Signal Corps are asked to support our reunion on 5 October from 11.00am to 6pm. Those who attended last year had an excellent day. Location: The House, the Special Air Service Regiment. We will have a BBQ and refreshments will be served at house prices, with an Association subsidy. Peter Williams, well known Perth entertainer, will spend a few hours with us. He sings, tells excellent stories and his music is adjusted to the mood of the audience. Please bring your own lunch, but there will be some BBQ packs on sale for a nominal fee. Please give your names to Brian by 24 September. These are needed for security reasons at Campbell Barracks.

Contacts: John (08) 9342 5606, Brian (08) 9277 1406, or Jack (08) 9361 6745.

WENDY SCHWAB

COCKBURN

You may be the one to ask the question – How stands your Sub-Branch now. Mr President? The answer would be – We are standing tall and progressing soundly.

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BUNBURY

In the South West Times on Thursday 5 July 1917 (Do you know? column) there appeared the following:

“South West Branch of RSL formed in Bunbury on Sunday morning at Bunbury Soldiers’ Institute. Lt Shaw, Sgts Peake, Rolles and Jamieson and Messrs Paisley and Weston appointed as committee; Sgt Rolles as Secretary.”

(Courtesy of Alf Mort).

The Bunbury Welfare Committee consisting of 10 of our finest, lead by Tom Keogh, paid a visit to Department of Veterans Affairs on 27 June. As a direct result of the TIPS training, five of our Welfare Committee have received their Pensions and Welfare Officers’ Certificate.

To fit in with Department of Veterans Affairs guidelines, the social and day club is being developed to service the wider community of the Bunbury area, so come along and bring a friend. The monthly luncheon are becoming bigger than ever expected, with 70 to 100 attending on the second Friday of each month. For $5.00 you get a first class meal plus a guest speaker. But don’t forget to book by phoning (08) 9721 3596.

We are on track for 500 members for the first time in history and there are still many veterans who have not yet joined the RSL. So bring them in on any weekday morning and make them welcome. We really do have something to offer.

Don’t forget our monthly business meeting on the third Wednesday at 7.30pm sharp.

ALF MAINSTONE
To strengthen this statement you could look at a photo of Anzac Day 1979 in the Fremantle Gazette, and count 21 marchers, including two cadets. Compare this with Anzac Day 1997 with in excess of 150 participants – Veterans, Pipe Band, Cadets, Scouts and Guides and veteran military vehicles. Add to this the large number of residents, State politicians and City officials, who assembled at the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall and monument. Yes, we’re doing very well, thank you!

The success continues with 68 members attending the monthly meeting on Sunday 22 June and 10 ladies in the hall, preparing morning tea. Then, on Saturday 12 July, the Christmas in July dinner dance, with music by Anything Goes, and a superb Christmas dinner by the DeVille Caterers. The 92 members and guests had a very enjoyable night.

Sadly, I have heard that many members are housebound, due to TPI, cancer or strokes, and we were unaware of their plight. Rest assured friends, your committee will be working as a welfare team; so, if we do not hear from you, you will hear from us. Meanwhile, if you need help, please do phone us.

Back to the brighter side of your Sub-Branch: why not join us for a social drink and sausage sizzle, starting at 1600 hours every Friday? Remember, your monthly meeting is at 1000 hours on the fourth Sunday of each month.

ARTHUR STANTON

COMO

July 1 1997 was the 51st anniversary of the formation of the Como Sub-Branch. To mark the occasion, some 94 members, their wives, widows and partners met at the Freeway Hotel, South Perth, where they enjoyed the luncheon and, more importantly, good fellowship.

We were once again privileged to have as our special guests John and Deidre Surridge. Sadly, for family reasons, John will no longer be our Liaison Officer, a duty he has carried out in a quiet and dignified manner for the past 17 years. All your many friends at Como say “Thank you, John” for all your years of dedication, guidance and help which you have rendered over this period of time. We shall miss you.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, a presentation of flowers was made to Deidre by Mrs Mary Birch.

TOM WALDRON
President

GERALDTON

Readers of the Sub-Branch publication Birdwood Bugle were delighted to read under the heading “Colonel Collett Cup Comes Home” that the Cup had been won for the 25th time. Secretary Brian Cooper also congratulated Peter Barden on receiving the RSL’s highest recognition for Community Service, the Meritorious Medal, and Gillian Sharp and her small band of Auxiliary members on being awarded a special 75 Years Certificate.

The Auxiliary won the Country Cup 27 times and received the Geraldton Shield on the latest occasion for the third time as runner-up.

Secretary Brian Cooper has set a splendid example to business and individuals by donating $500 towards the establishment of a Korean War Memorial in Canberra. Serving as a machine-gun Sergeant in 1953, he was awarded the Military Medal for an outstanding example of cool, cheerful and courageous leadership cited as a splendid inspiration, not only to his own section but also to the US Marines.

A new member of our Sub-Branch, Ken Littlejohn of Bunbury, continues as State Country Vice-President and Frank Sharp, of Geraldton, as Northern Regional Vice-President.

We are planning a reunion dinner for December to mark the 80th anniversary of the formation of our Sub-Branch in 1917 under the Presidency of former Captain W.C. Robinson of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Northampton and Dongara members will be invited to join us for the occasion.

It was a delight to feature news items about Geraldton’s Wally Fletcher who celebrated his 96th birthday on May 7. In his own words, he was “over the moon” as a result of selection for participation in the Anzac Day activities; these included tossing the coin for the Dockers and St Kilda football match and being associated with the Eternal Flame Ceremony. As Wally is a former Mandurah resident, his old mates in that area also took a keen interest in the activities – particularly those members of the RSL and the 2/2nd Commando Association.

PETER BARDEN
PRO
PS. Subsequent to this report, it was learned that Mr Fletcher passed away in July.

MANDURAH

July saw the passing of Wally Fletcher, a navy veteran of World War I. Though residing in Exmouth and Geraldton, Wally was a long time member of Mandurah Sub-Branch and a well-known identity here.
Anzac Day Services look like remaining at the old site as the new memorial area is too small.

The annual dinner has been put back one week, to the first Saturday in December instead of the last Saturday in November, which is a very busy month for the Sub-Branch.

Quite a few former POWs of the Japanese and members of the Sub-Branch will be attending the Memorial Service at Boyup Brook for those lost at Sandakan.

WYN HOLDING

**NORTH BEACH**

Sadly, we record that Ron Riley, ex-RAAF and a stalwart of this Sub-Branch, died on July 3. LAC Riley went overseas with 452 Squadron in 1942. Believed to be the sole West Australian in the Spitfire squadron. He served at Tarakan and Morotai and returned to WA in 1946.

A farmer at Babakin before the war, Ron and his family moved to Perth in 1969. He was a member of the North Beach Bowling Club for many years.

Ron is survived by his wife Gwen and their four children, to whom we extend our sympathy.

LEST WE FORGET

MAX PLESTER TEL: (08) 9305 5219

PRO

**PORT KENNEDY**

We are now celebrating two years of existence and growing month by month.

We have had a busy Social Calendar this year, which has been very fulfilling for our members. Currently we are organising a Vietnam Veterans’ Day at Rockingham, with a follow-up get-together function at Garden Island.

Our newsletter is growing too big for the postman to handle, so we only send it out now each second month.

Our social Committee runs a popular Chocolate Wheel for our Friday night raffles which are held between 1630hrs and 1900hrs at Palm Meadows Tavern, Port Kennedy. There is also a members’ draw so be there to win – or it jackpots $5.00 each week.

Our meetings are held at 1300hrs on the last Sunday of every month, except September 1997 when the meeting will be brought forward to 21 September.

President is Mr Barry Wells. Tel: (08) 9593 1697 or 014-841-451 and Secretary is Mr Ian Nuttall, 28 Frederick Street, Shoalwater. 6169. Tel: (08)9592 2141.

S.A. MONCRIEFF

PRO

**RIVERTON**

Miss Debbie Prentice, Marketing Manager of the Riverton Forum Shopping Centre, asked if I would assist them in organising a service at the Centre on Thursday 24 April 1997.

The service, conducted by our Sub-Branch Padre, Major the Reverend Howard MacCullen, went off better than we expected. Debbie had a memorial set up with the flag pole in the centre of the mall and four uniformed cadets from Fremantle formed a catafalque party. In attendance were a number of dignitaries and diggers from around the Riverton area, along with Sub-Branch members.

This service must have been a first and I would think that, after its success, it will be an annual event. We extend our thanks to Debbie.

H. LOWE
President Tel: (08) 9459 7101

**RIVERVALE-CARLISLE**

I believe attendance at Sub-Branch meetings would be greater if members had prior knowledge of motions to be put forward. Maybe The Listening Post sub-committee could have a look at this. Reports after decisions have been made are of little help.

In my opinion, Christmas in July is not really an appropriate title for a celebration. However, I must say our function was a huge success with nearly 70 people sitting down to dinner. The meal, organised by the Women’s Auxiliary, was delicious and excellent entertainment was provided by the band, of which the Auxiliary secretary, Sybil Jacks, is a participating member.

We were pleased to welcome Len Turner, Immediate Past President of WA Branch, and Mrs Turner. The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Len of 50-year membership certificates to John Culbertson and Everhard Whitehurst.

On a more sombre note, due to the passing of former members, it is brought to the notice of all ex-servicemen that written records of service should be made. These should include areas in which service was rendered as well as enemy action encountered. Incapacities at the time, caused or worsened then or after discharge, should be noted. All attendances on sick parades should be included, as well as evidence provided by or to medics then and since. The Department of Veterans’ Affairs is anxious to help us wherever possible but claims for war pensions need every bit of evidence that can be provided. Do not leave your wife a widow without it.

TOM GRIFFITH
President
Our members helped Len Hall celebrate his 100th birthday at our usual monthly meeting. Respects were paid to Len afterwards at the very happy afternoon tea arranged by members. Len’s daughter had arrived from England and she was thrilled that we arranged this important event. A large birthday cake was bought, several members brought special sandwiches and other “goodies” and we all toasted Len’s good health and happy disposition.

Members have formally requested that the City of Stirling recognise our Member and Councillor, Joe Camilleri OAM for his efforts in promoting the district and his help to those in need. We suggested that the Scarborough Day Centre be named after Cr Camilleri, “a friend of the people and a worker for all the district”. Other organisations have also been approached to support the cause. Such recognition is well deserved by our “mate”, Joe.

JOE HARVEY
Publicity Officer

Wanneroo-Joondalup

Our Anzac Day Ceremony was held on the Sunday prior to 25 April to accommodate many of our supporting groups who always march in the Perth parade. We are very dependant on the help given at these ceremonies from groups that include various bands, service cadets and contingents from the Armed Services. The decision to hold the service prior to the 25th resulted in two bands appearing on parade which had not been possible before.

In balmy conditions, some 1500 people attended our service at the Memorial in Central Park, Joondalup with the sub-branch Padre, the Reverend John Myles as chaplain and Mr Chris Baker MLA. Member for Joondalup giving the Occasional Address. Dignitaries from the Local, State and Federal Governments and representatives from other kindred groups were also in attendance.

Marching with the veterans, were contingents from Rhodesian Assn, Royal Naval Assn, Vietnamese RSL, Burma Star Assn, Police Dept, Cyprian Assn and RAAF (about 70 strong). Also marching were the Wanneroo Concert Band, the Northern Suburbs Pipe Band, the drums of TS Marmion, as well as cadet units from the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The ceremony was made more meaningful by cadets assisting in the conduct of same. Prayers were offered by girl cadets from 507 Regional Cadet Unit and TS Marmion. Cadets from the three services assisted in the wreath laying by collecting the respective tributes and presenting them to the donors and assisted in distributing sprigs of rosemary and programmes to the public. The cadets made a very significant contribution to the day and many favourable comments were passed.

The ceremony was further enhanced by music provided by the Salvation Army band and the Wanneroo Civic Choir, and at the conclusion of the service members of the public were invited to place their springs of rosemary on the base of the memorial.

Last year, the Sub-Branch inaugurated a system whereby donors of floral tributes were given the option of presenting a floral tribute or a memorial book bearing two labels, The History of Anzac and the donors name. This year 38 books were thus presented and have been distributed to various primary and high, State and private schools in the Wanneroo area.

On 8th April the Sub-Branch assisted with the annual Anzac Day Service organised by the Hon. C. Edwards, Minister for the Environment, which was held on the Wanneroo show grounds. The Governor of WA, Major-General Michael Jeffrey, addressed the gathering as did veterans from World War II, the Vietnam War and the Korean War.

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PRO
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AFFORDABLE STATE-WIDE ADVERTISING TRADE AND COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES WELCOME
Our 70th annual State Conference was officially opened by State president Mr. L. Turner who thanked all Auxiliaries for their support of the League and the work they do raising funds for the welfare of ex-service men and women. On behalf of all Auxiliaries I presented a cheque for $6,500 to Mr Turner for the War Veterans' Home Building Fund and the refurbishing of the new Howes Wing and a cheque for $2,500 towards the upkeep of the State War Memorial.

Trophies for the Cup Competition were presented to the following Auxiliaries:
- Metropolitan Cup: Belmont 41 Points
- Executive Shield: Bellevue 36 Points
- Tray: Armadale 33 Points
- Encouragement Certificates: Rivervale/Carlisle 29 Points
- Encouragement Certificates: Subiaco 28 Points
- Country Cup: Mt. Barker 47 Points
- Geraldton Shield: Geraldton 32 Points
- Tray: Bruce Rock 30 Points
- Encouragement Certificates: Mandurah 24 Points
- Encouragement Certificates: Katanning 23 Points

I had the pleasure of presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the following Auxiliaries:
- Geraldton 75 yrs: Quairading 70 yrs
- Murry Districts 68 yrs: Northam 60 yrs
- Waroona/Hamel 60 yrs: City of Perth 52 yrs
- Perenjori 52 yrs: Bruce Rock 51 yrs
- Greenbushes 50 yrs: Belmont 50 yrs

Resuming Conference after the wreath laying service at the State War Memorial, Returning Officer Mr. N. Johnson announced the results of the elections:
- State President, Mrs M. Fisher; Immediate Past President, Mrs T. Taylor; Senior Vice President, Mrs E. Norris; Junior Vice President, Mrs J. Spencer; Hon. State Secretary, Mrs B. Daxon; Hon State Treasurer, Mrs R. Clark; Executive Committee, Mesdames: G. Gould, E. Beven (Bellevue) T. Chilcott (Cockburn) M. Raven (City of Perth) U. Maki (Eastern Regional) P. Barrell (Wembley/Floreat).

Agenda items were discussed and debated. Mrs J. Murdock, President of the Victorian Women’s Council, spoke about the work her Auxiliaries do. Although we all work in different ways it is good to see the end project is always for the welfare of ex-service men and women.

Before the conference closed, I was presented with a cheque for my retirement from all the Auxiliaries. I thank all of you for this gift and for your support, loyalty and friendship which I will always remember. I thank Sub-Branches and kindred organisations for their much appreciated friendship, hospitality and kindness. To the State Secretary, State Treasurer and Executive members – thank you for your friendship and understanding through my term of office.

M. TAYLOR

God Bless you all.

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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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Listening Post – SPRING 1997 – Page 55
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
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSOC. (WA) INC
President: Mr. Neil Chaplin, Tel: 9302 1388 (w) 9307 8460 (h). Vice President: Mr Steve Lamborn, Tel: 9320 3444 (w). Treasurer: Mr Tony Bonavita, Tel: 9335 2111 (w). Membership Officer: Mr John Deakin, Tel: 9321 8533 (w). Newsletter Editor: Mr Doug Child. Correspondence to PO Box 1724, Wangara 6065.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN (INC)
State President: Mr LCW Hutchings, 17 St Johns 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: W01 BF Cooper CD AIMM, 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, 4 Norringham Street, East Victoria Park 6101. Tel: 9361 2824. Treasurer: Ruth Franklin, 14 Hamilton St, Greenmount, Tel: 9446 5751. Meetings bi-monthly as arranged.

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, Kalanunda 6076. Tel: (08) 9293 1680. Meetings: 4th Monday (If Mon holiday-next day, Tues) 11am-Feb to Nov. Belmont RSL Hall, cnr Gt Easteinn Hwy and Leake St, Belmont. Bus 306 new Bus Station or stand 45 cnr Pier Str and Carpark.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOC. INC.
President: Mr D Clarke, Tel: 9309 1046. Secretary: Mrs J Harris, Tel: 9247 1009. Treasurer: Mr P Delamotte, Tel: 9248 3657. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday each month at Anzac House, 1.30pm. Correspondence to: 20 Roydon Way, Girrawheen 6064.

CATALINA CLUB OF WA
State President: Mr Ivan Peirce, 14 Abjournal St, Manning 6152, Tel: 9450 1231. Correspondence to Catalina Club of WA, PO Box 866, Canning Bridge 6153. General meetings 10am 2nd Thurs-day in March, June (AGM), September and December at Anzac House.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS CONT.

DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Lt Col (ret’d) P Winstanley RFD, 55 Jeannes Rd, Karrinyup 6018, Tel: 9341 6883. Vice President: Lt Col (ret’d) E Quartermaine, 8 McNab Rise, Duncraig 6023. Tel: 9447 8822. Secretary: Maj (ret’d), PC Pickersgill RFD, ED, 191 Kitchener Rd, Booragoon 6154. Tel: 9330 4015. Treasurer: Lt Col (ret’d) NA Gilbert RFD, ED, 23 Grimsay Rd, Ardross 6153. 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: Mrs Phyl Ptolomely, 84 West Rd, Bassendean 6054. Tel: 9279 2279. V/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.

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. Secretary: Ruth James, 7b Wenden Pl, Willetton 6155, Tel: 9457 8727. Correspondence to Secretary or President. Association meetings 1pm, first Wednesday each month at Anzac House.

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

FEDERATED TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN’S ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
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, 6 St Barnabas Place, Mosman Park, 6012, Tel: 9384 4222(h) 9221 3719(w). All correspondence to President.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA
President: Hilton Devoreux, 49 Stradbrooke Gdns, Merriwa, 6030. Secretary: Theo Bushe-Jones, 26 Baltic Mews, Waikiki 6169, Tel: 9527 9186. Meets second Wednesday Feb, April, June, August, October, December, 71 West Parade, East Perth. Correspondence to Secretary, 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 Budgen. Meeting: 1st Monday of the month at Anzac House, at 7.30pm (unless otherwise advised).

HMNS AUSTRALIA VETERANS’ CLUB
President: Mr Don Cookesley, 3 Dorking Rd, City Beach 6015. Tel: 9385 7061. Secretary: Mr Harry Townsend, 2A Darnelle 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.

HMNS BATAN VETERANS’ ASSOC.
President: Mr Dick King, 89 Empire Ave, City Beach 6015. Tel: (08) 9358 9089. Secretary: Mr Colin Hepburn, 39a Fallow Crescent, Spearwood 6163. Treasurer: Mr Bob Truman, 12 Regent Grove, Morley 6062. Tel: (08) 9279 6903. For further information please contact any of the above.

HMNS CANBERRA/HMNS 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, Kardinia 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.

HMNS HOBART ASSOC. (WA DIVISION)
President: Mr Graeme Purskie, 14 Hollis St, Samson, Tel: 9339 8976. Secretary: Mr Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Rd, Shenton Park, Tel: 9381 8705. Treasurer: Mr Fred Varris, 12 Matara 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 month from around noon. Further information please contact any of the above.

HMNS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS’ ASSOC.
President: Mr TK (Trevor) Lloyd, 48 Bell St, Claremont 6152. Tel: 9527 1817. Secretary: Mr TE (Tom) Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont 6010. Tel: 9384 3042. Treasurer: Mrs A Johnson, 10 Nicholas Avenue, Quinns Rocks 6030, Tel: 9305 1573. 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 Fowlie, 11 Mirador Rd, Morley, Tel: 9275 1259. AGM 2nd 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, Gnangara 6065, Tel: 9405 1598. Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy Higgins, 69
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PREMIER J SZELEWSKI. Tel: 9276 1766. Vice President: Mr Bill Scott, 10 Glenet Way, Ferndale. Tel: 9458 1750. Secretary: Mr Des Casey, 5 Johnston Way, Padbury. Tel: 9307 2070. Treasurers: 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 Warragoon Cres, Attadale. Tel: 9330 3411. Treasurer: Mr SG Thomas, 91 Coleman Crest, Melville 6156. Tel: 9330 3427. Meetings: 1130hrs 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, 17 Lynton St, Mt Hawthorn 6016. Tel: 9444 3762. Secretary: Mr John Ross, 1 Benwee Rd, Floreat 6014. Tel: 9387 6906. 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 J Binnekamp, 3 Cambridge Cres, Cooloongup, Tel: 9527 6494. Correspondence to PO Box 8289, Perth Business Centre, Aberdeen St, Perth 6849.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA INC.

President: Mr E Baints, 154 Wood St, Inglewood 6052. Secretary: Mr J Kuijpers, 8A Dauntless Way, Dunbrae 6023. Tel: 9448 7178. Meetings: Tuesday 10.30am-2.30pm, Sundays 4.30pm-8.30pm at the Coolbaunia/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 Weapons 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: 9535 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 1330hrs), (Nov-Apr, 1500hrs). All correspondence: PO Box 1015, Mandurah 6210.

RAAF 467-463 LANCASTER SQUADRONS ASSOC. WA

President: Mr John McKenzie, 186 Weaponys 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, Bullcreek.

RAEVE 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.

RAEVE OFFICERS’ ASSOC. 5MD (WESTERN REGION) INC.

President: Maj Steve Cartner. Tel: 9457 1720 (h), 354 4993 (w). Secretary/Treasurer: Capt Perry Beer, 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: Sgta RA Hinton. Tel: 9387 2237. All correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 14, Hillarys 6052. Meets the second Wednesday of each month at the USI Rooms, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta at 1400 hrs. Any member is welcome to observe.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOC. (BRANCH 1210 WA)

President: Mr Norman RT Jarrett. Tel: 9247 1354. Secretary: Mr Maurice McFadyen, 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 INC. BULLCREEK BRANCH

President: Allan Stewart. 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: 0411 494 875. Meetings: 2nd Sunday in February, April, June, August and October at 10.30am, 13 Fd Sqn RAE, Sappers Way, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY - ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS
President: Mr Neville Philip, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount, Tel: 9294 1798. Secretary: Mrs B Philip, same address as President. Meetings and luncheon at Anzac House, second Friday in February, April, June, August, October and December at 11.30am.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVERS ASSOCIATION WA CHAPTER
President: Alex Donald, DSC, 7 Woodley Cres, Melville Heights 6156, Tel: 9330 6596. Meetings: Anzac Day (AGM) 1300, Navy Club, High St, Fremantle. Correspondence to the President.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOC. (WA)
State President: B Edmundson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley, 6148, Tel: 9457 5620. State Secretary: J Shephard, 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, Tel: 9448 5787. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Philip Bray, 33 Nalpa Way, Duncraig 6023. Meetings: Anzac Day, Corps Birthday (July) and Christmas.

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND
President/Secretary: Mr John Martin, 9 Gladstone St, St James 6102. Tel: 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).

SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH
Membership: Open to all serving and ex-submariners. President: John Rana, 6 Banksia Pl, Yangебup 6164, Tel: 9417 1811. Vice-President: Lloyd Blake, 69 Buxton St, Mt Hawthorn 6016, Tel: 9444 4912. Secretary: WJF (Bomber) Wells, 56b Planet St, Carlisle 6101, Tel: 9470 6921. Treasurer: Sid Czobotar, 4 Oberon Crt, Waikiki 6169, Tel: 9593 5224. Welfare Officer: Roger Hardwicke, 2 Toovey Crt, Hepburn Heights 6025, Tel: 9307 9215. Meetings are held quarterly Feb (AGM), May, Aug, Nov at varying venues. (Details: Secretary or http://www.austsub. asn.au). All notices should be forwarded to the Secretary.

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TOTALY & PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN LIMITED
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH INC.
TPI 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. Luncheons available weekdays and weekends by booking one day prior.

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT ASSOC. WA BRANCH
President: Mr Jack Patterson, 15A Greville 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 Oakland Ave, Cloverdale 6015, 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 Crt, Rockingham 6168. Tel: 9527 3351. Secretary: Mr Len Kebell, 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 McMahan, 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 G Norton, 39 Woodman Point Resort, 132 Cockburn Road, Munster 6166. Secretary: Mr A Richards, 27 Orion Street, Rockingham 6168, Tel: 9592 1474. Treasurer: Mr D Gettiffe, 44 Calista Avenue, Calista 6167, Tel: 9419 1331. Meetings: The Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle. 8.00pm the last Tuesday of every month, including public holidays. Correspondence to Secretary.
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., MARMION BRANCH, NORTHERN SUBURBS
Chairman: Rod Burden, 7/7 Chessell Drive, Duncraig, 6023, Tel/Fax: 9246 2336. Hon. Secretary: John Larby, 18 Bayswater Street, Bedford 6052. Tel: 9350 4156. Meetings: Second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm Whitfords Sea Sports and Angling Club, Ocean Reef Boat Harbour 6025.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC., PERTH (WA) INC.
Chairman: Mr IR Hunter, 9 Derwent Pl, Rockingham 6168, Tel: 9527 1612. Secretary: Mr John Larby, 18 Bayswater St, Bedford 6052. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month. Winter May to October 10.00am for 10.30. Summer November to April 7.00pm for 7.30 at RSL Hall, 22 Leake St, Belmont, Visitors welcome.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC. (ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS) BRANCH
Chairman: David Slowley, 18 Welch Wy, Wambro 6169, Tel: 9593 1279. Vice Chairman: Derick Ramsdale, 6 Falcon Crt, Rockingham 6168, Tel: 9527 9515. Hon Secretary: Dorothy V Rawe, 62B Frederick St, Shoalwater 6169, Tel: 9592 6148. Hon Treasurer: Ted Haines, Lot 32 Mallee Dr, Amarillo, Karnup 6176, Tel: 9537 1599. Meetings: first Tuesday each month (except January) at TS Anzac, Point Peron Rd, 7.30pm.

THE SERVICES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Including Services Joblink, Cypress Cottage. Pension Assistance, President: Doug Rasmussen, Tel: 9221 7010, Fax: 9221 1117, 28 St. Georges Terrace, Perth 6000.

THE SPITFIRE GROUPE
Organiser: Éric Carpenter, Tel: 9342 2779. Luncheon meetings are held in the VC Room, Anzac House, St Georges 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 Karrinyup Rd, Karrinyup 6018, Tel: 9341 3323. Secretary: Mrs Ena McGinn OAM, 9 Castile 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 Hammal, 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 Les Fymmore, Tel: 9364 1476. Hon State Secretary: Mr Ted Philip, Tel: 9450 4033. Treasurer: Mr Alf Price, Tel: 9448 7683

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 Lillian Waldie 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.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President/Secretary: Mrs May Tomich, 2 Ludlands St, Morley 6062, Tel: 9276 8616. Treasurer: Jean Pearce, Tel: 9367 4705. All correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 6149, East Perth 6892.

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, 40 Halvorson Rd, Morley Tel: 9276 1535. Secretary: Lt Col EW (Ted) Dubbetlin ED RL JP, 28a Houston Ave, Dianella 6059, Tel: 9275 1348. Meetings arranged by committee.

Z SPECIAL UNIT INTERNATIONAL (INC)
PO Box 7, Innaloo City 6918. Chairman: Jack Sue. Tel: 9257
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS CONT.

1260. Vice Chairman: Ross Davidson, Tel: 9383 7654. Secretary/Treasurer: Lou Pola, Tel: 9446 2784.

1st AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION WA BRANCH
President: Mr Bill Rose, 19 Jukes Way, Glendalough 6016. Tel: 9444 6858. Secretary: Mr Ron Waters, 25 Clyo Way, Kallaroo 6025, Tel: 9307 7079.

2BN MALAYA MERDEKA VETERANS (WA)
President: L Phenn, MBE, JP, Tel: 9349 5859. 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 Ave, 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 (Banjo) 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 Myros, 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 Levington Gdns, Bibra Lake 6163, Tel: 9417 3989. Meets in the Pure Steel Room, Gloucester Park at 11am 2nd Tuesday monthly except January.

2/7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOC. WA SECTION
President: Keith Fruin, 2/74 McCallum St, Ardross 6153, Tel: 9364 7160. Secretary/Treasurer: Vern Sprigg, 8 Moss Vale, Floreat 6014, Tel: 9387 6732. Reunion after Anzac Day March and Service. Any 6 Division veteran without Association is welcome to march with us in the Anzac Day Parade.

2/7th FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOC.
President/Secretary: Mr Hal Finkelstein, 15 Jukes Way, Glendalough 6016, Tel: 9444 0328. Reunion. September each year.

2/13th FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOC.
Secretary: L McCarthy, 31 Marradong St, Coolinbinia 6050, Tel: 9444 1927. For meeting details contact the Secretary.

2/16th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF 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, Dianella 6062, Tel: 9276 2146. Eddie Pigeon Post: DK Norris, 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, 148 Shaftesbury Ave, Bedford 6052, Tel: 9271 6492. Sec/Treasurer: Mr Colin Edmiston, 3/456 Main St, Baldivis 6021, Tel: 9349 0799.

2/43rd BATTALION ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Mr Trelawar, 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 DJ Squiers, Tel: 9349 0955. Secretary: Mr Ray De Fraine, 10 Cordova Court, Craigie 6025, Tel: 9401 3293. Lunch muster 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 Bn)
President: Don Cruden, 165 Henley St, Henley Brook 6055, Tel: 9296 4081. Secretary: Doug Fieldhouse, 509 The Strand, Dianella 6062, Tel: 9275 8598. Meetings as arranged.

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: Bill Gill, Tel: 9332 8536. Secretary: N Deakin, 20 Canterbury Dr, Willetton 6155, Tel: 9457 1163. Regular meetings held at 20 Canterbury Dr, Willetton.

11th (1914-1918) & 2/11 AIF BNS ASSOC.
President: Mr IM Walter, 4/18 McLeod Rd, Applecross 6153, Tel: 9364 3270. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr JC Watson, 686 Canning Hwy, Applecross 6153, Tel: 9364 2126. Meetings on third Tuesday each month (except January) 10.00am. Gallipoli Room, Anzac House.

16th BATTALION, THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WA ASSOC.
President: Mr Robert Boyd, Villa 4/208 Burslem Ave, Maddington 6109, Tel: 9493 1175. Secretary: Mr Shane Edmonds, 187 Brookdale St, Floreat 6014, Tel: 9387 6364. Members advised to meetings by letter as required.
28th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (AIF)
1939-45 ASSOC.
Committee: Mr Phil Wilkerson, Tel: 9330 7263. Mr Clif Tamblyn, Tel: 9384 5008. Mr Harold Nicholson, Tel: 9447 5204. 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 AK (Don) Spencer, 6 Killara Way, Craigie 6025, Tel: 9401 5744. Secretary: Mr Brian Corboy, 11A Ventnor Ave. Mt Pleasant 6153, Tel: 9364 7829. Meetings and luncheon 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: 9387 4229. Treasurer: TR Gallop, 19 Felstead Cts, Hamersley 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 1.30pm. President: RH Duncalfe, Tel: 9298 8574. Secretary/Teasurer: Peter W Hessell, Tel: 9344 1756.

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- Calendars
- Mouse Mats
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Library Bags
- Greeting Cards
- Teddy Bears
- T-Shirts/Sweaters
- Tea Towels

Let your imagination lead you to us,
we won’t disappoint you!

Westralian Publishers for Colour

Professional Centre, 20/56 Creaney Drive, Kingsley WA 6026

TELEPHONE 9309 9066  FACSIMILE 9309 2875
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 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.

Hollywood Private Hospital
Monash Avenue, Nedlands, WA 6009
Tel 08 9346 6000 Fax 08 9389 8470