Surely our feelings should be stirred by the great and heroic deeds of our fallen Comrades which we commemorate on Anzac Day. May their example inspire us to carry on in the service of our Country, whatever the cost. For so we shall make ourselves and our Country more worthy of the sacrifice of those who fought and died for us.


LEST WE FORGET

As we remember, with deep gratitude, those who suffered pain and gave their lives for us, let us resolve to do all in our power to preserve the freedom we hold today.
INFORMATION FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs provides a wide range of benefits including pensions, allowances and health care.

The Department also runs several programs and provides information to help you to remain active and independent.

The information includes:

- advice about services in your local area
- promotion of healthy and active living
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- support for volunteers helping veterans
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- personal financial information
- equipment and appliances for independent living
- Repatriation Transport eligibility
- advice and help to ex-service groups on grants, residential care facilities and funding of commemorative activities

To find out more about the Department and its services

please telephone 9366 8444
or country callers 1800 113304
LISTENING POST

Publishers
Returned & Services League W.A. Branch (Incorporated)
Anzac House
28 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
Tel: 9325 9799
Fax: 9325 7432

Editorial
Editor/Chairman:
Mr K. Morrison
Deputy:
Mr. G. Tanner
Committee:
Mr J. Brigden, Mrs B. Clinton, Mrs J. Dowson,
Mr O. Lovelle, Mr P. White
Co-opted Members:
Messrs E. Hinchliffe, R. Mercer
L. Owens, J. Surridge

Sub Editor
Mrs Pat Elphinston

Advertising
Westralian Publishers
Unit 20, 56 Creaney Drive
Kingsley 6026
Tel: 9309 9066 Fax: 9309 2875
Contact: Pat Hosking

Typesetting/Composing
Westralian Publishers
Unit 20, 56 Creaney Drive
Kingsley 6026
Tel: 9309 9066 Fax: 9309 2875
Contact: Pat Hosking

Printer: Contents
Swanweb.
102 Bannister Road
Canning Vale, W.A. 6155
Tel: 9455 3788

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RSL
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East St Georges Terrace
Perth 6832

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Last year the WABranch was uniquely successful in achieving very positive results from the many well formulated and presented resolutions passed through state congress.

All items, except one, which were conveyed to National Congress were successfully carried resulting in the National Executive taking up numerous vital issues from WA on behalf of all the Australian Veterans’ Community.

It is vital that this effort be continued in 1998 to ensure that the conditions which we have fought so hard to gain, are not allowed to slip away from us.

Sub-Branches are urged to consider and put forward good solid agenda items for presentation at the 1998 State Congress to ensure that the impetus is maintained. We lost only one motion at National last year, Let us endeavour to make it a 100% win in 1998.

JOCK GELDART

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STATE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The 1997 City of Perth International Tattoo, held in the Supreme Court Gardens at the end of November, had four major aims:

• To raise the profile of the RSL in the community.
• To encourage participation of the youth of WA in an event which would encompass the ideals of the Anzac Spirit.
• To bring to Perth a biennial international event in cooperation with appropriate government departments at all levels, semi-government organisations and community and business groups.
• To distribute any profit equally between RSL Welfare and the War Veterans’ Homes.

When considering the Tattoo all of the above must be taken into account. The financial issue is, of course, very important to the League; however, as the event was intended to be two yearly, there needed to be a degree of investment. In a practical form this meant the creation of a number of assets: the castle backdrop, costumes etc., being obvious examples.

I would like to briefly examine what the League achieved based on what we set out to do.

Point 1:

This is subjective and must rely on what exposure we had in the media and what anecdotal information; letters, comments etc., have been received. There were advertisements in The West Australian, plus editorial and photos and a number of local newspapers carried stories and photographs. Radio interviews were given on the ABC, 6PR, 6NR and a series of advertisements were run on 6PR courtesy of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. A TV commercial was run on Channel 7 and GWN. A number of letters of commendation have been received from people including the Governor, the Premier, various Ministers, the Minister of Veterans’ Affairs, Department of Veterans’ Affairs and a number of community groups and individuals. These are available for perusal.

Point 2:

While the term Anzac Spirit is again subjective, there is implicit in its values which, while not necessarily codified, include discipline, pride, courage, mateship and so on. The list is not exhaustive but, because of the importance of these ideals, the League and the community should encourage our youth to embrace them and other similar values. Few of us would disagree with the need to expose the current and future generation of youth to the work of the League. Without this exposure, and particularly as we get further away from our last major conflict, the relevance of the RSL in the mind of the community diminishes. Education through involvement with our youth is a wise insurance for the future of the RSL as a viable organisation capable of helping ex-serving and serving members into the new millennium.

Point 3:

The event was certainly international in nature and those who attended from overseas attest to this. The contribution of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs provided the Federal involvement and the State Government through youth and arts provided support. The Perth City Council, and the Ramsay Group (Hollywood Hospital) were major sponsors as was the Lotteries Commission. There was an enormous contribution from community organisations and this involved a wide spectrum of adult and youth groups. In fact some 500 plus young people took part. A number of business organisations contributed through sponsorship, both financial and ‘in kind’.

Point 4:

Finance – during the course of planning and preparation for the event, the budget was consistently being reviewed. Originally a modest profit was programmed. however, a number of problems occurred which had a major impact. Initially we believed we would get a Defence Force band and budgeted some $20,000 for incidental costs, travel etc. After exhaustive representation put forward by people such as the Governor, the Premier etc., we were denied this and, as a Military band must form part of a Tattoo to perform various traditional tasks, we had to bring one from overseas. After making enquiries and comparing fares etc., a UK band brought by charter was about the best alternative. This cost some $60,000 and changed our forecast somewhat. Our original promotions company withdrew with three and a half weeks to go; necessitating
a major revision of our strategy and renegotiation of contracts etc. This did cause a real blow out in the promotions area. There were many other difficulties encountered, not the least being our Chief Executive Officer, Allan Hutcheson, having to withdraw due to ill health; but in general terms all the section supervisors, both administrative and technical, strove to keep expenses down. Many gave their time freely and those who did receive recompense gave numerous hours over and above those they were contracted to do.

In conclusion there are some facts we in the League must consider. The Immediate Past National President, Major General ‘Digger’ James was quoted as saying: “Within 10 years the League would at least halve in numbers”. Our value as a lobby group is in proportion to our numbers. (It is doubtful that any government would maintain our repatriation system without our vigilance.) Therefore we must in the ensuing years visibly become an integral and active part of the community. We have not had real community involvement since the days of the Girl of the Golden West. Remember, I’m not speaking of involvement with Veterans but with the community. Anzac Day and Remembrance Day are commemorative days but are for all Veterans not just the RSL. Our efforts in the first instance must be to preserve our organisation: this ultimately benefits all Veterans and serving members.

I must mention the efforts of the Trustees and the State Executive. Unfortunately, when Congress (I believe with too little information at their disposal) made a decision to use no further RSL funds, we had already paid out some $23,000 plus and were basically contracted to another $60,000 which we would have had to pay. What was of most concern was our image in the community, not only with our large sponsors but with the youth groups who had been practising, some for more than six months at the time of Congress. We all have a responsibility to maintain the integrity of the League and failure to take the steps that were taken would have compromised us enormously.

I was Vice President when I accepted the position of Chairman of the Task Force and when elected President I would normally have stood down; however, with only four months to go it would have been awkward and unfair to appoint someone else as Chairman and give them the responsibility.

I would ask you all to consider this: let us continue to do the Tattoo, but only if it becomes part of the Festival of Perth; this will ensure the financial burden is lifted from the League. Let us use the assets we have accumulated and – as we have done the hard work – it will assist us in recouping our initial loss. Our sponsors have said they will continue to support us which indicates the value of the event.

The City of Perth International Tattoo has provided the League and the members a place and profile in the community that few if any other organisations enjoy.

I urge you not to waste the lessons learned, the experience gained and the enormous goodwill the Tattoo has generated within youth groups and the community. That we tried something and did not make money must not be the final arbiter: the League is more than just a balance sheet. The Tattoo is not the only answer of course. We must continue to try to invest in the future through our youth and show the community our service to them didn’t end with our discharge.

Finally I wish to thank Ted Dowling and all those dedicated people who contributed so much: the success of the Tattoo is their success!

KEN MURPHY

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RSL WAR VETERANS' HOMES WA
Residential Aged Care Access

Members should note that access to Aged Care Hostels is governed by the Aged Care Act 1997. Entry is based on personal care needs as determined by an Aged Care Assessment. See your Doctor or call the Care Co-ordinator, Kathie Livermore, at Mt Lawley for details on (08) 9370 0200.

RSL WAR VETERANS' HOMES WA
Independent (Village) Living Units

Members should note that access to Independent Living Units is governed by the Retirement Villages Act 1992. Entry is based on a waiting list process. For an information sheet and application form, please call the Project Officer, Daniel Scott, at Mt Lawley on (08) 9370 0200.

Listening Post – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 4
The Battle of Slater’s Knoll

Slater’s Knoll

In the Spring 1997 Issue Allan Lee of Dowerin asked readers for information on the naming of Slater’s Knoll and the casualties which resulted.

The intensity of the battles which occurred on Bougainville in 1945 (known as the ‘Easter Battles’) between the 25th Australian Infantry Battalion, supported by guns of the 4th Field Regiment and three Matilda tanks of the 4th Armoured Regiment, and the six battalions of the 13th and 23rd Regiments of the Japanese 6th Division, can be gauged by the casualties suffered on both sides. All three battalion commanders of the 13th Regiment, and the commander of the 23rd Regiment (Colonel Kawano) were killed in the battles.

Ward Curedale fought in the battles as an Intelligence attachment. Most of the time he was forwarded with the infantrymen engaged in the conflict and was with the relieving force which attacked with tanks to relieve the completely surrounded A and B Companies in the week preceding the decisive battle at Slater’s Knoll. Mr Curedale was also a participant in that battle.

Following is Ward’s resume of the series of bitter events which occurred on Bougainville during March-April 1945. Any reader who would like to study the official history of the Easter Battles should read Chapter 7 of The Final Campaign by Gavin Long.

Copies are held in all State Libraries.

Allan Lee received many other replies, including a newspaper article which mentioned that a former Sergeant Phillip May, now living in retirement in Queensland, and a research committee made up of others who were on Bougainville that day, have spent eight years digging for the truth about the miracle they say happened on 5 April. Now they say they have conclusive proof that the official version of the Slater’s Knoll bloodbath handed down to posterity is wanting.

EDITOR

*The commander of the Australian 3rd Division was not aware that in February 1945, Lieut-General Akinaga, commander of the Japanese 17th Army on Bougainville, had suffered a severe stroke. and Lieut-General Kanda, the former commander of the 6th Division, had taken command of the Japanese forces on Bougainville. Lieut-General Akinaga had been appointed commander of the 6th Division to replace Kanda. The Australian 7th Brigade captured Mosigetta, which had been the headquarters of the 13th Regiment of the 6th Division, and Kanda issued an order which in effect was that ‘If the Australians are determined to continue advancing southwards, the 6th Division is to mount a full scale attack when they cross the Puriata River’. The movement over the Puriata set the scene for conflicts which were later called the ‘Easter Battles’.

On 4 March 1945, the lead company of the 25th Battalion was ordered across the river and Kanda’s order became operative. The first man across the ford of the river was a Private P.J. Galvin from Southgate, Queensland, and the Intelligence representative with the company named the crossing on his map ‘Galvin’s Crossing’. The company dug in for the night about 200 yards over the river. Next morning forward patrols discovered a Japanese position on an knoll about 600 yards further along the Buin Road. A close scrutiny uncovered that the position was only lightly held; consequently it was attacked and taken. The knoll had been enemy headquarters and contained a strong defensive ring of weapon pits, sufficient, it was considered, for about two full companies. The hurriedly departing Japanese troops left in the position two fully operational flame throwers and a variety of enemy weapons in good condition, as well as Lee-Enfield rifles with unopened boxes of .303” ammunition. There was no record of the rifles, or ammunition, having been lost to the enemy. Obviously the enemy commander had left the position too lightly defended and paid the penalty for his action – this was indicated by the determined counter-attacks which followed the knoll’s capture.

On 6 March, Japanese artillery and mortars began to heavily bombard the area, particularly targeting the knoll. The first. and only, casualty on the first day of the bombardment, was Private C.R. Slater from Beauty Point, Tasmania, and the knoll was named after him – Slater’s Knoll. In the meantime the remaining three companies of the 25th Battalion were ordered to cross the Puriata River and take up positions at designated points forward of Slater’s Knoll: these companies patrolled vigorously and soon discovered enemy positions defending the area. The lead company (B) found a strongly held position astride the Buin Road. from which it drove out the enemy troops; this action seemed to spark counter-attacks which at first were daily affairs and as the days went on to become hourly events for one of more of the companies. Soon it became evident that a large aggressive enemy force had moved to the front. Intelligence sources had previously estimated that there were no more than 850 enemy troops of the 13th Regiment blocking the Australian advance along the Buin Road. Documents captured by the 2/8th Commando Squadron had disclosed indications that heavy enemy...
reinforcements were moving from Buin towards the Purita River area. A further captured document, taken from an officer killed in an ambush two days later, proved to be a copy of an order to the 6th Division commander to commence the offensive early in April. A major enemy attack was not known to be in preparation, but orders to the 25th Battalion were still to advance and clear the Buin Road.

A newly established defensive position, including pill-boxes, was discovered by a patrol at the Hatai road junction. Several attacks on this position by B Company men were repulsed, and the acting company commander decided to bayonet charge the position. The attack this time was successful; during the action Corporal Reg Rattey (from Barmedman, NSW) won a Victoria Cross, others Military Medals. This bayonet charge is acknowledged as the last one of its type carried out by the Australian army.

The infantry battles continued and eventually saw two companies of the 25th Battalion (A & B Companies) completely surrounded with many wounded, no food and little ammunition – they had obtained drinking water by digging a well in the perimeter. The battle had opened with a heavy attack on B Company, which was quickly over-run through force of numbers; the survivors withdrew to the A Company position. During this action the Japanese captured three 3-inch mortars with 250 bombs, which then were used to neutralise D Company.

The wounded of the over-run B Company left behind were seen being killed by the Japanese attackers with the use of shovels – this made the Australians very bitter and aggressive for revenge.

The surviving men of B Company made their way to the A Company position, but Japanese patrols followed; within hours the full weight of the enemy regiment (three battalions) succeeded in surrounding both Australian companies.

The signallers of the surrounded companies soon reported to the commander of the perimeter (Captain McInnes) that all communication lines to D Company and Battalion Headquarters had been severed. McInnes then ordered a two-man patrol led by Sergeant Hall to break out and alert Battalion Headquarters of the serious situation which had developed. Hall, who was an Intelligence attachment, miraculously found his way through the besieging Japanese troops and raised the alarm to headquarters, through D Company. The courageous Sergeant Hall later received a military medal.

When Battalion Headquarters was alerted, four Matilda tanks were immediately ordered forward, and three of them (one was lost fording the Purita River) arrived at Slater’s Knoll. All fit men at B Echelon, and volunteers drawn
from provost, mortar, medium machine gun, signal, tank attack and pioneer sections, were mustered to escort the tanks forward to the D Company position. Two platoons from D Company then led the attack, with the volunteer platoon as a reserve, against the besieging Japanese battalions. Shortly after 4pm on 31 March the infantrymen and tanks had defeated the Japanese and driven them off. This bitter battle saw Japanese battalion commanders and more than 150 enemy troops killed. The aggressive determination of the Japanese was really seen when the relieving force carrying 26 wounded from the battles was ambushed on the way back to Slater’s Knoll. This attack fell initially on the scratch platoon; the specialists gave out more than they received, held out and protected the casualties until the infantrymen and the tanks caught up and drove off the attacking Japanese. This action resulted in more Australian casualties and the awarding of a Military Cross to a Tank officer.

The captured documents provided by 2/8th Commando Squadron confirmed enemy intentions and persuaded Brigadier Field (Commander 7th Brigade) to discontinue the advance along the Buin Road in favour of Squadron confirmed enemy intentions and casualties until the infantrymen and the tank s caught up and drove off the attacking Japanese. This action resulted in more Australian casualties and the awarding of a Military Cross to a Tank officer.

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The 21/C of the Battalion (Major Weppner) was entrusted with setting out the defences of the small hill and the drawing up of a fire plan. He immediately ordered Vickers machine guns and their crews forward from B Echelon, and they became the cornerstones of his fire plan. Weppner was a very competent and experienced infantry officer who had seen much action - the Japanese were soon to learn about his proficiency.

In the meantime the Japanese artillery and mortar bombardment continued day and night. On one night more than 200 enemy shells fell in the area, but the Australian 25-pounders, from the banks of Puriata River, also gave the enemy artillery-men a measure of pounding while fighter bombers of the New Zealand Air Force also began to step up their influence on the Japanese rear echelons.

A careful examination of exploded shells and shell holes indicated that the enemy was employing many 150, 105 and 75mm artillery emplaced in widely separated areas! These guns were firing spasmodically and could not be found by the Australian spotter planes in daylight (RAAF Boomerangs). There were by now 129 men in all on Slater’s Knoll, including headquarters staff and two padres; they were all in for the battle of their lives.

The Japanese made a mistake as they moved up to attack by prematurely cutting the telephone lines forward to A and D Companies and those back to Brigade Headquarters; when the lines went dead the men in the forward pits were immediately alerted by the Regimental Signallers that an attack was imminent.

Precisely at 5am on 5 April the Japanese attacked from the north (100 men) and with a large force (exceeding 2,000) from the south-west. Until about 7am wave after wave attacked the hill, but the defences held - some Japanese actually killed in the forward weapon pits. As the light became clearer the defenders could see the results of the battle - enemy dead lay in heaps all around the knoll. The Vickers machine gunners in particular had done their allotted task well. Their opposition, the Juki machine gunners, lay among the dead with their machine guns silent and destroyed, some by PIAT tank-attack projectiles. The Japanese had not fared any better in their synchronised attack on the perimeter formed by remnants of A and D Companies forward of the knoll. The attack came in parallel to the river bank through the latrine area - some Japanese were shot from behind thunder-boxes. The Matilda tanks did not take part in the battle; they had been sent back to the rear to a position held by the 61st Battalion. Two tanks, however, were brought forward to clear the road to Slater’s Knoll the morning after the battle.

On 6 April, 292 Japanese were buried with the help of a bulldozer in three communal graves. Four wounded Japanese were recovered from the battlefield, and their interrogation gave details of the Japanese plan of attack. On the field were found 44 Japanese machine guns, 219 rifles and 22 swords. The total Japanese bodies recovered after the Easter Battles was 620; however, post-war interrogating intelligence officers were surprised to learn that the 6th Division had suffered more than 6,000 casualties during this period. This revelation was a compliment to the accuracy of the officers ranging the 25 pounder gun-howitzers; enemy troops killed by artillery fire are rarely counted.

During the battles the 25th Battalion lost 10 officers, and 179 other ranks killed or wounded, and was 270 men short of establishment. The battalion, it was subsequently revealed, had been attacked by a force which included more than 2,400 fresh Japanese troops. After the battles had ended, the units of the attack, the 13th and 23rd Regiments of the 6th Division, had been rendered ineffective as fighting forces. All three battalion commanders of the 13th Regiment had been killed, and among the dead at Slater’s Knoll was found the body of the commander of the 23rd Regiment (Colonel Kawano).

The men of the 25th Battalion were soon to learn after the Slater’s Knoll battle had been fought and won that the Japanese had staged commando style raids on artillery.

Listening Post – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 7
The Battle of Slater’s Knoll continued

positions and had constantly ambushed and killed signallers repairing communication cables to and beyond Brigade Headquarters. They had particularly targeted jeep trains bringing forward vital food and ammunition; many jeep drivers had been killed. The 2/8th Commando Squadron had also played a vital role in the battles by intercepting and turning back an out-flanking movement attempted by units of the 45th Regiment especially sent from Kieni. The members of the 25th Battalion had not fought alone, although at times during the last month it had appeared to be so, to them.

The enemy had not known the calibre and reputation of the Battalion it was about to attack. The 25th Battalion (known in peacetime as the “Darling Downs Regiment”, from the area of Australia where it is raised), was the battalion which defeated the Japanese force in the main battle at Milne Bay after the 2/10th Battalion was defeated and forced to fall back through 7th Brigade. The marines then tried unsuccessfully to capture the No. 3 Airstrip defended by the 25th Battalion, supported by a company of the 61st Battalion and a few American troops. This action also was, as history records, the first defeat of a Japanese land force during World War II: the battle of Milne Bay preceded the defeat of the Japanese on Guadalcanal.

The 25th Battalion was, in any competent historian’s judgement, one of the best performing units of the Australian Army during World War II. There were a number of West Australians in the battalion; they had been posted to the unit as reinforcements when the 5th Brigade, containing the West Australian-raised 44th Battalion, was disbanded for reinforcements. The battalion, which was a former Matilda unit, had received volunteer reinforcements form the middle of 1944, when it was declared an AIF unit, having reached the level of volunteers required to attain that status. The battalion, if it had been of the United States Army, would have been recommended, in my opinion, for a Presidential citation for its performance at Milne Bay and in the Easter Battles. Still this could have also been said of the 39th Battalion for its heroic rearguard action which effectively delayed 5,000 enemy infantrymen of the Japanese South Pacific Force advancing on Moresby in 1942: 39th was disbanded after its action and its members used as experienced reinforcements. In 1942, unfortunately, many older Australian officers still believed that militiamen could not fight as well as the volunteers of the AIF units.

Most of us, as ex-servicemen, would be proud to be allowed to say that we were members of either of these battalions; they have enviable histories.

WARD CUREDALE

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975

On 11 July 1997 the Minister of Defence Industry, Science and Personnel, the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, announced the Government’s intention to establish a distinctly Australian medal to recognise warlike service between 1945 and 1975. The new medal, called the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975, will recognise those who received, or have an entitlement to, an Imperial General Service Medal for service in the Korean War 1950-1953, the Malayan Emergency 1948-1960, the Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966 and the Vietnam War. Eligibility will also be extended to those who have received the Vietnam Medal; however, eligibility for those recipients of the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal is yet to be determine its anticipated that all current and former members of the ADF will receive the new medal.

Since holders of the Vietnam Medal are included in this initiative, bars to the Vietnam Medal will not be awarded to recognise multiple tours of duty. Likewise, the current prohibition, which prevents a person who qualifies for the Vietnam Medal also receiving the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal, will be retained.

In-principle approval for the new medal has been received from Her Majesty the Queen. The formal process for instituting and manufacturing the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 is expected to be completed in time for the initial medals to be awarded by Anzac Day 1998.

For Navy and Air Force, currently serving members who qualify the Medal not need apply for the award of the medal. For Army, currently serving Regular members who qualified for the Vietnam Medal need not apply for the award of the medal. The Service medals section will automatically place the above members’ names on schedules for the Governor-General’s approval. Army Reserve Force members will be required to apply.

Application forms may be obtained from the Navy Medals Section on (02) 626 55231; DNATS 86 52531; Soldier Career Management Agency on 1800 065 149; or Medals Section-Air Force on (02) 626 65864; DNATS 86 65864; and branches of the RSL.

Courtesy: DEFENCE PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTER NO. 3 DEC 97
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<td>Cathedral Avenue</td>
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<td>Anzac House</td>
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<td>Irwin Street</td>
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**Key**
- Location of Marshals
- Bands to be advised in *The West Australian* Thursday 23 April 1998
- Advance Bank
- Bus shelter 16 St George’s Tce

**Note:** Location of marshals: "*" Location of bands: "+" Location of marshals: "*" Location of bands: "+"
Australian Service Nurses’ National Memorial

“We shall kindle in your hearts a torch whose flames shall be eternal”

Nurses Memorial Centre, Melbourne.

Since the time of South African Boer War nurses have served their country in caring for the sick and wounded in every conflict to which Australia has committed troops. When the Boer War began in October 1899 military nursing was at an embryonic stage within the Australian colonies. The only military nursing organisation in any of the colonies, the New South Wales Army Nursing Service Reserve, had been in existence for only a few months. Although hundreds of women were to offer to nurse in South Africa, the colonial authorities were reluctant to send them to war, as prejudice against nurses in the British Army Medical Service was still very strong.

The impetus for sending Australian nurses to war came from the nursing profession itself and despite the known attitude of the British. 14 members of the New South Wales Army Nursing Service Reserve were eventually mobilised and sailed for South Africa in January 1900. Contingents of nurses from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia were to follow whilst some nurses were to make their way independently, paying their own fares. These nurses cared for the sick and wounded in hospital huts or tents, at isolated Boer farms, or on hospital ships and trains. Such extraordinary experiences, the harsh conditions and the kind of opposition they faced were to take their toll, with the health of a number of these women being affected, one of whom died on active service.

During World War I, some 2,500 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service served in Egypt, Salonika, France, Belgium, Mesopotamia, Lemnos, at sea off the beaches of Gallipoli and at isolated posts in India. On the Western Front the nurses served in hospitals and at casualty clearing stations close to the front line. The severe winters with mud, ice, snow and frosts combined with the long hours of duty and insufficient food and clothing, resulted in declining health for many. At one casualty clearing station, 3,000 patients were received in 24 hours, whilst another admitted 2,800 patients in 18 hours. Eighty-eight nurses were decorated for their arduous service, including seven military medals awarded for bravery under fire.

At the end of the war, many nurses were unable to continue in the profession as their health was wrecked through their experiences. As one nurse wrote... “We came home tired and weary, the world seemed completely changed, our thoughts are filled with our losses, the beastliness, the destruction, the waste, the agonies and endurance...”.

In World War II, more than 4,000 nurses served in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Some served at home in Australia, whilst others served in England, the Middle East, Greece, Crete, Malaya, New Guinea and Ceylon. Those members of the AANS who served in the Middle East and later in Greece were to be evacuated under protest when they were forced to leave their patients in Greece and Crete.

Also evacuated under protest were the 65 Army nurses who boarded the Vyner Brooke just prior to the fall of Singapore. After two days sailing, the grossly overloaded ship was sunk by Japanese planes on 14 February 1942. Of the 65 nurses aboard 12 were killed or drowned; 21 were massacred by the Japanese when they were marched into the sea and shot on Bangka Island and eight died as prisoners of war. Only 24 made it back to Australia some three and a half years later, following their internment under horrendous conditions on Bangka and Sumatra.

Six Army nurses, with some Australian civilian nurses, were taken prisoner by the Japanese in Rabaul. Later they were taken to Japan, where they spent more than three years in captivity.

Two hospital ships came under Japanese attack with further loss of life. Eleven Army nurses drowned when the Centaur was struck off the coast of Queensland, whilst one nurse drowned when the Manunda was bombed in Darwin Harbour.

Many Australian nurses were placed in positions of potential and actual risk during World War II and a further 18 died as a result of sickness or accidents. Fifty-five nurses were decorated for their services: one received an MBE; 18 received the Royal Red Cross; 29 the Associated Royal Red Cross; two the George Medal; two the Florence Nightingale medal; and three the (USA) Bronze Star. A further 82 nurses were Mentioned In Despatches.

Military nursing diversified in World War II with the establishment of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS), which was established in 1940 and the Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service (RANNS), which was raised in 1942. Air Force nurses served in Australia and New Guinea and were involved in the aeromedical evacuation of thousands of prisoners of war from Siam, Sumatra and Singapore, whilst Navy nurses also served in Australia and New Guinea and aboard the hospital ship Manunda. Two Air Force nurses died whilst evacuating troops from New Guinea; a number were decorated for their wartime service.
Since World War II both Army and Air Force nurses served in the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam Conflict. During the Vietnam Conflict, between 1967 and 1971, 43 officers of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps served with 8th Field Ambulance and 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau in South Vietnam. Royal Australian Air Force Nursing officers staffed the aeromedical evacuations flights from Vietnam to Australia, whilst a further 25 nurses were attached to the United States Air Force aeromedical evacuation squadrons in the Philippines. As well, civilian nurses served with Australian medical teams working at the provincial hospitals at Vung Tau, Long Xuyen, Ba Ria and Bien Hoa.

Nurses from all three Services served with the medical teams attached to the USNS Comfort during the Gulf War. When this ship sailed throughout the Persian Gulf, it was reminiscent of the experiences of the World War I nurses who, during the Mesopotamian Campaign, had sailed up and down the Gulf in order to collect the sick and wounded from Gallipoli. More recently Service nurses were with the Australian military on United Nations Peace Keeping Missions in Somalia in 1992, Cambodia in 1993-4 and Rwanda in 1994-5. An Army nursing officer wrote of her time in Rwanda:

"We were touched by the gentleness of a people who had lost so much, and became angry when we saw their own people continue to harm and kill each other. We saw children become orphans when forgotten mines exploded as they played, and locals die or become maimed as they worked their fields. We saw a British soldier lose his leg from a mine injury and many local Rwandans who had been involved in motor vehicle accidents, or who had suffered machete wounds. We treated blast injuries and a wide range of diseases. We were amazed at their stoicism."

Australian Service nurses have given almost 100 years of dedicated service in caring for the sick and wounded in wartime. A number have paid the supreme sacrifice and a Memorial to commemorate those who died and to honour those who suffered in war is timely and appropriate.

The Australian Service Nurses National Memorial Management Committee, through the Royal College of Nursing Australia, will be working with Commonwealth Government agencies to implement the processes of planning, design, construction, dedication and fund raising for the Memorial. Sponsors will be sought to contribute to the cost of the Memorial, estimated to be about $2 million. Donations may be made to Royal College of Nursing. Australia. 1 Napier Close. Deakin ACT 2600.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT
Australian Service Nurses’ National Memorial
It will come as a surprise to most that the Japanese bombed the West Coast of the USA in 1942.

The raids in September of that year were intended as "pay back" for Col. Doolittle's raid on Tokyo in B52 Mitchell bombers on 18 April 1942. The Japanese aircraft were Tokosuka small float planes released from submarines.

The aeroplanes were housed in a streamlined hanger located forward of the conning tower. Wings, fins and floats were removed and the horizontal tail just folded upwards in order to fit inside the small space. Two launching tails extended forward from the hanger to the bow, from which the reassembled floatplane was catapulted aloft by compressed air. To recover the plane the pilot had to make an ocean landing and taxi to the starboard side of the sub where a retractable crane hoisted it back on board. The radial engine aircraft carried a crew of two. Its wing and tail surfaces were covered with fabric and the frame was made of metal and wood. Top speed of 150 mph and cruising speed of 85 mph and it had a 200 mile operating radius. It could carry about 340 pounds of small bombs.

The pilot, Warrant Flying Officer Fujita, had already made reconnaissance flights over Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart in February – March 1942. For the USA mission two 170 pound thermite incendiary bombs were mounted under each wing. The seaplane was catapulted into the air on 9 September 1942 and headed for the Oregon coast. The bombs were released 50 miles inland with the object of starting huge bushfires which would be hard to extinguish in inaccessible country. However, that morning the forests were very wet with unseasonal rain and fog and there was no damage. A strict ban on the broadcast of weather information denied the enemy the opportunity to start fires in more advantageous conditions.

The Government tried to keep the attack secret but word soon spread. No widespread panic resulted partially due to heavy press censorship. Fujita continued flying reconnaissance missions elsewhere until 1944 when he returned to Japan to train Kamikaze Pilots.


Courtesy: LEGS ELEVEN MINOR 11TH (1914-1918) AND 2/11TH BNS ASSN.

Death of Ted Matthews

Ted Matthews, the last remaining Australian veteran to have landed on the beach at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 – Anzac Day – died in his sleep on 9 December last. He was 101 years old.

Born in Sydney on 11 November 1896, Mr Matthews was only 17 when he enlisted and was assigned as a signals officer to the 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Division Signals.

Just after landing at Gallipoli, Mr Matthews was hit in the chest by a pellet of shrapnel but survived thanks to a thick pocket-book he was carrying. After Gallipoli, he went on to fight on the Western Front, including Viller-Bretonneux.

"Mr Matthews was Australia’s last veteran of the first Gallipoli landing," the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Scott, said. “He was one of the fine group of brave men who created for this country the Anzac legend, encompassing the spirit of courage, mateship and determination. These are the qualities from which we have drawn our national identity.

"Mr Matthews was one of that special group of Australians – the Anzacs – whose conduct during the war was an example to us all. I hope Australians will remember and honour his life and service to his country. I extend my condolences to Mr Matthews’ family and friends.”

OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR VETERANS’ AFFAIRS
I often wonder how many of us have photographs of ourselves taken in the year we enlisted to serve our country in the Navy, Army or Air Force. If you have – study it carefully and compare yourself then to as you are now. Having done just that, let us analyse The Ode which is repeated daily at all RSLs and anywhere ex-service personnel meet in some capacity.

Now let us take the first five words: “They shall not grow old”.

Each and everyone of us will have lost someone during the wars – be it a mate, a father, a relative or a very close friend, and we still have memories of them. You remember them as young – of course they were – and you were also; they were bright-eyed without spectacles, lean and athletic: now look at ourselves – not so young, wearing spectacles, not as lean, not as athletic and in most cases grey haired; but they still remain in our memories as young, lean and athletic.

And now the next seven words: “As we that are left grow old”.

We are those who are left: just look at ourselves. We have grown older, each of us with different aging effects. Some effects are pleasant, some not, but those who are remembered have not grown older. They are as we remember them.

Then: “Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn”.

How true can these words be? Age has not wearied them, but how age has wearied us! We are tired, no longer can we do the tasks that we remember doing in those days. The years have not condemned them, but looking at ourselves, we are wrinkled in the face and neck, we are grey haired, we are slow in our movements, all of which is the condemnation of the years. But they are not.

And now for the end of the day: “At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them”.

It is at the down of the sun that we repeat The Ode in its entirety so that in the morning after we will remember them. That is precisely what we are doing right now and will continue to do in the years to come. Let us all look at the ramifications, implications and truisms of The Ode and say to ourselves in full belief:

LEST WE FORGET

---

YOU’VE PLANNED THEIR BIRTHDAYS, GRADUATIONS AND WEDDINGS. NOW PLAN SOMETHING ELSE FOR THEM. YOUR FUNERAL.

Most people spend a lifetime planning for every eventuality except the most inevitable of them all.

But if you can spare a moment to consider it, funeral planning makes a lot of sense. For example, the Bowra & O’Dea Fixed Price Funeral Plan allows you to organise your funeral so that your family and loved ones don’t have to.

You save them from the funeral expenses, and spare them the considerable burden of making all the arrangements during a difficult time.

Funeral planning is also financial planning. You can pay for your funeral at today’s prices and prevent inflation eating into your spouse’s retirement nest-egg later on.

Your contribution is tax-exempt and it won’t effect the eligibility of your pension.

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For a copy of our informative booklet, or to arrange a meeting with our qualified consultant, Barry Standley, visit our Cottesloe office at 571 Stirling Hwy or phone 9384 2226.

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Bowra & O'Dea Funeral Directors
Tracking down a better canine ‘weapons system’

“The old days of doing a double back flip, then biting everyone he could reach, are gone.”

It’s not poetic, but it sums up what’s happening with the training and role of dogs in the ADF, as the RAAF Amberley Training Centre leads the world in researching what type of dogs work best and how to train them to develop their natural abilities.

Some two years of trials with German and Belgian Shepherds (Malinois) have come at a time when the ADF, and the RAAF in particular, is looking hard at the value of using trained dogs.

“Sititng under the wing of an aircraft or padding up and down a tarmac waiting to react to an intruder is a thing of the past,” according to W.Off. Bob Jennings. “We need dogs that can patrol alone or with ground forces, inside or outside the base perimeter, or trail an intruder across all sorts of terrain.”

In short, W.Off. Jennings’ small team at Amberley is developing a better weapons system. It may have four legs and travel somewhat slower than other platforms, but it features highly advanced sensors, stealth capabilities and a proven combat record.

The question that must be answered next is complex: What genetic traits will GIVE the correct drives in a dog that the trainers can then develop with advanced training methods?

W.Off. Jennings’ team is trying to determine what chemistry happens in the dog’s brain that, for instance, makes it a good retriever. Those natural inclinations must come first, followed by the correct training.

“Learned behaviour will eventually fold up under pressure,” W.Off. Jennings says. “We’re looking for dogs that were born to the type of operational security tasks we now undertake.”


Cpl Norm Christopher has his hands full with a hairy issue. RAAF Dog Trainers are involved in world leading research into what makes a good security dog and how to train it.

Cpl Christopher is with Kasper and Radar.

Joking, of course...

Let the British Navy show you how to evaluate that prize employee!!! These are excerpts from Officer Fitness Reports.

1. His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
2. I would not breed from this officer.
3. This officer is not so much of a has-been, but more a definitely won’t be.
4. When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is the only way to change whichever foot was previously there.
5. He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
6. He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
7. Technically sound but socially impossible.
8. This officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope – always spinning around at a frantic pace but not really going anywhere.
9. This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
10. When he joined my ship this officer was somewhat of a granny: since then he has aged considerably.
11. Since my last report he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
12. She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
13. He has the wisdom of youth and the energy of old age.
14. This officer should go far – and the sooner he starts the better.
15. In my opinion this pilot should not be authorised to fly below 250 feet.
16. The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
17. This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

Courtesy: RAN CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (WA) NEWSLETTER.
Public demand for a popular magazine dealing with the Australian experience of war has resulted in the Australian War Memorial launching its own full-colour publication, *Wartime*.

*Wartime* contains stories of Australia’s involvement in conflicts from the colourful days of the Rum Corps to peacekeeping operations in Somalia. The magazine was launched at the Australian War Memorial (last November) by one of Australia’s best known and widely-read historians, Geoffrey Blainey, formerly the Ernest Scott Professor of History at the University of Melbourne, and now a member of the Council of the AWM.

“This magazine fills a definite need for those interested in Australia’s military history. It contains short, readable articles and is ideal for anyone who wants to know more about the Boer War, the first and second World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts in which Australians have been involved”. Professor Blainey said. “The first issue of *Wartime* included features on the Battle of Passchendaele, the Light Horse charge at Beersheba, the Kokoda Track, Vietnam, the Memorial’s aircraft collection and much more.”

For 13 years the Memorial has published the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*, a bi-annual refereed academic journal of Australian military history. Although it remains available in electronic form, it was felt the *Journal* was not adequately catering for general readers. Hence the decision to publish *Wartime*. A joint venture between the Australian War Memorial and Media Marketing Group Pty Ltd., the first issue was published to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. *Wartime* is published quarterly and is sold at the War Memorial, through newsagents and by subscription. To subscribe please contact: *Wartime*, PO Box 872, Woden ACT 2606. Phone/fax (02) 6288 1900.

For further information or to arrange interviews:

IAN KELLY
Manager, Marketing & Public Affairs
Australian War Memorial
(02) 6243 4383 or 0417 249 719.
Are you eligible for a Certificate of Appreciation?

Certificates of Appreciation honouring the service of Australian veterans and civilians during World War II are now available under the Federal Government’s commemorative program, **Their Service – Our Heritage**.

The certificates recognise the contribution made by individuals to the national effort in World War II. Among those eligible for certificates are former servicemen and servicewomen (both those stationed overseas and in Australia) and civilians who worked in factories, on wharves and farms, in offices and with voluntary organisations.

Similar certificates were available under the *Australia Remembers 1945-1995* program. The certificates were pre-signed by the Prime Minister and the then-Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and signed by the local Federal MP.

However, despite publicity for the certificates, many people did not hear of the awards until after the *Australia Remembers 1945-1995* program had concluded.

Many requests continue to be received from members of the public. Others, who are unaware of the existence of the certificates, have expressed disappointment that their efforts during the war have never been recognised.

Members of the community who believe that they are eligible for a certificate, or wish to nominate another person or apply on behalf of a family member for a certificate, may do so through the office of the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Daryl Williams, who is also the Member of Tangney.

For an application form, write to: Suite 8, The Gateway Garden City, Booragoon WA 6154 or phone (08) 9316 3633, or fax (08) 9364 9971.

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**Major General J.P. Stevens**

**Commissioner – Repatriation Commission**

Paul Stevens joined the Repatriation Commission on 25 August 1997. First established under the Repatriation Act of 1920, the Commission continues under the Veterans’ Entitlement Act 1986 and is vested, subject to the general control of the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, with the general administration of that Act.

General Stevens retired from the Australian Army in July 1997. Before retiring he held the appointment of Army Chief of Personnel. Previous posts included that of Military Secretary, where he was responsible for the career development and management of all Army personnel; Chief of Staff of Army Training Command; and Director of Studies at the Australian Command and Staff College. In his earlier career, he was an Artilleryman and saw operational service in South Vietnam in 1969-1970.

Born and educated in Melbourne, Paul Stevens entered the Royal Military College, Canberra in 1964. After graduation he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree through Queensland University and his military training assignments include postings to the UK and Canada.

He and Helen, his wife, are the parents of three young adults. They enjoy walking and reading widely; he is a golfer and retains a lifelong interest in Australian football.

He has brought to the Commission his profound and sincere respect for all who have served in the Armed Forces. With special interests for those on duty during his time in the Defence Force, he wishes to contribute to the well-being and welfare of the total veteran community with the same enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of his predecessors and fellow Commissioners.

**EDITOR**
The 2/11 Bn, with the 19th Brigade, sat to the south east of the perimeter during the first two days of the attack on Bardia. Rumour had it that we were to prevent a possible break-out of the Italian garrison to link up with their forces at Giarrabub, 200kms to the south, but post war documents revealed that Gen. O’Connor had told 6th Div. Commander Sir Ivan Mackay to hold one Brigade intact ready to join in pursuit of the Italians and invest Tobruk once Bardia was secure. However, on the evening of the second day, 4 January, we were moved up, crossed the anti-tank ditch in darkness and prepared for an early morning attack on 5 January. The plan was now for 19th Brigade to clean up the enemy still holding the eastern third of the Bardia fortress.

“C” Coy, with 15 platoon on the right flank and my no. 7 section on the left of the platoon, moved off slowly under cover of what was to be a fairly brief, slow lifting barrage. Ground to our front was a shallow depression rising towards an elevated fortified post where we could already see shells bursting about the wire. We had as armoured support some (Infantry Assault) tanks of the Royal Armoured Regiment. All went smoothly for a while, then we began receiving a few Italian shells which, as our first experience of being on the receiving end, were most impressive, but luckily quite ineffective and we had no casualties at this stage. Our barrage ceased and, as the Section closed together nearing our objective up a steep incline, the Italian artillery opened up again on the tanks trundling along between sections.

The effect was dramatic! Each shell, as it shrieked past waist high, sucked up a band of dust as wide as a cricket pitch and the vacuum created spun us around like skittles. Capt. Ralph Honner told me the following morning that, observing from “C” Coy HQ, he thought we were finished and was amazed to see us rise from the dust. Finally, the Italian gunners abandoned their guns and retreated inside the wire to the cement pill boxes. A few bullets whistled about, all fired high, but then L/Cpl. Geoff Angove on the left of the Section fell forward face down. I ran across to him and, as I started to turn him over. I noticed bullet holes punched inwards in his leather jerkin – shot from behind.

A bullet bounced off the limestone by my knee and I looked back to see an Italian officer firing at us with a Beretta automatic from the mouth of a rock sanger, which from the front we had taken to be just a pile of rocks. I shot at him and he went backwards down the hole, then Harry Johnson poured a magazine from his Bren into the opening. We rushed back and two officers started out pistol in hand and were knocked over. The rest, about six, surrendered.

The Section then moved up to join the platoon which had gone to ground in front of the wire and were firing into it. Platoon Commander asked for section leaders’ wire cutters so he and two volunteers could cut the wire. We pointed out there was already an opening big enough to admit a bus. However, at this interesting point an Italian popped his head up waving a handkerchief. He was shot at but eventually we made out a plaintive voice calling in English ‘‘the Commandant wishes to surrender all’’! An amazing number of enemy poured out of the beautifully engineered concrete post. Other than perhaps keeping their heads down, our support artillery fire appeared to have done little damage.

So Geoff Angove was WA’s first infantry casualty but another “C” Coy man, Pte C.T. McDonald, was slightly wounded shortly after. He was later killed at Retimo. Geoff Angove survived of course and, after the war, before I moved to Canberra, we were regular partners on shoots for ducks, roos, boxes and rabbits, plus occasional fishing trips.

It is interesting to note that we had no hand grenades on issue and without them and faced by a more resolute enemy the Platoon would have had crippling casualties if we had tried to force home an attack on that bunker. Another factor, a key to our success in the first desert campaigns, was that while the Italians had some fine artillery, their munitions were deplorable. Many shells failed to explode and, when they did, fragmentation was generally poor.

To illustrate this point, in the attack on Tobruk we had gone to ground under shellfire when I saw Charlie Cobban from “Katy” Johnson’s 14 Platoon on our left disappear in a cloud of dust and thought “there goes Charlie”. When the dust cleared a dazed but voluble Charlie was pointing at a hole in the clay in front of him, from which protruded the nose of the shell. It had exploded but the rest of the shell had gone elsewhere in one piece. This incident was photographed by the great war photographer Frank Hurley who accompanied us in a Bren Carrier slightly to our rear.

A sad sequel is that at Retimo on Crete, the 2/3 Arty. were given some 105mm Italian guns ferried across from Tobruk; we had the experience of hearing our supporting fire go over, but very little of it exploding in the German position.

Courtesy: LEGS ELEVEN MINOR 11TH (1914-18) AND 2/11 AIF BNS ASSN

HAS YOUR SERVICE BEEN RECOGNISED

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- NATIONAL DEFENCE
- ARMY SERVICE

For information send a STAMPED self addressed 3½ x 8½ business envelope to:
Service Commemoratives - P.O. Box 173, Dromana, Victoria, Australia 3936

Listening Post – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 17
Inscribed concrete slab found near World War II Batchelor airstrip

A concrete slab inscribed during World War II has been found on a hill overlooking Batchelor airstrip in the Northern Territory. Etched into the slab are the words: “This stone was laid 1st January 1944” and then follow 15 names: N.G. Hagan, H. Grebert, J. Campbell, H.J. Flynn, B. Schalk, - Thomson, J. Goodman, M. Lyons, T.A. Jones, W. Neal, - Harris, - Buck, A. Adams, - McGam, - Sleep.

Robert Walters, manager of Batchelor Meatworks, found the slab on Castlemain Hill, 13km west of the Stuart Highway and about 100km south of Darwin. It was lying among rocks on the 2,000ha meatworks property which was bought by his family three years ago. He said there were two beer bottles embedded in the concrete slab along with the inscribed names.

“Obviously a group of guys sat down more than 50 years ago, had a few beers on New Year’s day and made a headstone. Maybe, through this story, we might find what happened to them.”

Mr Walters, 44, said many World War II relics had been uncovered on the property.

“There is a gunnery emplacement and a dump with heaps of bully-beef cans and various bottles from that era. “There are also four big tank bases. The tanks presumably would have supplied water to the town area during the war.”

Mr Walters said he and his family were considering giving the historic slab to an RSL club or war museum.

Courtesy: VETAFFAIRS

Robert Walters with the slab of World War II history. Photograph courtesy of the Northern Territory News.
Christmas Puddings

Many thanks to all the Members and Sub-Branches who supported us in selling the 1997 Legacy Christmas Puddings. The response and results were excellent.

1998 Legacy Badge Day Appeal
Friday, April 17

Perth Legacy will celebrate its 70th birthday on June 9, 1998 and, as part of the celebrations, we are requesting a special effort from all RSL Members and Sub-Branches to assist with our Annual Street Appeal.

The Legacy Badge Appeal is the only opportunity we have to invite the general public to support our work, and any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated and be very beneficial. Television, radio and newspapers will promote Legacy’s Badge Day.

We urgently need volunteers to sell badges throughout Western Australia so, wherever you are, your support will be most welcome. Simply complete and return the form below by Friday, March 27, and we will then contact you. Many thanks!

---

Terry Healy
Torchbearers for Legacy in Western Australia Inc
PO Box 249
SOUTH PERTH WA 6951

BADGE APPEAL REPLY SLIP

YES. I will be pleased to help Legacy on Badge Day, Friday April 17th, 1998.

TIME: From ............... to ............... 

LOCATION:
Perth City Suburb Country Area

Have you ever thought of making a bequest in your will to help Legacy? By remembering Legacy in your Will, you will be leaving an enduring gift that will help provide vital support for Widows and Children of deceased veterans and service personnel killed in hazardous service or training for war. Legacy in Western Australia provides support to some 8,500 Widows, Children and Disabled Dependants and this figure continues to grow month by month.

If you are considering supporting Legacy in this way and would like more information, please contact:
Terry Healy
Fundraising Officer, Perth Legacy
PO Box 249, SOUTH PERTH WA 6951
Telephone: (08) 9367 5799
Christmas Spirit Exemplified

Members of Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch are ecstatic as a result of great news received by PRO Peter Barden in a telephone call days before Christmas Day - which he described as a splendid example of the true spirit of Christmas which includes helping worthy causes.

The caller had obviously read The Guardian news item about the deteriorating condition of the brickwork of Birdwood House and other problems associated with the 1935 building; these had been raised by Secretary Brian Cooper at the Sub-Branch’s 80th anniversary dinner.

Bearing in mind the significance of the memorial building named after General Birdwood who commanded the Anzacs in 1915, the civic-minded and public-spirited telephone caller got quickly to the point of his call: "Get a first-class tradesman to restore the brickwork, using only the best of materials, and I'll pay for it."

Having been asked to discuss his generous offer with the Secretary, he was quickly on the phone and was adamant that Birdwood House must be saved, come what may!

A cheque for an even more substantial amount - double that originally mentioned - quickly followed.

Writing to the benefactor, the Secretary said it was difficult to express in words how much the donation meant to the RSL and to Birdwood House in particular. He said the plight of the building had been worrying office bearers for a number of years and the donation had given the building and members a new lease of life for which they thanked him very sincerely. The donation would also enable the ceiling in the main hall to be repaired.

Mr Cooper concluded: "You are a true friend of the RSL and will be known only in that way as you wish. Peter Barden and I will be the only ones who know your true identity."

PRO Peter Barden said: "What a wonderful Christmas present, not only for the Sub-Branch which celebrated its 80th Anniversary in 1997, but also for the people of Geraldton who own this historic building."

Poets' Corner

A Vanished Friend

Around the corner I have a friend.  
In this great land which has no end.  
Yet days go by and weeks rush on.  
And before you know it a year has gone.  
And I never see my old friend's face.  
For life is a swift and terrible race.  
He knows I like him just as well.  
As in the days when I rang his bell.  
And he rang mine.  
We were younger then. 
And now we are busy, tired men. 
Tired of playing a foolish game. 
Tired of trying to make a name. 
"Tomorrow," I say. "I will call on him. 
Just to show I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes. 
Around the corner, yet miles away. 
Here's a telegram. he died today. 
And that's what we get - and deserve in the end. 
Around the corner - a vanished friend.

Anonymous

Contributed by: ROGER TINGLEY

Muse of a Monument

War has returned to our troubled world. 
As I stand on Eliza's peak. 
And the thoughts are jumbled within my soul. 
As the answer I vainly seek. 
What are my thoughts as I look below. 
At the lights on the river gleaming. 
Or am I but stone, fashioned by man. 
A monument without any meaning. 
What of the brave who sleep today. 
Those of World War One. 
Would their hearts be heavy were they here. 
To see more hats with the 'Rising Sun'. 
Do you, who glance at my floodlit face. 
Query my right on the Mount. 
Or do you, not thinking, glance away. 
My meaning of no account. 
What is my worth in this park today. 
The sacrificed souls that I proclaim. 
Or am I but stone and tower in vain. 
Because it all happened to happen again.

Written by: JOHN THORNE LILLY  
(RAAF) in 1940
The Wirraway that zeroed in on an enemy plane

The only Wirraway to shoot down an enemy aircraft is undergoing restoration at the Australian War Memorial, following a public appeal that raised $20,000.


The Wirraway was designed as a trainer, not a fighter. It was pressed into front line service because nothing else was available at the time. Used by 4 Squadron in Australia, A20-103 accompanied the unit to Papua New Guinea in 1942, flew convoy patrols and finally served as a trainer until 1957 when it was retired and donated to the Australian War Memorial.

According to the Australian War Memorial, A20-103 is in remarkably good condition. It has suffered little corrosion and is fairly complete.

Memorial staff and volunteers are working at the Treloar workshop at Mitchell in the ACT, dismantling and cleaning the aircraft. Many rare parts have been found. It has taken years to track down radios, armaments, bombs, instruments and the unique nuts and bolts that go into an aircraft’s construction. Memorial staff have sifted through disposal stores, junkyards and abandoned airfields to collect the bits they need. When the parts just can’t be found, they are re-made, often at great cost.

Some corrosion treatment will be carried out, minor damage repaired and the interior restored to 1942 trim. Then the Wirraway will be re-assembled and painted in its 1942 colour scheme. In line with memorial policy, it will not be restored to flying condition. The project should be completed by the middle of the year.

Courtesy: VETAFFAIRS

21 Squadron’s Wirraway, with pilot, flying officer James Herbert Harper. The gunner is believed to be Sgt HR Hodgens (Photo: AWM AC-138).

Australian War Memorial Treloar Centre workshop manager, David Gordon, carries out restoration work on Wirraway A20-103.
AWAS Association: a tribute

The Australian Women's Army Service was formed in November 1941, and in November last year the AWAS Association celebrated its 50th anniversary.

This account of the AWAS formation, followed by a history of the Association, is to serve only as a precis of the full history that will one day be written:

Australian Women's Army Service
November 1941 – October 1946

This is written now for inclusion in a sealed container so that there will be an outline of the record of the first Women's Army Service. It will tell how it was set up and controlled and how it functioned because of the pride we feel in all that these women did. Women from all over the State served not only in WA but in all other States and New Guinea at a time when our country was in severe danger. and when the recruiting of women to replace men was made available for the first time in the fighting areas where World War II was being waged against relentless foes.

The Australian Women's Army Service is placing on record its tribute to all who so served.

In November 1941, three WA women – Miss Doris Hymus, Miss Mona Hornsby and Miss Jessie Robertson – were commissioned within the Australian Army to set up the Australian Women's Army Service in this State. A group of 21 women so commissioned from all States attended the First Officer Training School held at Yarra Junction in Victoria which commenced on 24 November 1941. During the course word came of the bombing of Pearl Harbour by the Japanese High Command and so our commitment to war in the Pacific was sealed. When the three officers returned to Perth to commence duties in Western Command, each knew that she would face unforeseen problems in the worrying days ahead.

At that time no one could give any definite idea as to how this Service was to be run or organised and it was left to the three to plan: Miss Hymus took over general administration, Miss Hornsby the Training Camp and arrangement of the syllabus and Miss Robertson the Quartermaster side of housing, billeting, feeding, equipping, moving and general welfare.

As the uniform had not yet been decided upon, those who came in first wore men's khaki shorts and a six-gored khaki skirt, made by the tailoresses, with brown stockings and shoes. Later uniforms were made available.

The Western Australian Cricket Association grounds were made available for a Training Camp, and under somewhat odd and restricted conditions, training the first series of recruits was carried out. Outstanding co-operation from all sections of the Army was particularly notable and appreciated. The first camp was initiated in January 1942 and consisted of 49 women: clerks, typists, stenographers, cooks, seamstresses, canteen attendants, telephone operators, waitresses and orderlies.

War Establishment received on 5 January 1942 approval for conditions of Service and Rates of Pay which were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Minors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>6/4d</td>
<td>5/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>5/8d</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>4/8d</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>4/-</td>
<td>3/6d</td>
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<tr>
<td>Controller (Lieutenant Colonel): 20/8d per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Controller (Major): 18/2d per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commandant (Captain): 15/8d per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Commandant (Lieutenant): 10/8d per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Leader (Sergeant): 7/8d per day</td>
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<td>Section Leader (Corporal): 6/8d per day</td>
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Subsistence Rate was at the rate of 2/5d per day, while the Living Away From Home Allowance was 3/6d per day. Dependant's Allowance was not paid.

After 12 months' service minors received adult pay. This differentiation between minors and adults was always a bone of contention especially as there was no such line drawn in the rates of pay of the men in the Army.

Rates of pay were raised in small amounts while gradually entitlements to kit allowance, reduced rates for postal services and railway concessions were introduced. However, no one could say that the women in the Service were highly paid or pampered!

Recruitment

Applications were numerous and as the War in the Pacific became more serious the numbers of women required grew. In many cases those enlisted were trained women who could replace more than one man who had struggled in an unaccustomed job in an orderly room simply because the woman had been trained to run an office before she enlisted.

One drawback at this early stage was that there was no authority for promotion to either non-Commissioned Officer or Officer ranking so that the work was particularly heavy for Miss Hymus, Miss Hornsby and Miss Robertson. When this was rectified in April 1942 and five non-Commissioned Officers were promoted to Lieutenant ranking, the burden was greatly eased.

The first Scale of Clothing was passed in April 1942 and WA suffered badly in the distribution, supplies being so small that in the beginning only ties, stockings, singlets and cotton knockers were sent from headquarters. It was a matter of great pride to the original three Officers to note that the enlisted personnel always looked neat, clean and fresh, despite constant difficulties in maintaining supplies.

April 1942 was important also because the first Australian Women's Army Service personnel were
domiciled in barracks in the Northam Soldier’s Training Camp. This proved to be an excellent idea, the effect on the camp being most noticeable. This barrack was always an efficient and good one.

But barrack accommodation was always a problem, the women having to live in strange buildings, under difficult conditions, but their cheery good will and optimism got them through many hard hours while their ingenuity in creating colourful surroundings in drab army huts earned them a justifiable reputation for being real home-makers. The greatest problem was always overcrowding and this was unavoidable.

Training School
The Training School was gradually put on a better footing and moved to the Teacher’s Training College in Claremont. Miss Hornsby was able at last to have both the Training School and the Non-Commissioned Officer School under her jurisdiction.

Promotions
All promotions for the first six months were done by the Australian Women’s Army Service Headquarters and put through Routine Orders Part II. Later these became a Unit Concern and latterly the only promotions made by Australian Women’s Army Service Headquarters were those for the 7 Administration Cadre, composed of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers who were attached to Units for the purpose of supervising and controlling the women in those Units.

Food Requirements
Although at first the Scale of Food was the same as that issued to men, a special scale for women later replaced one that had proved too heavy and unsatisfactory for them.

What did they do?
The women who enlisted served in many categories, including photographers, photowriters, draughtswomen, wireless-telegraph operators, teleprinters, signal women, switchboard operators, ambulance drivers, utility and car drivers, storeswomen, instrument operators, hairdressers, drill and physical training instructors, welfare, salvage workers, gunners, ack-ack and searchlight operators, tailoresses, stenographers, typists, clerks, cooks, waitresses, orderlies, canteen attendants, textile refitters, seamstresses, equipment repairers, postal sorters, range finders, issuers, cipher clerks, sappers, supervisory personnel, comptometrists and administrative staff.

From the ranks of over 5,000 who enlisted in this State, 60 were commissioned as Officers, assuming great responsibilities which often denied them even the short leave periods enjoyed by others.

Deaths
Some died while serving in the Army and others have passed away since their demobilisation. They are all
remEMBERED BY THOSE WHO NOW FORM THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION WHICH SEeks TO PROVIDE THE AVENUE FOR SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED.

WHAT ELSE SHALL WE SAY?

As we prepare this historic material for someone we shall never know, we wonder what else we should include. So much floods into our minds and hearts when we look back. Perhaps you will wonder what kind of women we were? Well, we came from town and country, from all over this great State; we joined a tremendous effort our country was making to repel deadly foes; we worked together in amazing harmony to create a force that would carry on behind the front lines and give confidence to the men we knew and loved who were serving far ahead; we were content to work long hours and to go without leave; we shared the terrible anxiety of the civilian population and their rationing; we smiled often when we felt like weeping at bad news; we certainly never thought of ourselves as heroines but only as women with a purpose in our hearts; we worked and played and prayed together and made strong friendships that have lasted.

AND WHEN IT WAS OVER?

When it was over we went home to loved ones, though many were missing from our lives. When we learned to live freely again we formed the Australian Women's Army Service Association so that we might meet and lend a helping hand to any of our number who had fallen on bad times.

We remember the glad and the sad things that happened - we renew those links that bound us together and we rejoice in the happiness and accomplishments of peace. There are no examinations or tests for the only identification we need these days is the recognition of our companions along the way.

This Association will cease to exist one day for, as a Service, the Australian Women's Army Service was formed for a particular purpose for a particular period in time - 1941 to 1946 - and then as a Service we ceased to exist. The women who serve in the Army today have a different name and we pray they will never know the anxieties we knew during that frightening period in our lives.

One day there will be no members of this Association. But before we pass on our way, we have set in the gardens of the War Veterans' Home in Mt Lawley some seats for the weary, a birdbath for the friendly birds that sing in this garden and a sundial to mark the happy hours of each day. In this capsule we place this little story and with it our greetings to those who will read it one day, and as we do so we pray that they may live in peace.

Women long for a peaceful world, a world in which their children and their neighbour's children may grow and share in the abundance that God has given for all His children. As we learn to live to the full we are grateful that we were asked to share the burden of the dark period of World War II, and we place on record here and now our gratitude for the friendships we made through those long, dark days and nights as we worked together.

"Let their be peace on Earth... and let it begin with me."

Written in Perth during 1967 by One of Them.

HISTORY OF THE AWAS ASSOCIATION

The Association's first meeting was in 1947 in the Braille Hall on the corner of Stirling and Newcastle Streets. It is not recorded who convened the meeting nor how many were in attendance but one member has memories of a considerable number' and of the warmth of greetings as friends embraced friends who, when last seen, had been in khaki.

The inaugural President was Mrs Min Adams (later Brackelmann), Miss Jean Gullen (Secretary) and Miss Mary Devlin (Treasurer). The Committee Members were: Mrs Nancy Negus, Miss Flo Browne, Miss Win Mansfield and Miss Elsie Solly.

Apart from a file containing a list of successive office bearers, records of the first decade are sparse. The following account is gleaned from Bugle Call Rag (Sept 1969):

"...the next detail is of the 3rd reunion at Tintern Lodge on 5 October 1949. when 64 members signed the attendance book and the only listed change in office bearers was the election of Mrs N. Holley as Secretary.

Seventy eight members signed the attendance book at the 1950 reunion held at the Adelphi Hotel. the office bearers being Misses D. Hymus, E. Solly and M. Devlin.

At Della Marta in 1951 only 47 registered their attendance and Mary Devlin continued to serve as Treasurer, with President Miss C. Beaton and Secretary Mrs P. McHutcheson. No officers were listed for 1952 when 158 signed the book at Marelle on 8 October.

The venue for reunions from 1953-1959 was Earl's Court. during which period the affairs of the Association were guided by Miss G. Flynn, Miss E. Solly, Miss J. Robertson and Mrs J. Hanley. Hon Secretaries were Miss M. Devlin (who had been treasurer over the previous five years), Miss J. Gould, Mrs A. Corry and Mrs A. Eaton. The financial affairs had been shared by Mrs Eaton, Miss W. Mansfield, Miss I. Massingham, Mrs Corry and Mrs J. Peniston. In 1956-57, the office of Social Convenor was introduced and this position was filled by Mrs M. Hammer, followed by Miss N. Kenworthy. Over this period, the average attendance at reunions was 99.

1961 saw the change to Anzac House with Mrs A. Corry still President and Mrs J. Wiseman Secretary until 1964. Treasurer was Miss J. Simpson and the social welfare work in the hands of Mrs J. Sprunt and Mrs J. West.

From 1965-68 Mrs K. Holmes officiated as President with Mesdames M. Herron, A. Corry and J. Duncan acting...
as Secretary and Mesdames Lyons, Purvis and Lumby as Treasurer. Social Convenors were first Mrs A. Corry and Mrs L. Brent. Current Officers are Mesdames B. Clinton, J. Duncan and M. Lumby, and with all other committee members, they will be 'on duty' until the Annual-General meeting in 1969." (End Bugle Call Rag extract.)

During that period the highlight was the visit of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in March 1954, the first time a reigning monarch visited Australia.

Members recall the drill sessions on Perth Esplanade under the stentorian instructions of Elsie Solly in preparation for the parade and the excitement and pride with which they paraded on that momentous occasion. (Ed. I have no recollection of this whatsoever but so many have verified the statement that I accept that it did happen. EHS)

At the AGM in 1969 Alice Corry was elected and commenced her long, continuous and meritorious service as President of our Association, culminating with the first Life Membership of the Association in 1974 and her admittance to the Order of Australia with the award of OAM in the 1987 Australia Day Honours List. No one member is more deserving than Alice – we salute you!

Anzac Day 1963 was a memorable occasion for 13 members – the pictorial record of Alice Corry and Jean Hanly says that they had more than 60 years of war-service between them – when Association members were permitted to march and were officially recognised in the programme. A letter from the State President, Mr Bill Lonnie, to Jean Hanley dated 26 June 1962 reads, inter alia, "Please be assured that remedial action will be taken before Anzac Day 1963, to ensure the recognition which your small, but courageous contingent deserves."

In 1965 plans were put in train to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Australian Women’s Army Service with the erection of a wishing well, combined with a garden seat and bird bath, in the grounds of the RSL War Veterans’ Home, Mt Lawley.

Under the stewardship of Barbara Clinton and Jess Robertson, funds were raised and on Sunday 27 November 1966, the President, Mrs Kath Holmes, presented the gift to the State President of the RSL who, in turn, handed it over to the Chairman of the RSL War Veterans’ Home Board, Dr Alan King.

A further ceremony took place on Sunday 26 November 1967, when the President, Mrs Kath Holmes, presented a time capsule to the RSL President, Mr P. Pearson, to be buried in the vicinity of the bird bath. Also enclosed were the service details of the an Unknown AWAS, miniature medals and ribbons, an AWAS shoulder flash, a uniform button, a Rising Sun badge, a photo of the first three women attested in this State, Misses Doris Hymus, Jess Robertson and Mona Hornsby, a photo of an unidentified AWAS in winter uniform, a copy of the Association’s constitution and the invitation and programme for the 1966 Memorial Dedication Service.

With monies left in the Memorial Fund, the AWAS Association Perpetual Bowling Trophy for an Annual Bowls Competition was presented to the RSL War Veterans’ Home until discontinued in 1995.

Also included in the time capsule was a precis of the formation and organisation of the Service which the Committee decided should be printed on this 50th anniversary reunion programme celebrating the establishment of the Association. The Committee was of the opinion that many members of the Association would not know of the existence of the time capsule much less be in attendance come the time to unveil. It is an important account of our Service and deserves to be left to posterity to those who read.

A vote of thanks to President Barbara Clinton and her Committee and Jess Robertson for their sterling efforts to bring this project to fruition is contained in Bugle Call Rag of August, 1968.

The Association has devoted much of its activities to the raising of funds to assist its own members and, in later years, to give substantial donations to a number of philanthropic organisations such as the Silver Chain, The Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Royal Institute for the Blind and the Cerebral Palsy Association.

Many members recall the frantic hours preparing for the Silver Chain fete, especially those years when spectacular floral arrangements were featured and the Association regularly captured prizes for their exhibitions.

A recent initiative has been the institution of an educational scholarship to assist two students in years 11 and 12 in the 52nd Regular Cadet Unit. Members from this Unit carry our banner in the annual Anzac Day Parade and the grant of $250 in each year is a welcome supplement to their text book requirements.

The 50th anniversary of the formation of the Service was celebrated in 1991 with a weekend of festivities. Formalities commenced on 22 November with a cocktail party at the WACA Grounds, the site of the first ‘Rookies’ Camp, with the induction of the first West Australian members of the AWAS. A plaque and a framed photograph of the ‘First Camp’ officers and other ranks presented to the President of the WACA, Mr Bernie Prindiville, are on display in the WACA’s Memorabilia Room.

On Saturday 23 November, 805 former members of the Service sat down to a wonderful luncheon at the Golden Nugget Room at Gloucester Park. Visitors from all States in Australia joined the very strong West Australian contingent. The Fifth District Military Band, under the command of Captain Eric Anderson, provided the musical entertainment and the Band’s trumpeter sounded ‘Mess...
Parade' as each of the marshalling points were called 'On Parade' by MC Elsie Solly.

On Sunday, a parade along Kings Park Drive led by the Band was followed by a Commemoration Service at the War Memorial. Memories – who knows what poignant memories of those on parade that day? A barbecue followed, which brought together families and friends, oft times to meet the next generations.

Another milestone reunion was the Australia Remembers luncheon, again in the Golden Nugget Room, Gloucester Park, held on 2 September 1995. The date chosen was the anniversary of the signing of the Instrument of Peace aboard USS Missouri which formalised the end of hostilities in the Pacific theatre of war in World War II.

Mrs Marlena Jeffrey, wife of the Governor, Major-General Jeffrey, was our guest-of-honour.

Prior to the reunion, a band of 37 West Australians had joined the 905 ex-service women in Darwin in July, as part of the Australia Remembers celebrations, replete in khaki green T-shirts emblazoned on the front with a golden Rising Sun and the words Western Australia. They certainly made their mark – in more ways than one.

One of the strengths of the Association has been the communication vehicle to keep members informed of activities. In the years 1947 to 1965 stencilled circulars were dispatched twice a year. Bugle Call Rag was registered at the General Post Office for transmission as a periodic during the years 1966-80.

The WRAAC Association invited the Association to provide copy for 'AWAS Notes' in their magazine until 1983 when Edie Arnold was appointed reporter – a post which she so diligently filled until it was decided to establish our own publication, AWAS News. Vol 1, No 1 was published in June 1995, the first of four editions each year – today's issue, Vol 3, No 4, has been devoted almost solely to matters pertaining to the 50th Anniversary of the Association.

Under Alice Corry's long years of Presidency, the Association has prospered mainly because of the notion of "Fellowship", introduced at the bi-monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each even month of the year, has been the catalyst to ensure growth in membership numbers and at the meetings and reunions.

Formal meeting procedures are kept to a minimum, the management of affairs of the Association left to the Management Committee who handle the correspondence, engagement of guest speakers, and the presentation of the annual reunion each year.

May the time come when a history of the Service and Association in Western Australia will be written – there is a rich, rich fabric of Service and Dedication, Friendship and Fidelity to be passed on.

Courtesy: 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF

The Beaufort – Historical Background

In the late 1930s Australia began an ambitious programme to mass produce bomber aircraft for the RAAF. The chosen design was the British-designed Bristol Beaufort, a twin-engined machine with a crew of four that could carry either bombs or one torpedo. A fleet of Beauforts would patrol and protect Australia's vast coastline and fly far out to sea to strike at an invasion force and its supply lines.

Until early 1942 production was supported by Great Britain and it was planned that some of the bombers would be supplied to the Royal Air Force. Only a few were delivered before the start of the Pacific War, and the remaining British orders were cancelled in April 1942. The first Australian Beaufort flew in October 1941. The last bomber version was completed in early 1945.

Making the Beaufort

The production of the initial batch of Beauforts was an enormous effort for Australia. Each bomber needed 39,000 carefully manufactured parts. Drawing on a tiny industrial base and few skilled workers, the Beaufort Division of the Department of Aircraft Production (DAP) grew until it occupied seven large factories in three states.

Three of these operations were run by State Railways and produced the large sections of the aircraft. In New South Wales the Area Workshop at Chullora built the forward and tail end of the fuselage and the tailplane. The three main wing sections came from Islington, in South Australia.

The completed parts were carried by rail to two final assembly plants: branches of the Government Aircraft Factory located at Mascot in NSW and Fisherman's Bend in Victoria. Gun turrets were made at Fairfield, Victoria, and the repair and modification plant was set up at Essendon. At its peak, the Beaufort Division had 8,500 employees, of whom a third were women. Tens of thousands more people worked for 600 private subcontractor companies. About 20% of these workers had any previous aircraft manufacturing experience.

With the outbreak of war in the Pacific, the demand for new Beaufort increased. In total, 700 of the bombers were delivered between late 1941 and August 1944; 46 of these were later converted into transport aircraft and modified to carry freight and passengers.

Into Service

From 1941 the Beaufort was pressed into service to counter the Japanese threat, with new aircraft being flown direct to the New Guinea battlefronts, and issued to units.
based in northern Australia that were raiding nearby Japanese bases, including Timor. The Beaufort rapidly became the RAAF’s main bomber type in the Pacific War and was used by 19 front line squadrons of which 9 were all-Beaufort equipped. Other machines were sent to patrol the coasts, escort ship convoys or to fly with Operational Training Units in New South Wales and Victoria.

Heavy Losses

Almost half the Beauforts built in Australia were destroyed in service through enemy anti-aircraft fire, mechanical failure, random productions faults, inexperience and the harsh conditions of military use in tropical areas. However, more worrying was a large number of unexplained crashes. Dozens of aircraft did not return from patrols out to sea, while others blew up in the air or dived into the ground without any apparent reason. The Beaufort began to develop a bad reputation with its crews: at one Victorian training base the aircraft were dubbed ‘Gippsland Hailstones’. Detailed investigations revealed several problems, including a defective spring washer in the controls that could cause a fatal dive. With improved maintenance and experience the losses declined in late 1944.

Beauforts Arrive in New Guinea

The first operational Beauforts reached New Guinea in 1942 and carried out bombing raids, supply dropping and sea patrols including torpedo strikes against Japanese ships. These early flights were undertaken by aircraft of 100 Squadron RAAF, staging through Port Moresby from bases in Australia. The Squadron moved up to Milne Bay in September 1942 and was joined in New Guinea by other units. The bombers were used against targets on the mainland, as well as New Britain and the Shortland Islands. For two months from October 1942, the Beauforts flew on night raids against the large Japanese garrison at Rabaul, part of the round-the-clock campaign mounted by the United States Fifth Air Force. The main Japanese forces in the area were destroyed or isolated by the end of the year.

Army Co-operation

In 1945-45 the Beaufort squadrons worked with Australian ground troops during a series of long and difficult campaigns Japanese strong points along the north coast of New Guinea. Three units – 6, 8 and 100 Squadron RAAF – were formed into 71 Wing and were later joined by 7 Squadron. Based at Tadji, the bombers were in easy reach of the fighting. 15 Squadron RAAF spent the last six months of war at Middleburg Island, Dutch New Guinea.

The soldiers came to rely on the Beauforts, which flew large numbers of operations at low level to attack Japanese forces, supplies and communication. The bombers frequently raided Japanese strong points a few hundred meters in front of the Australian front lines and the Army provided observers to co-ordinate these carefully planned attacks. Supplies were also delivered by air to ground forces isolated in the New Guinea jungle using a device called a ‘Storepedo’. Designed by Australian pilot Ken Frewin, the Storepedo was a cardboard container with a parachute that could be used to safely air-drop ammunition, food or medical supplies.

The Beaufort squadrons were dependent on their ground crews, who maintained the aircraft and prepared them for operations. Most of the work on the bombers was done in the open, in all types of weather conditions.

DAP Beaufort Mk VIII A9-557

The Australian War Memorial’s Beaufort, a veteran of the New Guinea campaigns, was received by the RAAF in the first week of January 1944 and was delivered to 100 Squadron in July. It spent its entire operational career in New Guinea, operating from a number of airstrips including Vivigani (Goondenhough Island) and Tadji (Aitape – on the north coast, about 150 km from the border with present-day Irian Jaya).

This Beaufort carried out its first combat sortie, a bombing raid on Yakamul, on 10 July 1944. During seven months of operational flying, the aircraft completed more than 103 missions and dropped 146,000 pounds of bombs. Flown by 19 different crews, including those commanded by Flying Officer Stan Polkinghome (29 missions) and Flight Lieutenant Harry ‘Jack’ Fowler (33 missions), it was evidently a reliable machine, and Fowler described A9-557 to his parents as his ‘beaut kite’.

On 20 January 1945 the aircraft was wrecked in a spectacular crash landing at Tadji. Returning from a raid on a village at Elimil with shell holes, and with a live bomb jammed in the bomb bay, it ran off the runway and collided with parked vehicles as well as a nearby building. Flight-Lt Fowler, his crew and an Army observer all survived the crash landing of A9-557, although one man on the ground was killed. The damaged Beaufort was removed, carefully stripped of useful parts by a Repair and Salvage Unit and dumped. It lay in the jungle of Tadji for 29 years.

The main sections of the bomber were recovered and shipped to Melbourne in 1974 by a private collector; the parts were obtained by the Memorial in 1992.During the last four years many Beaufort components – including sections from A9-461, A9-555 and A9-559 – have been gathered in Australia, New Guinea and the United States. With these, it is hoped to conserve and re-assemble A9-557.

Technical Data

Nomenclature: DAP Beaufort Mk VIII A9-557

Manufacturer: Department of Aircraft Production, Australia

Type: Torpedo bomber

Theatre of War: WWII Pacific

Wingspan: 17.63 m

Length: 13.49 m

Engine: 2 x Pratt and Whitney R-1830 S3C4G radial piston engines

Armament: 8 x .303 in machine guns. one torpedo or bombs

Courtesy: HUGH ROCHE
Honour Avenue Committee Report

A slow drive along the silent ranks of trees and the accompanying memorial plaques in the King's Park Honour Avenues is a special experience. Every week thousands of local, country, interstate and international visitors travel the shady 6.5 kilometre long avenues, many taking the time to read and reflect on details on the plaques.

Although the Honour Avenues are subsidiary to the State War Memorial, they are complementary and a focus for both individual and larger commemorative activities. Floral tributes large and small, many containing written sentiments, are to be seen not only on Anzac and Remembrance Days, but often on more personal anniversaries. Anzac Day ceremonies involve students from our schools who participate by placing flowers at each post. Staff and students from Carine Senior High School in particular have had a long association with the Honour Avenue.

Unit Associations regularly conduct ceremonies in the Avenues. Recently the 2/2 Commando Association (assisted by serving members of the SAS Regiment) held a ceremony in remembrance of the 52 men who gave their lives in Timor and other islands to our north. Before attending the 1997 Remembrance Day Ceremony, a delegation of serving infantry members from the 11/28th Battalion RWAR, led by Warrant Officer Graeme, placed a poppy on each of the posts associated with their unit (almost 300 from World Wars I and II). Such activities are appreciated and encouraged. The ongoing placement of colour patches on posts make unit identification much easier.


The commitment and care taken by the RSL volunteer members of the Honour Avenue Committee and the management and staff of King's Park ensures that this important part of our State's heritage is preserved and maintained to a high standard.

Recent destruction of more than 30 trees due to fire, tempest and errant drivers created a temporary problem for the staff because all replacement trees are propagated in the King's Park nursery to minimise disease risk, but by 11 November all the replacement trees and freshly painted posts and plaques were back in position. This spirit of co-operation has existed for nearly eight years.

The Honour Avenue Committee is reliant on donations to ensure that the preservation, restoration and continual maintenance of 1,137 memorial plaques and posts can be carried out. The National Australia Bank dedicated 35 plaques to staff members who died in both World Wars, and has been a generous donor for many years. Dulux Paints, Bunnings Forest Products, The Friends of King's Park, Subiaco and Wembley-Floreat Sub-Branches have also provided welcome support over the past year. Our grateful thanks to all who have contributed to the preservation of the Honour Avenues.

CHRIS BROOKS
Secretary

HMAS Manoora patrolled the Indian Ocean, New Guinea and northern Australian waters and she had the first action, on 12 June 1940, of any ship in the waters near the South West Pacific Area. On this day, after tracking down the Italian ship Romolo, HMAS Manoora prevented her scuttling and — after taking her crew on board, finished Romolo off with four salvos from her guns. Still on patrol work, HMAS Manoora served in waters near Fremantle, Darwin, Thursday Island, Nauru, Port Moresby, Rabaul and Kavieng.

In November 1941 she sailed for Singapore, arriving on 6 December, and was in harbour when Singapore was attacked by Japanese aircraft on that infamous day. 7 December 1941. She later escorted convoys from Calcutta to Rangoon and, after some months in Burma, she returned to Sydney in July 1942, where she was to become the first ship to be converted to an LSI. The other AMCs to be converted later were HMAS Westralia and HMAS Kanimbla.

HMAS Manoora was manned on 2 February 1943 by Australian Navy personnel, who had been specifically training for some months in the art of handling landing craft which were of American origin. The majority of these barges were held in davits on the sides of the ship, and others were cradled inboard. These could be put into the water in seven minutes, making her far superior to her American counterparts with whom she would take part in many invasions.

HMAS Manoora trained American and Australian troops from February 1943 until March 1944 in the art of going down the side of the ship with full packs on heavy netting into the barges and returning back on board. This action readied the troops for their D-Day.

Now the time had come for the most important part of Manoora would play in World War II. She would do eight D-Day landings, five with the Americans and three with Australian troops, from April 1944, through to July 1945.

The five landings with the Americans were at Dutch New Guinea (Tanamerah Bay and Wakde) April 1944, Morotai July 1944, Leyte October 1944, and Lingayen January 1945. The latter two landings, namely Leyte Gulf and Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines, were to be made under heavy resistance whilst in convoy and on the D-Days by Kamikaze attacks.

General MacArthur had decided to send the three Australian LSIs back south to prepare for the invasion of Borneo by the Australian 7th and 9th Divisions. After the capitulation of the Japanese in the Philippines there were to be three invasions in Borneo. On 1 May 1945, Manoora took the famous 2/48th Battalion, with four VC winners to her credit, into Tarakan. The incredible Lt Tom Derrick VC, DCM, died on 23 May 1945 of multiple wounds suffered in his gallant actions on Tarakan. On 10 June 1945, the ship landed the 7th Division troops on Labuan in Brunei Bay, and on 1 July 1945, Manoora made the last landing of World War II at Balikpapan. This had completed eight D-Days for Manoora.

After the war ended, the ship carried troops to Japan for the British Occupation Force until the end of 1947. In February 1948 an Australian Flag which had flown from Manoora during the war was presented in New York, by the Australian Ambassador, to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Association as a symbol of friendship between the two countries. In view of her sterling service in many joint Australian/American operations HMAS Manoora was selected for the honour.

Manoora returned to the Adelaide Steamship Co. Ltd in 1949, carrying out passenger service until August 1961, when she was sold to Indonesia. In mid-1972 she was placed on disposal and sold to Taiwan. Whilst in tow Manoora fouled and sank some 300 miles short of her

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**A WILL TO FIGHT CANCER**

Have you ever thought of making a small bequest in your Will to help the Cancer and Leukaemia Research programme?

The Cancer Foundation of WA provides the services of a solicitor to draw up your Will at no cost on the understanding that it is nominated in some way as a beneficiary in the Will of the applicant.

WHAT THE FREE WILL SERVICE OFFERS:

- A free confidential discussion of your wishes with a solicitor
- The opportunity to consider various options in your Will
- A home visit by a solicitor if necessary
- All discussions are in confidence with no representative of the Cancer Foundation present
- Availability in Perth and country towns

Call for our Free Will and Advisory Service leaflet:

CANCER FOUNDATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

334 Rokeby Road, Subiaco 6008. Tel: (09) 381 4515 or 008 199 222

| Listening Post – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 29 |
scrapyard. She is still lying south of the Philippines where she served so valiantly with the American Seventh Fleet. The chances of salvaging this gallant 11,000 tons of metal are very slim indeed.

Yes, it can be said that HMAS Manoora was a great and courageous fighting vessel and great pride may be had by all who served her.

**VALE Manoora**

_I am also sending you the following extracts from a letter written by my father, WO2 Charles Crome, 5th Battalian AIF, to his family:_

"Mena Camp, Egypt. Good Friday, 3 April 1915: Today is Good Friday and we are having a holiday. Church Parade was held this morning which I attended... We are really going away from here within a day or two. I have told you so often that we were going that I suppose you won’t believe it, but it is the case. Where we are going we don’t know, but believe it will be to Turkey. I will write every opportunity I get.

Saturday 4 April: I had to leave off and go into Cairo and I’ve had a most exciting time. Some of the Australians really went mad and took the bad houses of the town by storm, wrecked the places and piled the furniture in the streets and set fire to it. It was a real riot. The picquets and MPs were turned out and had to fire on the crowd before things quietened down. There were quite a number of casualties. I kept out of it. To get as far away from the rioting as possible I went along the back streets and alleys and came across two printing offices (and made myself quite at home amongst the native printers) and was soon working the machines and setting the types. The natives were quite delighted that an Australian soldier could print. ... We have been told officially today that we are to leave tomorrow, Sunday 5 April, so I don’t suppose you will hear very much from me now for some time, but don’t worry, I shall be alright, and before long I’m sure I’ll be on my way home again. I don’t know when I’ll get any more letters from you ... Have no time to write more just now, there’s a terrible lot of work to get things packed. I must say goodbye to you all now. Au Revoir until we meet again.

Yours affectionately,

Charlie

Will write every opportunity I get. Don’t worry."

PEG EDWARDS

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**OBITUARY**

**A Grand Old Trooper**

Sitting in the Hay Street Mall in Perth in 1989, the writer got into conversation with an elderly gentleman who proved to be an excellent conversationalist with a wonderful memory.

The person concerned was ex-Trooper Gordon Percival White, aged 98, of the famous 10th Light Horse Regiment of World War 1 who served in Palestine, Syria and Egypt but missed out on catching up with his brother Hamill who died in France after action in Gallipoli.

They both joined up from Morawa district where they selected a virgin block for farming in 1910. This entailed catching the Midland train to Yandanooka and walking 48 kilometres to the Morawa area and then walking back to catch the train at Yandanooka.

Having celebrated his 106th birthday on August 23 as Western Australia’s oldest War Veteran, Gordon White passed away peacefully on November 7 after a short illness.

But back to Hay Street Mall in 1989. It was an interesting conversation because the writer fondly remembered many deceased members of Gordon’s old Regiment including Life RSL Member Hubert Mountain, George Anderson, Alf Smith, Bill Cream, Fred Morrell, Jack Hackett, Jack Cooper, Frank Butler and Tom Pickering.

In addition, Captain W A Robinson of the same Regiment became the first President of the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the Returned Soldiers’ Association on ANZAC Day 1917, which became a Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers’ Imperial League on December 11 of the same year.

Furthermore, old RSL record books at Geraldton contain the signatures of such “Gentlemen of the Light Horse” as AA Patience, CC Patience, VR Patience, W Suckling, A Suckling, Jock Brown, John Eakins, Irwin Burges, Tom Greenway, Major TA Kidd and Tom Clarkson.

As far as Gordon White was concerned, he believed he was a very lucky person to survive the shellings. He and his wife Molly (nee Valentine) left the Morawa farm in 1968 to live in retirement at Wembley Downs, but Molly passed away in 1982. Gordon continued to live independently in his home and to be a regular participant in Anzac Day parades.

A grandson, Justin White of Morawa, proudly wore the shoulder insignia of ex-Trooper White as a member of the mounted Light Horse quartet that led Geraldton’s 1995 ANZAC Day parade; and he delivered a heart-warming eulogy at the Karakatta cremation service on November 12.

The grand old gentleman of the 10th Light Horse leaves two sons, three daughters, 14 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

PETER BARDEN
Geraldton RSL PRO

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**Stop Press**

The RSL in Perth recently appointed Margot Harness, who was previously our Pensions Officer, and has now returned to Anzac House to help veterans with their pension applications. So, if you are applying for a DVA pension, contact Margot, a qualified DVA Pensions Officer, on 9325 9799 during business hours.

(See page 2)
HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

IMPORTANT  Read on for the chance to win a dinner for two ...

Hollywood Private Hospital gives priority access to Veterans and War Widows and our staff are committed and proud to be serving the Veterans and War Widows of Western Australia.

As part of this commitment we are seeking your feedback about the service we provide through the following short questionnaire.

We hope the results of this questionnaire will help us improve our service to you.

By completing this questionnaire, filling in your contact details at the bottom of this page and returning it by fax or mail to Hollywood by April 3, 1998, you also have the chance to win a dinner for two at Matilda Bay Restaurant, valued at $125.

All information from this questionnaire will remain confidential and your name will not be linked to the data. You may choose to remain completely anonymous. However, if you do, you will not be able to enter the draw for the dinner.

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaire, please contact Jayma Knudson, Community Relations on 9346-6664, during office hours.

Remember, you must return all three pages of your completed questionnaire by April 3, 1998 to go into the prize draw.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance in helping us to plan our services for our patients.

Yours sincerely

ROGER A SNELL
Executive Director

CONFIDENTIAL

Questionnaire to help meet your needs

Note: An inpatient is where you stay in hospital for one or more nights. A day patient is where you come to hospital for a procedure, but do not stay overnight. An outpatient is where you come to hospital for one or more appointments, visiting our Medical Centre.

1. Have you ever been an inpatient / day patient at Hollywood Private Hospital? (please tick one box)
   1  [ ] Yes – go to question 2
   2  [ ] No– go to question 4

2. Where did you stay the last time you were at Hollywood?
   Ward name or number _______________________________________
   [ ] Unsure/ can’t remember
3. Were you satisfied with the care you received at Hollywood Private Hospital as an inpatient/day patient? (please tick one box)
1 □ Yes, very satisfied
2 □ Yes, somewhat satisfied
3 □ No, not very satisfied
4 □ Not at all satisfied
Comments: _______________________________ 

4. Have you ever been an outpatient at Hollywood Private Hospital? (please tick one box)
1 □ Yes
2 □ No

5. If you have never been to Hollywood Private Hospital, why not? (please tick as many boxes as you wish)
1 □ Have not needed to go to hospital
2 □ Location of the hospital
3 □ Have never been referred to Hollywood Private Hospital
4 □ Preferred to go to another hospital
5 □ Am not an entitled Veteran/War Widow and do not have private health insurance
6 □ Did not know about Hollywood Private Hospital
Other, please specify _______________________________ 

6. Were you satisfied with the care you received at Hollywood Private Hospital as an outpatient? (please tick one box)
1 □ Yes, very satisfied
2 □ Yes, somewhat satisfied
3 □ No, not very satisfied
4 □ Not at all satisfied
Comments: _______________________________ 

7. When did you last come to Hollywood Private Hospital, as an inpatient, day patient or outpatient? (please tick one box)
1 □ Within the last 6 months
2 □ Within the last 3 years, but longer than 6 months ago
3 □ More than 3 years ago
8. Please indicate your general thoughts about the following aspects at Hollywood Private Hospital:
(please circle one number for each aspect)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Very poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your hospital booking/admission</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing care</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care provided by the doctors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnishings/decor</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your discharge from hospital</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. If you were referred to Hollywood Private Hospital in the future, how would you feel about being a patient at Hollywood? (please tick one box)
1 □ Very happy
2 □ Would not mind
3 □ Would prefer to go elsewhere
4 □ Would definitely not go to Hollywood Private Hospital
5 □ Unsure as to how I would feel

10. Please make any comments or suggestions about Hollywood Private Hospital.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP
Please return this questionnaire by April 3, 1998.
Fax to (08) 9389 8470 or mail to:
Jayma Knudson, Community Relations, “Listening Post Questionnaire”
Hollywood Private Hospital, PO Box 1065, NEDLANDS WA 6009
If you wish to be included in the draw for dinner for two, please remember to complete the entry form below and forward it with your completed questionnaire by the due date.

PLEASE NOTE: COMPLETE THESE DETAILS FOR ENTRY TO THE PRIZE DRAW...
If you wish to go into the draw for a dinner for two at Matilda Bay Restaurant (valued at $125.00) please complete the tear off form below. All information from this questionnaire will remain confidential and your name will not be linked to the data.

Name: ____________________________ Telephone: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Would you like to be kept informed about developments at Hollywood Private Hospital?
(please tick one box)
1 □ Yes
2 □ No
Hollywood Update

Naval Association says thanks

Hollywood Private Hospital celebrated its fourth anniversary of privatisation on Tuesday, February 24, with an update on Hollywood and a lunch for ex-service organisation presidents and official hospital visitors.

At the function, the Naval Association President, Mr Jack Appleby, presented Hollywood with a certificate of appreciation “for valued services rendered to the Naval Association of WA”.

Former RSL State president Mr Jim Hall cut the hospital’s birthday cake and echoed the veterans’ gratitude to Hollywood for its care and praised the hospital’s new facilities.

In a special note of congratulations, Veterans’ Affairs Deputy Commissioner Mr Jim Dalton said:

“Each day as I have the chance to talk to veterans and their families, overwhelmingly I hear the same message – “Hollywood is wonderful, the hospital’s staff do really care”.

“Congratulations again and we look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver the service to the veteran community that they have earned and so rightly deserve.”

At the function, guests were given a copy of Hollywood’s fourth anniversary report, outlining the hospital’s achievements during the past year. If anyone wishes to obtain a copy, please contact Catherine Archer on 9346 6716.

Specialist Centre on track

Construction of the Hollywood Specialist Centre is now well under way and is on target for completion in September 1998.

The first phase involved demolishing most of the former nurses quarters to make way for the centre which is to be built facing Monash Avenue.

The centre will comprise about 5,600 square metres and include 38 suites, a pharmacy, coffee shop, doctors’ lounge, treatment room and undercover parking.

This is a $9 million building project and competitive unit sales pricing and the site location both in Nedlands and next to the QE II Campus have resulted in 60 per cent strata title sales at this early point in project development.

Hollywood has also now moved on to Stage Two of the redevelopment.

Stage Two includes construction of a new coronary care unit, catheterisation laboratories, cardiologists’ practice office and after hours acute chest pain unit - and is also expected to be completed in September 1998.

This stage also includes construction of a gastroenterology and day procedure unit. Then additional operating suites and a new intensive care unit will follow, and the final stage of patient accommodation will be completed in the year 2000.

Stage Two is being designed by architects Silver Thomas Hanley and will be built by Transfield Constructions - WA. The combination of all Stage Two and Stage Three work will cost approximately $15 million.

Tea Dance now sold out

Tickets for a Veterans’ Health Week highlight – the tea dance sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital – have now sold out.

The popular dance is to be held on October 15, 1998, in Hollywood’s Red Cross Hall and was sold out early in March.

Hollywood will host other activities during Veterans’ Health Week, which starts on October 11, 1998.

For further details on what’s happening at Hollywood, listen in to “On Parade”, the RSL’s radio show, hosted by Ann Keynes and sponsored by Hollywood and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, on Radio 6NR 927 AM at 12.30pm every Wednesday.

Alternatively, call Catherine Archer on 9346 6716 at Hollywood Private Hospital for a calendar of events of what’s coming up at Hollywood.
This was the second major entertainment event organised and staged by the League in WA. The first, the Australia Remembers Cavalcade at the Entertainment Centre on Armistice night, 1995, was the finale to that anniversary year and regarded by all as most memorable, reflecting the deeds and heroism of our servicemen and women, the sacrifices and spirit shown on the home front and the League’s role in society.

Other state capitals staged and funded their own commemoration entertainment. In the absence of any similar initiative by the arts industry of WA, it was left to the League to do something. Its objectives were to not only salute the wartime generation, but also to focus on the League’s commitment to youth and its reliance on youth to perpetuate the Anzac spirit. The Cavalcade also sought to emblazon the League’s image as we approach the challenge of the year 2000, and testimonials from every quarter confirmed that we achieved three lofty goals. Those who were involved in all aspects of that production for 12 months will remember the workload involved and where the physical and financial support came from: this enabled the Cavalcade Committee to present commemorative banners worth $30,000 to the Sub-Branches.

The applause for, and enthusiasm over, the achievement led to the suggestion that it be done every two years as does the Royal British Legion at the Albert Hall. All things considered however, the League could not sustain such an event. After lengthy discussion and a detailed feasibility study, the Executive Committee approved a biennial Tattoo, at least until the year 2000. to celebrate the Millennium. This provision was most significant in convincing major sponsors and arousing enthusiasm for the effort and expense of the development, infrastructure and creation of the set, costumes, props and equipment for an international event.

The Tattoo had similar objectives to the Cavalcade, with the added aims of fostering the ambitions of the League with regard to the future. There was no doubt that, given the will, the League had the administrative and financial infrastructure to mastermind such an event and the experience to stage a Tattoo: and not least, we had a captive audience properly networked to sell at least 30 per cent of the audience capacity of 15,000 tickets over four performances.

The State Premier has remarked on the success of the inaugural Tattoo. This is also reflected in the enthusiasm of major sponsors and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs which wishes to continue its involvement in the future. The production team and the performers had their reward with the warm applause and verbal tributes from League members and their families and from the praise the League received from the general community.

Everyone was disappointed, however, that we did not have an Australian Defence Force band, despite pleas from the League, the Premier’s Office and Major-General ‘Digger James’. With nine bands in the Eastern States, this is unforgivable. No doubt there were other pressures the League could have brought to bear, but chose not to. Members must draw their own conclusions about the Australian Defence Forces’ respect for the RSL. The Listening Post is the best forum for informing members and hearing their views.

As the Director and Co-ordinator, I spent almost two years designing and developing the Tattoo with an excellent team who planned the seating and control of an audience of thousands each night, administered a cast of 7000 performers and 50 horses. Developed an area in Supreme Court Gardens and hosted all the guests.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges of the Tattoo was to bring 60 international performers from the UK and Italy – a minefield of regulations, unions, insurance, flight arrangements, accommodation and housing. Now we have in place the infrastructure, experience and property assets which will save an estimated $70,000 on a future event. By comparison, the Adelaide Tattoo has a full time staff of six, backed by the Tourism Commission, at a cost of $18,000 per annum! Even more can be saved if responsibility is accepted where it properly belongs. Many lessons have been learned, so let’s not waste all these hard-won assets and – above all – let’s not lay blame.
**Tattoo overview continued**

Large corporations and charities spend thousands of dollars on image building and public relations. The League has to swank, embrace the community and showcase its role. What better than pageants and parades and historical enactment to keep patriotism and pride alive. I personally believe that the future of the League and the focus on youth has to be a major topic for the 1998 Congress, together with that most urgent and long-debated subject ‘Centralisation’. The cost of building this image – recruiting young people and keeping the League in the public eye – must be allowed for in future budgets.

The Tattoo started from scratch with no bridging finance-

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**Christmas Spirit Exemplified**

Members of Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch are ecstatic as a result of great news received by PRO Peter Barden in a phone call days before Christmas Day. He described this as a splendid example of the true Spirit of Christmas.

The caller had read the ‘Guardian’ news item about the deteriorating condition of the brickwork of Birdwood House and of other problems associated with the 1935 building that were raised by Secretary Brian Cooper at the Sub-Branch’s 80th Anniversary Dinner.

Bearing in mind the significance of the memorial building, named after General Birdwood who commanded the ANZACS in 1915, the civic-minded and public spirited caller quickly got to the point: “Get a first-class tradesman to restore the brickwork, use only the best materials, and I’ll pay for it”.

He was asked to discuss his generous offer with the Secretary, and was quickly on the phone – adamant that Birdwood House must be saved, come what may!

A cheque for an even more substantial amount, double that originally mentioned, soon followed.

Writing to the benefactor, Secretary Brian Cooper said it was difficult to express how much the donation meant to the RSL and to Birdwood House in particular. He said the plight of the building had been worrying office bearers for a number of years and the donation gives the building and members a new lease on life for which they thanked him most sincerely. The donation would also repair the ceiling damage in the main hall.

Mr Cooper concluded: “You are a true friend of the RSL and will be known only that way as you wish. Peter and I will be the only ones to know your true identity.”

PRO Peter Barden summed up his feelings: “What a wonderful Christmas present for the Sub-Branch, which celebrated its 80th Anniversary in 1997, but also for the people of Geraldton who own this historic building”.

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**Japanese Morse**

Most of us have heard about intercept wireless units which intercepted Japanese communications links for intelligence purposes to assist military planners in their operations. The methods used were something completely new as far as the Australian Services were concerned and are the subject of this article.

At the outbreak of World War II the complex Japanese language was not well known. The Japanese had devised their own Morse code (Kana code) for their naval and military messages. The Kana Morse signals were based on the 46 basic phonetic sounds ‘changes’ of the Japanese language using their Katakana syllabary, plus 25 sound ‘changes’.

Katakana is what they used to write and pronounce phonetically, traditional Japanese and foreign words (including place names) borrowed from the Western World and thus was best suited for their military requirements.

Imagine this – the Allied intercept operators had to learn the 71 Kana Morse symbols as opposed to the 26 letter alphabet of the International code. They had to cope with Japanese operators sending at speeds of up to 40-50 words per minute. A form of shorthand was devised to enable the operators to record quickly the Kana symbols on to the message pads. This shorthand had also to be learnt in conjunction with the instruction in the Kana code.

The Australian operators had to learn and be able to write down in Angloised form the phonetic Japanese sounds which matched each of the 71 Kana symbols. This meant messages sent in Japanese phonetics could be instantly read and translated by the Japanese-speaking linguist on duty.

The following example may assist in understanding the problem: if the Japanese operator was to send ‘Yokohama’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese Operator sends</th>
<th>Allied Operator Writes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>••</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•••</td>
<td>yo</td>
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<td>••</td>
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<td>ha</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>••</td>
<td>ma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**E.C.J. DOWLING**

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could not ask the Japanese for repeats! Inaccurate copy
messages had to be corrected, whilst the Australians had trouble
making corrections on a typewriter.

All the Kana operators, men and women (for home service
only), had to pass Morse tests in the International Morse
Code at 25 wpm sending and receiving. After eight weeks
of concentrated and intensive training they were posted
as Sigint operators to their different units.

Female operators were as good as the men and served at
Melbourne, Perth, Canberra, Brisbane and Townsville; the
men served in the South West Pacific Area, ranging from
Port Moresby to the Philippines.

Early in the war the operators had typewriters alongside their
sets and when the message was simple, they would type in
the Kana (two fingers?) and pass it to the intelligence section.
If the link became active they had to drop everything and
copy the transmission. At the end of their shift they had to
type any outstanding messages.

As the war progressed our operators became more proficient
and the Japanese standard of operating dropped—our
operators would copy a message first time and, if a Japanese
operator asked for a repeat, sit idly by waiting for the
transmission to resume. Later events in the war were able to
confirm that there were no better Kana operators than the
Australians. The work of the Allied operators was so highly
regarded by General MacArthur’s intelligence chief that he
stated soon after the defeat of Japan “Signal intelligence
chopped two years off the war in the Pacific”.

It is interesting to note that the Japanese transmissions
were such a good source of intelligence that the Allied
pilots were briefed to avoid attacking Japanese
communications installations if at all possible.

I would like to acknowledge Jack Bleakley, author of
Eavesdroppers, for permission to use items from his book
—which is a very good read, particularly for information
about Sigint operations in the SWPA during WW II.

Courtesy: THE JOURNAL OF THE RADIO AMATEURS
OLD TIMERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

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60 Simpson Drive, Padbury WA 6025
Higher fees for dentists treating veterans

Dentists and dental prosthetists will receive significantly higher fees for providing services to members of the veteran community, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Scott, has announced.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has worked closely with the Interdepartmental Committee for Fees and Allowances (IDCFA) to develop a new fee structure for the payment of services to veterans and other patients.

"This is the first significant change in fees paid to dentists and dental prosthetists for services to veterans since the mid-1980s and the new fees, which represent an overall increase of around 15 per cent, have taken effect from January 1, 1998.

Fees are now in line with general market rates, ensuring continued access to top quality dental services for veterans and war widows.

This is further proof of the government's commitment to honouring the sacrifices made by our veterans and war widows," the Minister said.

Statement of principles regarding varicose veins

The Repatriation Medical Authority has advised the RSL that a formal notification of an investigation under Section 196G of the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 is to be gazetted.

This investigation is notified in respect of varicose veins, particularly in relation to prolonged standing and straining while standing.

As advised in the notification, under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, the RMA is required to find out whether there is a new body of sound medical-scientific evidence about the causes of this particular condition.

Therefore, persons and organisations wishing to make a submission should do so based on the RMA Submission Guidelines.

All submissions must be in writing and be received by the Authority, prior to 1 May 1998, at:

GPO Box 1014, Brisbane, Qld 4001
Phone: 07 38317172, Fax: 07 3839 5402.

The Repatriation Medical Authority is expected to hold its first meeting on 29 May 1998, for the purposes of this investigation.

Free Travel Pass

For a considerable time the State Department of Family & Children's Services has issued the travel pass to veterans and widows who are eligible to receive it. That department has undergone some internal changes and it is no longer able to issue the pass on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Medical scientists investigate stress, health and disease

A medical conference in Brisbane in February considered whether the impact of exposure to war-related stress can cause illness or disability.

The conference, entitled Stress and Challenge, Health and Disease, was attended by medical experts from throughout the world and opened by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Scott. It was conducted by the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA). The Authority is an independent body established in 1994 to develop Statements of Principles which determine whether diseases are related to war service.

"The veteran community had asked the RMA to investigate the possible relationship between stress and/or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes and other diseases. The outcomes of this conference will help the RMA to develop Statements of Principles about the role of stress in specific diseases.

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Anzac House
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Drinks at special prices
Meals and snacks available
All types of functions catered for

Contact:
Club Manager. Ian Blacklaw
Tel: (08) 9 9325 9079
No fees if financial RSL member

Meet you at the Anzac Club
The Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs has accepted responsibility for the provision of the passes and in future the Department of Family Services will no longer be involved.

It is important that you notify the Department of Veterans’ Affairs on 9366 8222 if your pass is lost or you change your address so that a replacement can be issued.

Veterans’ treatment travel allowances increased

Veterans are in line for a post-Christmas bonus with new medical treatment travel allowances which came into effect on 1 January 1998.

“Not only have the rates for accommodation, meals and mileage been increased but, for the first time, veterans who stay in private accommodation will be paid a daily allowance of $25 to cover expenses,” the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs announced.

Accommodation rates and meal allowances will be combined into one daily allowance: $95 a day for capital cities (an increase of 20 per cent) and $80 a day in non-capital cities. Where an attendant accompanies a veteran or entitled dependent, the combined rate will be $130.

Travel rates have been increased to 21 cents a kilometre regardless of whether travel is by private or public transport. Receipts are no longer required for reimbursement of public transport travel expenses. Veterans who have to travel to be medically assessed for disability pension are also eligible for the new allowances.

Where an overnight stay is not required, veterans will receive an $8 payment for a trip between 50 and 200 kilometres in addition to the kilometre allowance, and $16 for more than 200 kilometres.

Previously receipts were required for both accommodation and meals, but now veterans and entitled dependents need produce receipts for accommodation expenses only.

“For the first time, veterans will also be able to claim reimbursement for parking fees where the total cost, in any six month period, exceeds $50. These changes will allow veterans greater flexibility in the way they use their money,” Mr Scott said.

“They will also streamline the claims process and improve the delivery of health services in line with the Government’s commitment to the veteran community, particularly those living outside the major metropolitan areas,” Mr Scott said.

Are you eligible for assistance?

A Repatriation Transport Scheme booklet answers some questions about this scheme and copies are available from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs on 9366 8222.

Veterans’ sales tax exemption: MTA vehicle repairers

Changes will make it easier for entitled veterans to obtain exemption from sales tax on new motor vehicles and essential spare parts.

The Australian Taxation Office and members of the Motor Traders’ Association (or equivalent body) in each State and Territory have agreed to changes which will enable immediate access to the sales tax exemption.

From now on, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs will not have to send any papers before an exemption claim. At the time of purchase you will be able to claim the exemption by completing a form yourself and presenting it to the motor trader. You will also need to show the motor trader your ‘gold’ health care card issued by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs that identifies you as a TPI veteran.

BARBARA CLINTON
RAAF 9 & 5 Squadrons

I am an ex-RAAF 9 Squadron member and fought in Vietnam as a crewman on Iroquois and am planning to compile an illustrated history and/or unit history of 9 Sqn and 5 Sqn from inception in 1925 and to 9 Sqn's disbandment in 1988.

To my knowledge, no one has carried out such a history in single book form to date. While I'm doing ground research into grants available, publishers and distribution channels etc. I'm advertising and writing to people requesting photographs or good quality copies on either film print or laser hard copy paper. as well as written accounts by ex-crew and ground-crew members. I'm including ground-crew because I think, by and large, they have been left out in the past. The number and quality of the photographs will determine, to some extent, the timing of the illustrated history and unit history or may even be produced in tandem or combined in one book form.

Thank you for your help and I welcome any other advice.

P.L. ROBINSON
2 Calbourne Way, Kingsley 6026
Ph/Ans/Fax (08) 9409 7299

22 Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers

The 22 Construction Sqn Association is anxious to contact all personnel who served with the squadron during its service from 1949 to 1991, including all those who served with 22 Construction Sqn Workshop, and particularly those who served as national servicemen.

For further details contact Blue Dupuy, President, on 9344 5841 or Nev Clark, Secretary, on 9342 5808.

BLUE DUPUY
President

F/O Ivan Campbell

I am researching the wartime service of F/O Ivan Campbell (a West Australian) of 462 Squadron which led me to start writing the squadron's history particularly from its re-formation in August 1944 at Driffield in the UK.

I would be very pleased to hear from any air- or ground-crew with a view to obtaining information of any kind, not just the operations over Europe but living conditions, sport, recreation, pay rates - the whole kit and caboodle. I'd like to get copies of flying logbooks and diaries – in fact anything that contains information about those times.

462 Sqn is one of the few whose history has not been written. The account, unlike most, will contain the names of all (or at least all those whose names I obtain) who served and not just those who were killed or decorated.

Ivan's widow is aware of my activities, as are her grandchildren (my stepchildren). and they look forward to the results of my research.

I would also like to obtain any old copies of The Listening Post and I would be happy to collect them.

A G BATTEN
5 Brook St, Gingin 6053

Army Engineers

If you served at any time with the Royal Australian Engineers, Royal Engineers, Royal New Zealand Engineers or any other military engineers or army surveyors, we would like to make contact with you.

We are also seeking people of other corps who were attached to engineer units at any time, or those who have any special connection with the Corps of Engineers.

The RAE Association of WA is a very active organisation, which meets regularly and whose membership is representative of all eras and aspects of military engineering.

If you want more information, please ring me on 9342 5808.

NEV CLARK

Royal Army Medical Corps

Expressions of interest are sought from ex-members of the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Queen Alexandra Imperial Medical Nursing Service regarding the possibility of holding centennial celebrations later this year. The Corps was established on 23 June 1898.

DR CECIL WALKLEY
PO Box 364, West Perth 6872
Ph: 9381 5023 (h) or 9339 4790 (w)
Fax: 9319 2142
The Minister of National Defence has released the unclassified version of a Strategic Review endorsed by the Government entitled *Australia's Strategic Policy*. It follows an internal classified review of strategic circumstances, and the military capability decisions arising from that assessment, to shape the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to 2020 and beyond. Australian governments have regularly conducted such high level reviews – the most recent one being in 1993, which contributed to the previous government’s Defence White Paper.

In announcing the release of the unclassified version, the Minister believes that *Australia’s Strategic Policy* details a number of highly important policy differences. Unlike previous strategic reviews, this document takes a crucial step beyond simply describing our strategic environment to detailing a rigorous set of priorities for force development. It details a maritime focus for the defence of Australia and its vital interests and a logical, structured approach to defence equipment acquisition.

The review is described as moving defence policy away from a narrow focus on responding to low-level contingency scenarios. It stresses instead the capacity to defend Australia in a wide range of circumstances by focusing on maritime approaches. Further, the document outlines a policy supporting an enhanced level of strategic co-operation with Asia-Pacific countries. This review, it is claimed, recognises more clearly than past reviews, the inextricable link between Australia’s security and that of our region. Finally, the review places heavy emphasis on the Defence Force’s technological skills.

The Strategic Review is not an exercise in hunting for threats. It identifies no immediate threat to Australia. It confirms that Australia is one of the more secure countries in the world. But, the review rightly points out, defence planning is about the long term. The review analyses the potential for developments to cause security problems in the future, unlike our largely benign environment today. In particular, the review notes that in the past Australia benefited from being the most developed economy in our region, holding the most advanced military equipment and weapons. In some defence areas, the review concludes, this is no longer the case.

The focus of government policy remains the ability to defend Australia, whose strategic interests do not begin and end at our shoreline. It would be a serious mistake, the government concludes, to think we could adopt a ‘fortress Australia’ strategy in the event of a deterioration of regional stability. Australia cannot be secure in an insecure region.

The important implication for defence planners is that they no longer can assume that forces able to meet low-level contingencies in the defence of Australia will be sufficient to handle conflict beyond our territory. The government suggests that we make sure that the forces we develop for our own defence do indeed give options for handling crises in which vital interests may be threatened. Wherever they are called to operate, our forces must have the capacity to survive against – and defeat – modern weapons. Such weapons are being acquired in our region and will become standard capabilities for regional armed forces.

The government rejects the argument that Australia must choose between a defence force to defend Australia and one able – within realistic limitations – to operate overseas. The defence force must be able to do both. The issue Australia faces is how to build a defence force able to ensure the security of the country and also contribute to the security of our region.

The review concludes that, while the core of our planning will be on the capabilities needed to defeat attacks on Australia, the government and the ADF will choose capabilities suited to a wider range of tasks. The aim is to promote a secure country in a secure region. The government has undertaken that it will not deploy forces ill-equipped for the task and, in particular, it wants to avoid last minute scrambles to bring our forces up to scratch.

This review sets defence on the path exploiting our national strengths – our high education standards, scientific and research base, our access to technology through the US alliance and our proven ability to perform in tough military situations.

As an informed participant in the defence and security debate, the RSL has a responsibility to examine in detail the proposals contained in *Australia’s Strategic Policy*. A mechanism exists through the Defence Committees at State and National levels to assist Sub-Branches and interested members and will provide constructive criticism or policy support as appropriate. Resolutions to State Congress can highlight members’ concerns and perspectives on defence and security issues. The public release of Australia’s Strategic Policy allows us all an opportunity to exercise our rights as citizens and League members to question the underlying rational and policy decisions of current defence policy.

**ROBERT MITCHELL**

Committee Secretary
By the time you read this, the new Frail Aged Centre at Mt Lawley will be virtually complete. After 40 weeks of construction, the final fit-out and furnishing will be will in hand in preparation for the arrival of residents. Over the past two and a half years, the Frail Aged Care Centre has been at the centre of the League's efforts to maintain quality aged care facilities for veterans, widows, the aged and disabled. As its completion nears, it is appropriate to reflect on the magnitude of the accomplishment and to thank those who made it possible.

The Board of RSL War Veterans' Homes would like to thank in particular the individual members of the League. It has been individual members who over the years have supported the Building Fund and Welfare raffles, have purchased bricks or otherwise contributed to new facilities or their operation. In these days of a user-pay philosophy, the existence of a building fund and broad membership support is an important consideration when attempting to gain government support.

The Board would also like to thank the RSL Sub-Branches who have continued to highlight the issue of veterans' aged care. Through resolutions at State and National RSL Congresses, the League is able to demonstrate to government and the community at large, its continuing interest in aged care and support for disadvantaged veterans, war widows and the disabled. Without this broad-based organisational demonstration of concern, the task of building and operating aged care facilities would be even more difficult. Thanks are also extended to the Sub-Branches for their long term financial and social support to the Homes and our residents.

The past two years have been a time of challenge for all benevolent aged care providers. As a result of the 1996 Commonwealth Budget and Aged Care Act 1997, the whole focus of aged care funding has been changed. No longer will capital funding be available from the Commonwealth. Subsidies for social care needs have ceased. Providers must now document fully the aged care services they provide and will be subsidised only on the basis of that documentation. As an aged care provider, the RSL War Veterans' Homes must comply with these regulations. It must also change its care procedures to meet these new standards for certification and accreditation.

The challenge for the Homes is to move towards the government's standards of efficiency and effectiveness without losing our benevolent and compassionate focus. The new Frail Aged Centre goes a long way in allowing us to do this. By consolidation of medical, care and residential facilities, which previously were scattered, economies of scale can be achieved. This is particularly in the area of staff because wages constitute the largest operating expense of the Homes. The use of computer technology in resident alert systems, care documentation and emergency alarms also allows us to reduce operating costs. A number of these innovations have been included within the Frail Aged Centre design.

Another challenge for the Homes is to maintain community links. This is important to ensure ongoing recognition of the RSL as a major benevolent aged care provider but also to ensure that residents remain part of the overall community. Aged care facilities are no longer designed to segregate or isolate the aged. They are designed to encourage interaction through family and social visits, through support from community groups and Sub-Branches and through inter-generational activities. The new Frail Aged Centre has a large open plan central area, private and public lounges and dining areas and a wide variety of activity rooms. It is designed not only to be appealing and attractive to residents but also to visitors. The Board, staff, architect and interior designer have all worked together so that the first impression of the new facility is one of openness with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Fittingly, the Frail Aged Centre will retain the name of Howes Wing in honour of A.O. Howes, the first superintendent of the Home from 1961-76. Within the complex other supporters of the RSL's vision in aged care will also be honoured. Collectively however, the Frail Aged Centre will stand as a living commemoration of all those who by great deeds and small have contributed to the vision, mission and accomplishments of the RSL as a provider of quality aged care respecting the dignity of our residents past, present and future.

BOB MITCHELL
The Boer War

I have received a copy of the South African Home Front newspaper – the voice of the MOTH (The Memorable Order of Tin Hats). In it is an article about the grave of an Australian soldier killed in 1900, which I believe would be of interest to readers.

Keep up the good work with The Listening Post. I read it from cover to cover.

JOHN K. MCKECHNIE (not the DPP!)
Mandurah

1900 War Grave ‘Clean-Up’

The trip to the Battlefield of Driefontein on Sunday, 10 December 1996 by the Diamond Diggers Shellhole of Kimberley to clean up a long neglected Anglo-Boer War graveyard was a great success.

Possibly the most poignant of battlefields nationwide, and similar in this respect to Isandhlwana, the dead of both British and Boer lie buried where they fell – even at the angle they fell. One, Lt Francis Parsons of the Essex Regiment, received a posthumous Victoria Cross for gallantry at Paardeberg and was mentioned in despatches at Driefontein. Like battlefields everywhere the silence is eerie.

The battle of Driefontein took place on 10 March 1900, just after the surrender of General Cronje at Paardeberg (February 17-27) and the action at Poplar Grove, when Lord Roberts’ army was closing in on Bloemfontein.

The last stand of the Boers before the capture of Bloemfontein took place at Driefontein and lasted the entire day. What is not generally known is that the casualties on both sides were more than at the 1899 battles of Belmont, Graspan and Modder River combined.

After the Battle of Driefontein, Roberts’ army pressed on, leaving the wounded and the hospitals behind for a few weeks, and it was the hospitals’ graveyard that had been neglected for so long.

No one really knew how many soldiers were buried there, and Driefontein specialist from Cape Town, Garth Benneyworth, together with SA War Graves Board member (and well known military historian and personality) Dr Janice Farrquharson, were there when the MOTHs cleaned away the bushes and long grass to reveal the graves of at least eight fallen.

Among these was the grave of Lt Colonel C.E.E. Umphelby, the highest ranking Australian to die in the Anglo-Boer War, who has hit by a long distance bullet on 10 March and succumbed two days later. Colonel Umphelby was with the Royal Australian Artillery but attached to the Victorian contingent in South Africa.

Diamond Diggers worked through the heat of the day and by lunch the graveyard was looking better than it had in many decades. An act of sound memory and mutual help.

True comradeship came later with the families of MOTHs – some 30 people – having a truly unforgettable meal on the battlefield.

The day came to a fitting climax with a conducted tour of the battlefield and then it was back to Kimberley, a distant 100 kilometres.

Expatriate Pensions

I am sending you an article the English International Express newspaper.

I will be sending my protest to Mr Andrews, but I feel sure that there are hundreds of ex-service personnel and social members of the RSL who are not aware of this injustice.

If you would include this article in our magazine you would be doing the British members a great service.

DOUG HAMILTON
29 Bepton Way, Balga 6061

The Forgotten Few

We recently wrote about the plight of thousands of expatriate pensioners – many of them war veterans – having to exist on a fraction of the UK state pension.

This grim situation is due to successive governments adopting a scandalous policy of freezing expat state pensions at the level they were when recipients first moved abroad.

A spokesman for the DSS – the department responsible for pensions provision – said that expats had suffered because of the “excessive costs” involved in upgrading the basic pensions to a similar rate as that given to UK based pensioners.

We welcome your letters but regret that we are unable to acknowledge them individually.

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

We reserve the right to abbreviate.
Letters to the Editor continued

Since I highlighted this deplorable state of affairs, I have been inundated with letters and telephone calls from expat pensioners, all saying, “What have we done to deserve such shabby treatment?” If you have been sold short on your pension, write to David Andrews, International Express, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX, UK.

International Tattoo

Last evening I had the privilege of attending my first Tattoo and found it a most enjoyable evening, with the weather excellent for such an outdoor event.

All participants and performers were in fine form. from the Placard Jesters Flag-holders to the English Band of the Royal Logistic Corps to the evil Black Baron Baskerville and his adversary, the good Knights of the King.

What was particularly gratifying was the local participation of West Australian Naval. Army and Air Force Cadets and Community Bands: our SES, Pony Clubs, Police Service, Irish Dancers and Marching Girls.

The seating and organisation was excellent. The Tattoo organisers should be commended for a well-presented international event and I, for one, hope to see more of these here in Perth.

D.P. CONNELLY. CD.

Japanese Aircraft

I am sending you some details about Japanese aircraft identification charts put out by Charles Moore’s emporium long, long ago. My copy is in an advanced stage of decay otherwise I would have forwarded it to you but I did photocopy a section which might prompt a memory.

A timely initiative

As the early days of 1942 brought the fearful news of the continuing advances of Japanese forces towards Australia, unfamiliar uniforms began to be seen on Perth streets as evacuees arrived from the north while the Australian Government mobilised its available resources in the cause of national defence. But the Government was not alone.

Local traders also reacted and a Perth firm showed enterprise by producing a chart for Japanese aircraft identification. Presented on two sheets measuring approximately 400mm by 550mm and printed on paper a couple of grades better than newsprint, the chart featured 38 types of enemy aircraft ranging from the then unbeatable Zero (Navy type O Mitsubishi fighter) to some wonderfully antique slow-moving flying boats.

The chart was headed with admonitory warnings to the effect that knowledge could save lives and “Learn to know the enemy plane” and “Teach your Children”. One paragraph set in large type read “It is a sad story but nevertheless true that hundreds of civilian lives have been lost in England, Europe and the East Pacific through people in the streets going about their business and being bombed and machine gunned by what they thought to be “our planes”.

The instructions on using the aircraft description table were relatively simple and listed seven characteristics of the various aircraft which were effective criteria. The chart instructions went on: “Familiarise yourself with the characteristics of the other aircraft shown on these sheets. Practise recognition by writing down descriptions of the various types using the aircraft description card for reference. If you see and recognise any of these types, take cover immediately” the instructions concluded.

The large paper sheets were to be pasted or tacked to plywood and hung in the home, factory, office and school. The sheets were produced by Daniels print which is still in business in Wellington Street, Perth – now trading under the name of Frank Daniels Pty Ltd.

The main sponsor, Charles Moore and Sons. or Moore’s the Style Store as they then called themselves, stood on the site now occupied by the Carillon in the city.

The distribution of the chart, at no charge, was a public spirited move in a time of great national stress and a voluntary effort of value when Australia faced the unknown.

JACK BENARI
38 Roebuck Drive, Salter Point 6152

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Identification

Aircraft Description Card

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LISTENING POST – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 44
**The Republican Issue**

I read with some interest our State President’s Message in the last copy of *The Listening Post* in which he denigrates people supporting the Republic of Australia and mounts a strong defence of the status quo.

The use of the term “...to voice my concern...as an ordinary Australian who cares about our Country” (my italics) uses the age-old ploy that people with the opposite view obviously do not care.

Let me make a few things clear:
- I am a member of the RSL
- I love my country
- I support the Republic of Australia

This issue has the potential to cause irreparable harm to the RSL if it takes sides. To suggest that we need to be balanced in our consideration of this issue, then fail to offer any alternative viewpoint, leaves me in no doubt that the route the RSL is taking is, once again, “out of step” with the aspirations of the majority of Australians (and, I would suggest, possibly even the silent majority of RSL members).

I remember being accused of being "loony left", ignoring Party policy, risking my membership and being on the “losing side” when I first went public on this issue some years ago within the Liberal Party. It is interesting to note the current views of the Prime Minister and many ministers on the issue. Ignore the tide of opinion at your peril. The recent election of delegates to the Convention should also tell us something.

My opinion is that the RSL should stay out of political issues that are divisive and concentrate on looking after the interests of our members. The alternative is an increasingly self-centred and irrelevant organisation as those alienated by our actions leave.

I want the RSL to stand for free speech and democratic process, recognising the rights of its members and all Australians to think and act as they please within the framework of our Constitution and laws.

DAN McDaniel
Lieutenant Colonel (RL)

**Last Great Cavalry Charge**

The following letter appeared in *The Mandurah Mail*, 6 November 1997, and is reproduced here with permission of the writer, Jonathan Graham, of Double Bay, Sydney:

Whilst I have no intention of trying to replace Anzac Day (25 April) or Armistice/Remembrance Day (11 November) with Beersheba Day, my objective is to restore some public recognition for this once-important date. Between two world wars, Beersheba Day was of considerable significance to Australians.

After 25 April 1915, there were no shortages of Australian stock-horses (known as Wallars) in Egypt, with so many Lighthorsemen having been killed or wounded at Gallipoli.

On 13 October 1917, about 800 Australian soldiers (including my great uncle) with the 4th and 12th Regiments of the 4th Light Horse Brigade charged at the gallop across nearly five kilometres of open ground against entrenched enemy supported by artillery, machine-guns, rifles and two German aircraft, to the wells of Beersheba (then in Palestine, now in Israel). In this close partnership, man and horse shared the same water-bucket while riding to battle over 274 kilometres in four days in temperatures of 38C. Although the versatile Australian stock horse is not as fast as the thoroughbred, it is capable of great feats of endurance, and the doughty Wallar became famous as the finest cavalry mount in the world.

The Australian Light Horse were mounted infantry equipped with Lee-Enfield 303 rifles and bayonets – not the usual cavalry lance and sabre. It is little known that, between 1916 and 1918, the Light Horse and Camel Corps fought 36 battles between the Suez Canal and Damascus (some 640 kilometres) and won all of them. The charge to the wells of Beersheba was probably the most daring of these victories.

During the entire Middle East campaign, the Light Horse took more than 40,000 Turks prisoner, while only 73 Australians (and not one officer) were captured. Charles Edward Chauvel’s (1897-1959) classic *Forty Thousand Horsemen* (1940) and *The Lighthorsemen* (1987) are two outstanding movies about the Light Horse and Beersheba. There is also the 9,000 word equestrian epic *The Wells of Beersheba* (1933) written by Frank Dalby Davison. History’s last great successful wartime mounted charge at Beersheba ended with only 31 Australians killed and 36 wounded.

The Federal Government has declared this 31 October, the eightieth anniversary of Beersheba Day, a national Day of Remembrance.

GEOFF TANNER

**NMBVA**

The following letter, printed in the Queensland RSL News in October, has resulted in a large number of queries for our Association about the conflicts mentioned. We would be most grateful if you could publish it.

“A writer in the July issue of Queensland’s RSL paper in the issue of forgotten theatres got it half right. Vietnam is most certainly not a forgotten war. We hear more about Vietnam and those who served there than any other theatre including World War II.

“Where the writer is wrong is that he too errs in that the really only forgotten theatre left now is Malaya and Borneo. We still hear plenty about Korea but never do we hear about the campaign against the Japanese and the POW atrocities when thousands of Australians died; that is now politically incorrect.”
Never do we hear about the Malayan Emergency or the Indonesian Confrontation where 52 Australians were killed in action. Very officially these last two actions were never wars, again for political reasons. Our dead are not even buried in War Cemeteries. Thousands of Australian servicemen and women served there but never get any recognition. The government will not even accept that the RAN were ‘in action’ and consequently they still do not receive proper Repat benefits. To my knowledge there is no official memorial dedicated to that theatre alone anywhere in Australia.

“It is for this reason that the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Inc. has become so popular with those servicemen and women who fought there. We have grown from 12 to nearly 1000 members in two short years.

We are fighting for full and proper recognition and a real, well earned and proper place in Australian military history. As ever, for political reasons, the Australian public was given no information on the extensive fighting from 1952 until 1972.

How many Australians know that Indonesia made armed landings, or made attempts to land stopped by HMAS Teal, on the mainland of Malaya no less than 43 times? 142 enemy were killed and 410 captured. The army patrolled the Malaysian/Indonesian borders in Borneo and held many skirmishes with the loss of life of our soldiers. They were not wars just civil uprisings and ‘Confrontation’ to be forgotten as quickly as possible but there are 52 families still mourning the loss of those who gave their lives for their country. Their are still many hundreds who suffer as a result of that fighting which was with real live ammunition against an enemy whose sole intention was to kill as many of our people as possible. I know. I was there.”

If you want to know more or to join us in this fight, please write to your State branch at:

NMBVA (Australia) Inc.
9A Glover Place, Huntingdale 6110
or telephone (08) 9398 5983.

RICHARD H WEBBER
National Chairman
National Malaya and Borneo Veterans’ Association (Aust) Inc.

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**Pte H.J.C. Peady**

The following is a record of my father’s service in World War 1. My niece, Jill Peady, while working in Canberra, wrote the details for his family. I thought that, with the approach of ANZAC Day, you might be interested in it for *The Listening Post*.

**On Active Service**

An extract from the hand-written war diaries of the 5th Pioneer Battalion AIF located at the Australian War Museum Canberra:

Herbert Peady, husband of Beatrice and father of Trixie, Josie and John, served with this Battalion during World War I. Details of his record were obtained from the Private Records Section.

Service Number: 3415
- Pte Herbert James Cartledge Peady
- 5th Pioneer Battalion

Enlisted
- aged 32

Occupation
- Storeman

Next of Kin
- Wife, Beatrice T Peady
- 156 Dugan St, Kalgoorlie 6430

Religion
- Methodist

Date of Enlistment 08/10/1916

Date of Embarkation 23/12/1916

embarked at Fremantle

HMAT Berrina A.35

Returned to Australia 03/09/1918

The Pioneer Battalion men were like the Army Engineers, or Construction. They always had to work at night under cover of darkness, digging new front-line trenches and repairing other trenches. Usually when they returned the next night, they had to do the same work over again. Theirs was the coldest and wettest job, digging trenches often in frozen ground.

They received 147 much-needed reinforcements. Pte Peady was a member of the 8th Reinforcement Group, which joined the Battalion at this point. This was at the Somme (France) at the end of a very severe winter. Their first job was to go out and clear the front line trenches. In the mud and slush their boots wore out rapidly and they covered their feet with empty sandbags. On 13 April, at a place called Bullecourte, they were subjected to a terribly severe snowstorm.

On 19 September they were sent to Ypres, where their English commanding officers looked on the Australian soldiers with distaste. The mud in Ypres had a particularly evil stench and their camp site was continually machine-gunned and bombed by enemy aircraft. A photograph of the camp shows that they were tunnelled into the side of the hill like rabbit burrows with the doorways outlined with sandbags. From this base in Ypres they moved up and down the Menin Road repairing different battlefields and putting running boards in the trenches, most times under heavy shell fire and enemy vigilance. Their next camp was at Messines under similar conditions, and on 28 March 1918 they were sent back to the Somme.

On 8 August 1918, the Pioneers carried out their most famous deed—the day was called Germany’s Blackout Day. At zero hour the companies cleared the East-West Road...
through Villiers to Bretonneux and made it possible for vehicles to get through in three hours flat, as reported by the Colonel in his diary. Apparently it was an impossible task but was a very important factor in the battle. Some of their other proud achievements were the draining of the River Loitre in the Fromelles section, making the trenches habitable and the construction of the defence line of St Elor.

Private Peady returned to Australia on 3 September 1918 just one month after their epic deed. After the years of privations and poisonous gas in the trenches, he returned a very ill man and died in 1927 aged 42. He was buried in Kalgoorlie in a soldier's grave which is cared for by the War Graves Commission. His name is engraved on the Perth State War Memorial and it is with pride that his family stand, read it and pay tribute to a very brave man.

It is interesting to note that there were records of two of Bert Peady's cousins:

10369 Captain Joseph Randal Peady, 3rd Army
Served overseas 15/07/1915 to 20/04/1919

4565 Sgt Thomas Archibald Peady (Military Medal)
Served overseas 07/07/1915 to 04/09/1918

JOSEPHINE ANDERSON
10 Edmonson Crescent, Karrinyup 6018

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**Turkish Memorial**

Thank you for printing my letter in the last issue of *The Listening Post*. I was seeking the wording on a memorial at Anzac Cove erected by the Turks in 1934 as a tribute to Australians and New Zealanders, as well as to their own soldiers who fell there.

I have now received a copy of those words (which appeared on page two of the now defunct *Murray Messenger* newspaper) and send them for the interest of other readers.

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country
Therefore rest in peace.
There is no difference between the
Johnnyes
And the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side
Here in this country of ours.
You the mothers
Who sent your sons from faraway countries,
Wipe away your tears.
Yours sons are all now lying in our bosom
And are at peace.
After having lost their lives in this land
They have become our sons as well.

CAMERON CHERRY
31 Avignon Way, Beechboro 6063

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**DVA Commemorative Activities Section**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs Commemorative Activities Section is trying to build up a database of ex-service organisation media and its editors. This will include newsletters of all types as well as major publications such as those produced by the RSL and others.

We would like to receive a copy of your newsletter and, if possible, the details requested in the cut-out coupon on this page.

This information is required as we are proposing to produce a newsletter for the Their Service – Our Heritage commemorative programme which will assist editors by providing short items that may be suitable for reproduction in their newsletters, etc.

You can also help us by advising us of other ex-service newsletters that you receive, and their contact details.

If you have any questions, please feel free to telephone me on (02) 6289 6092.

ROBERT POUNDS
Public Affairs, Commemorative Activities
Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs

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**Ex-Service Organisation Media Data Sheet**

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It would be helpful if you could supply us with a recent copy of your journal. Please send the journal, where possible, with this completed media data information sheet to:

Mr R.E. Pounds
Public Affairs, Commemorative Activities
19th Floor, The Tower
PO Box 21, Woden ACT 2606
A Poem

I wrote a poem a little while ago and my dad thought it might be good enough to put in *The Listening Post*. So I am sending it for you to consider.

TANIA BRANDIS (aged 11 years)
11 Monkton Way, Warnbro 6169

The Soldier

In the blackness of the earth in a world with no light
Comes a hero -- a soldier ready to fight
To fight for his people in love and warmth
To fight for all peace and to stop all war
The sun carries her torch across the bright sky
And when it's dark
The moon catches the stars
The stars twinkle as they talk about sweet things,
But those stars that can see are praying for the people
In the war
Who are fighting for their people in love and warmth
Who are fighting for all peace and to stop all war
More than ten a day are dying, but they keep on fighting
But not for peace, not like the hero -- the Soldier
Who fights for his people in love and warmth
Who fights for all peace and to stop all war
The soldier left our world today and went back into
His world with no light
Not all the wars were stopped, but he left a simple message
For all the children of the world: You have to
Fight for your people in love and warmth
Fight for all peace and to stop all war.

REUNIONS

RAAF Ex-Staff & Trainees

Ballarat 1945 – 1961
Laverton 1961 – 1973

In March 1996 370 people assembled for a “Back to Ballarat” reunion. *The Listening Post* contributed to its success by helping us reach more people, so giving them the opportunity to attend.

We are now planning a second reunion for ex-staff and trainees in 1999 and, to maintain numbers and interest, we will combine Ballarat and Laverton post-war Schools of Radio. Preferred dates for the week-long function are 22 – 28 March and activities will include social get-togethers, sports, official functions, bus day trips and/or wine tasting.

Anyone interested in attending this Reunion or wishing to receive further information should contact:- Bob Wood,
15 Bishop Cl, Armadale 6112

M L (TOBY) PAIN
Co-ordinator

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No. 25 (City of Perth)
Squadron RAAF
1998 ANZAC DAY REUNION

Form up for March Past: Irwin Street 0930
Reunion Information: Phone for details
Contact: Bruce Weber
31 Ireland Way
Bassendean 6054
Phone: (08) 9377 2103
Email: bweber@perth.dialia.oz.au
Internet: http://cleo.murdoch.edu.au/~bm_hutch

A Gathering of Eagles

A grand international reunion is proposed for all World War II allied aircrew (Navy, Army and Air Force) and for those who were selected for aircrew training between 3 September 1939 and 3 September 1945 to be held in Perth from 3 – 10 September 2000.

This reunion is to commemorate the end of the war and the signing of the Peace Accords aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbour on 3 September 1945. We wish to alert all those who are qualified to attend the reunion and to obtain an estimate of the number who may be interested in being a part of this once-in-a-millennium event. Irrespective of where you flew or trained you are assured that this will be one of the greatest reunions held anywhere in the world and we can thoroughly recommend your participation. If you are interested please complete the slip and/or send your particulars to the address below.

Otherwise send your details to me at:
Email: scully@opera.inet.net.au
or phone/fax: (08) 9332 6836.

Thomas L. Scully JP
Box 78 Air Force Memorial House
Bull Creek Drive
Bull Creek 6149

Dear Tom,
Please record my name as being interested in joining you for the Aircrew 2000 reunion. I understand that sending this information places me under no obligation and I look forward to receiving further details from you in due course.

Name: .................................................................

(please print)

Address: ................................................................

.................................................................
Recce Patrol 
by John Nairn

John Nairn's autobiography is a story of human interest describing the life and times in a Recce unit, including the pernicious advance from Arromanches to beyond the Rhine.

Many names and regimental numbers have been changed because the author has no wish to revive bitter memories for relatives and friends.

This is a narrative for all who are interested in the “Suicide Mob” officially called the Reconnaissance Corps. It reveals some of the idiosyncrasies and unique aspects of life, especially life in dire danger, including the occasional illogicality which, when all is bound together, portrays something of the strange piloting of the Lord.

John Nairn believes there is a pattern to everyone's life and that, from the moment your mother is inseminated, your destiny is established. He believes that by will and choice we are able to change direction many times but that we will always be steered back to our own particular, predetermined, main track. He believes every soul is unique and every life a jigsaw puzzle; that only in old age, or perhaps after death, can you and I hope to make out and understand the format.

John Nairn served five years in the British Army; the first four years, until the end of hostilities in Europe, was with the 49th Recce.

The Recce badge, often described as the Christmas Tree badge, portrays a spear with flashes of lightning each side; this signifies the Recce as the spearhead of the attack.

The book tells the stark truth, including the ever-increasing aggravated antagonism between British and American troops which was hushed and declared of small consequence during World War II; the fracas, bitter and often death-dealing, buried even until today... now: The Exhumation.

Recce Patrol describes many of the almost unbelievably high number of operations in which American aircraft, due to bombing short, wiped out thousands of their own and Allies' ground forces. It is a story of conscripted men who never shirked in playing their part. Mate helped mate and they battled through hell. Their armament included a singular sense of humour.

Recce Patrol, soft cover, is available from the author at 43 Alexander Rd, Padbury 6025 for $15 plus $2.50 postage and handling, telephone (08) 9401 6598.

JOHN MARTIN

Lest We Forget (Cassette)

I had the pleasure of listening to a tape entitled Lest We Forget which was donated to our library by a friend of the composer. John Barnard, of Willagee, has produced the cassette with the assistance of his friend Les Mellett from Queensland. John has incorporated his expertise on the keyboard with the very Australian sounding and pleasing voice of Les to recite the verses that can't help but touch the heartstrings.

There are five verses in the cassette: ‘A Place Called Home’, ‘Journey Back to Changi’, ‘Sad Song Calling’, ‘Reminiscing’ and ‘Lest We Forget’. The recording touches on many things the RSL holds dear, including the changing of our National Flag. I heartily recommend the cassette and copies can be obtained from John Barnard, C/- Composer Direct, PO Box 1317, Booragoon 6154; telephone 9314 6952, facsimile 9337 7547. The cost is $19.00 including postage and packaging.

KEN MORRISON

50th Anniversary – Highgate
1947 – 1997
by Phillip Loffman

The Highgate Sub-Branch has celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding in a typically innovative way, by compiling an illustrated who’s who of as many of its current and past members as the author could round up. To add to the interest each entry is accompanied by a photograph of the member taken during his service in the forces. This is backed up by photographs and press cuttings from the files, lists of the foundation members and presidents and a special tribute to the succession of Highgate State War Memorial Wardens.

Sir Charles Court, himself a member, has written an interesting and amusing foreword which is also a tribute to the founding President, Gordon Hack, and to Frank Boan who promoted the idea of Torchbearers for Legacy. It was no doubt due to his interest that the Sub-Branch held its regular luncheon meetings in Boans until it had to move to the United Services Club in 1977 and then to its present venue in Anzac House. The popular idea of the lunchtime meeting seems also to be a special Highgate innovation. It is notable that the first 71 members could enjoy lunch with wine for two shillings and sixpence whereas now the more than 100 members who regularly attend are happy to pay $15. Another happy Highgate event was the Miss Crowning Glory contest again largely initiated by Frank Boan.

JOHN MARTIN
Anyone interested in the post-war history of the RSL will find much in this simply-produced book to fascinate them. It is sensibly ring-bound so that extra pages can be added as time goes by. But, quite apart from its intrinsic merit, Phillip Loffman’s book sets an example of what can be done in the essential recording of history which could well be followed by other Sub-Branches. They should be encouraged to do so.

This book is available from the Administration Office, 1st Floor, Anzac House for $30.00 or from Bob Elliot at 8 Wisdom Place, Winthrop 6150 for $35.00 including postage and handling.

JOHN HARPER-NELSON

A Gentleman and a Rascal

by Brian Buzzard

Brian Buzzard is an ex RAAF wireless operator and air-gunner who served in Catalina flying boats and Liberator heavy bombers during World War II. At 82 years of age he completed his life story which paints a sweeping portrait of the full gamut of emotions, battles and triumphs. Sunday Times reviewer Peter Sweeney described this book as a ‘modern-day equivalent of Albert Facey’s A Fortunate Life.

The book title came from an escapade in the early 1940s when, under the influence of a few ales, Brian stole a turkey to give to a young lady he was trying to impress. The incident occurred at Newcastle where Brian was stationed during training for duty on the Catalinas. Caught in the act and about to be disciplined, the officer in charge of his training, Scotty Allen, told him: “You may be a gentleman Brian, but you’re a rascal with it”.

While Brian sits in his electric wheelchair, breathing with the vital assistance of an oxygenator permanently attached to his body, he describes his life as a ‘long innings and a good one’. Brian’s story tells of the tragic deaths of his father and his son in separate shooting accidents. The joy of the early years of his marriage had turned to despair as he watched his wife succumb to severe depression and he faced difficulties raising five children as a sole parent. Brian is a proud father and his children are now successful business people.

He is sure he has lived through the best of times, when criminals were brought to justice and he could walk the streets at night without having to worry about encountering muggers, car thieves, burglars, drug runners and paedophiles. And Brian has had his share of highlights – his war service (where men were saved from the sea) ferrying children from Toodyay to Northam to meet the Queen, partying at the home of Bing Crosby and even hitting a hole in one!

As Brian faces the end of his long innings, his final highlight could be the sight of a restored Catalina dedicated to the 322 Australian air crew killed in Catalina operations, based on the Swan River in Perth.

Brian is not the only man in Perth whose dream it is to see a Catalina on display here. Catalina Club members are working on arranging just that. Our information, at the time of writing, indicated that a foundation will be established to fund and manage a project to bring a Catalina to WA from America.

A Gentleman and a Rascal is available from the Catalina Club, PO Box 866, Canning Bridge 6153, at a cost of $25. Enquiries: 9313 2469.

PAT HOSKING
Belmont

Once again the Sub-Branch had a record Poppy Day and we thank the volunteers who assisted with sales on that day. At our November meeting the election of Officers Bearers and Committee for 1998 took place, and it is pleasing to report that all retiring Office Bearers were re-elected to their positions. Three new Committee men were elected to take the place of those who did not seek re-election; they are Geoff Hammond, Neville Parker and Geoff Worth, who recently returned to live here again after being in Alice Springs for a number of years.

Once again the annual scholarship awards to the two High Schools in our area were made available to the most deserving student in year 10 to assist with the purchase of books and other equipment needed for their studies in years 11 and 12. An amount of $300.00 each was made available and a certificate presented. President Bill Sharpe, accompanied by his wife Lois, attended a ceremony at the Belmont Senior High School to make the presentation; Vice-President Marty Brennan and Secretary Harold Haines attended the Kewdale Senior High School to make that presentation. At both schools we were well received by the Principals and Staff. Bill and Lois also attended the passing out parade of No. 15 Flight of the Air Training Corp. and presented the annual trophy to the most outstanding Cadet.

At the December meeting, our Women’s Auxiliary President, Joan Fitzgerald, presented a cheque for $3,000 to the Sub-Branch which was received with thanks and appreciation. We have a wonderful, hard-working Auxiliary whose ladies are always ready to assist the Sub-Branch in any project.

Our Publicity Officer, Carl Caulbo, recently tendered his resignation. Carl has been the Editor of The Belmont Bugle for the past seven years and, assisted by his wife Ada, has done an excellent job. A motion of thanks and appreciation was passed to them both. Former Editor Dot Balcombe has agreed to take the position on again, for which she has our thanks.

HAROLD HAIMES OAM, JP
Secretary

Bicton – Palmyra

At the AGM last December our President, Stan Webb, presented a Certificate of 50 Years’ Service to Life Member John Sweet and to member Frank North (who due to illness was unable to attend), and a Life Membership to Howard Edwards (see picture). Congratulations to all concerned.

Our Melbourne Cup day, which was well patronised

and enjoyed by all, was followed by the annual dinner, a social dinner, the AGM, a prawn and chicken Sunday and a New Year’s Eve Party (which was quite successful).

Major renovations have been carried out over the past months. A new bar has been constructed and the hall has been carpeted; these improvements have resulted in increased membership, especially on the social side.

Overall, our Sub-Branch had a very busy and successful year. We wish everyone the best for 1998. Call in and enjoy some fellowship at 28 Foss Street in Bicton Fridays (1600 – 2000) and Sundays (1000 – 1530).

ROGER WILLIS
PRO

Busselton

The last half of 1997 saw the introduction of new and younger blood to the Executive Committee, which not only augurs well for the Sub-Branch’s future but relieves the burden on our older members.

A recent visit to Busselton by the TIPS team saw five of our members qualify as Pension Officers. Working on a rotational basis, these members man the Welfare Office at the Busselton RSL Hall on Fridays from 1000 to 1200 hours.

As a newer member to the Busselton community, I am delighted at the way a hard core of members and wives unselfishly devote themselves to various activities. In the space of two months, we successfully organised the annual Poppy Day collection, operated food stalls at the Busselton Show at the very popular Petticoat Lane and at the crowning of the Busselton Festival Queen. A very special thanks to all those involved.

Due to generous donations of materials, volunteer labour and the devotion of Roy Woodley we now have a magnificent bar. Thanks also go to Murray Harrison who helped us obtain a refrigerator at a bargain price.
The annual dinner on November last was a resounding success with excellent catering and camaraderie. Guests attended from the Margaret River Sub-Branch and a happy contingent came from the Korean and South East Asian Association. During the evening, Mrs Fay Pike was presented with the RSL Secretaries' Certificate for her devotion as Sub-Branch secretary for 15 years. Fay has also looked after the welfare side of the house and has done the Sub-Branch proud.

Our President, Alex Coffey is doing a sterling job with support from the new Secretary, Garry Lea. long term Treasurer, Peter Hurst and other stalwarts like Bert Rogers, Brian Green, George and Estell Royer. Ken Smith, George Fry and Fay Pike.

For those planning a trip to Busselton, we have fellowship commencing at 1800hrs on the fourth Tuesday of the month, followed by our meeting. You are more than welcome to come along.

Fellowship evenings on the fourth Friday of the month commence at 1800hrs. wives or partners are most welcome. There is also a Day Club operating under the presidency of Brin Williams which meets each Friday between 1200 and 1600hrs: visitors are welcome to join in the games of pool, darts, cards etc. The Busselton RSL Hall is in Duchess Street, behind the Vasse Hotel, and adjacent to the hotel car park.

Some of our older veterans are becoming frailer and unfortunately we lost Les Nutland, Alan Scott, Alan Harrison and Bob Starr in the latter part of 1997. Bob was a Past President and club stalwart for many years and will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

GARRY LEA
Secretary

Canning Districts and Victoria Park

Many thanks to those who made our raffle a great success. Winning numbers were 1st: - 1981, 2nd - 0783, and 3rd - 2983. Social functions will be held throughout the year. Dates, places and prices are displayed at the club, which is available to hire for birthdays, anniversaries etc.

Anzac Day March: Assembly 7.45 am at Canning Old Town Hall, corner of Manning Road and Albany Highway. Then to the RSL, Wharf Street at approximately 9.15 am. Signallers should note that the format will be the same as for 1997. Line up in Pier Street for the march and the later reunion is at 109 Signal Squadron. Remember to inform your mates. For further details contact John on 9342 5606 or Brian on 9277 1406.

WENDY SCHWAB
PRO

City Of Cockburn

By now all members would be aware that your Sub-Branch is now known as the City of Cockburn. The change, and our new letterheads, have certainly impressed the Mayor and Councillors. General meetings have also been changed to every second Sunday of the month instead of the fourth, commencing at 1000 hours.

It was pleasing to see one of our Life Members again being honoured by the City of Cockburn. At a special function at the Sailing Club on 5 December, a member of the Council Staff gave an excellent portrayal of Mike Munro and This is Your Life, with the spotlight aimed at Wally Hagan. Congratulations, Wally!

1997 was an excellent year, and we applaud all members who took part in the activities and meetings to make the year a success. The Raffle King - Jack Lange, who was always there tapping people on the shoulder and hip pocket deserves a special mention. Well done Jack.

Among members who have returned to the Sub-Branch is Glen Scally: he will be taking a training course to be your Advocate, as well as the Sub-Branch Representative to State Headquarters. Glen will be a valuable asset to the Sub-Branch.

Members are reminded of the Friday sausage sizzles, with raffles and bingo and plenty of good fellowship commencing at 1600hrs. A big year is planned on the social scene, so check your calendar and keep in touch. Remember, if you need our help or support please contact us.

ARTHUR J. STANTON
PRO

Collie-Cardiff

In January 1996, members decided to use our building fund money to extend our small hall. But, after getting quotes, we found we had insufficient funds. We approached local companies and service funds for assistance and were rewarded with some donations but not enough. Dr Hilda Turnbull MLA suggested we approach the Lotteries Commission whose form, though simple, takes time and patience to fill out, as letters are required to justify the use of the hall and other information.

After Head Office approved the work and the Lotteries Commission approved the grant, work on the extension began in February 1997 and was finished at the end of April. Painting, laying of donated carpet tiles, alterations to the bar and provision of a small kitchen followed.

In July 1997, the hall was used for its first event when
members heard Stan Crombe, from Veterans' Affairs, talk about the budget changes that would concern them. Since then we have held monthly functions and our Long Tan Day luncheon in August was a great success.

The hall was officially opened in October with more than 100 hundred people attending an enjoyable afternoon. After the official ceremony by Dr Hilda Turnbull, presentations were made: Ken Mulane and George Wittoff received their 50 Year Certificates from State President, Ken Murphy, and Neil Wood, our President, received an In Appreciation certificate from the members. Local Sub-Branch certificates were presented to all who had helped with the extension via donations etc, while others received theirs for help given during other occasions – Anzac Day etc, as well as donations to various raffles.

After the opening, those unable to manage the walk to the Soldiers' Park Cenotaph, were taken by the Collie Home Support Bus for the unveiling of the new plaque for Pte Sketchley, from Collie, who was the first soldier killed in Korea.

Placing of this plaque was achieved by the Collie Shire and the Sub-Branch working together and applying for, plus receiving, a Federal government grant from Their Heritage – Our Service commemorative programme. The Shire President, Mrs Rosanne Pimm, unveiled the plaque and spoke on how the wars had affected her family and how proud the town was of the Soldiers' Park with its rose gardens, the entrance gates and Cenotaph.

The Sub-Branch would like to thank all those from out of town who attended and also the people of Collie for their support.

We would like to invite any branches or groups who may be in our area to contact me on (08) 9732 2059 (answering machine), and I can arrange for you to visit and perhaps have a BBQ or tea-break at our hall.

(MRS) CHRISTINE ROBSON
Hon Secretary

Como

December was a busy period with the local schools’ Graduation Ceremonies at which prizes and awards were presented to nominated students.

Our Christmas luncheon once again attracted more than 90 people and was, as always, a time of good fellowship and fun. During the luncheon, some 19 of our members were presented with certificates of Senior Honorary Membership of the Sub-Branch. Produced by our Treasurer, Merv Flanders, for the over-80s the certificates are written testimony of valued service and membership. At all future meetings, these members shall be referred to as Senior Honorary Member OBE – the Sub-Branch acknowledges the fact that being “Over Bloody Eighty” is a great achievement.

Another first in the festive season was a very pleasant evening shared by our three local Sub-Branches: Como, Manning and South Perth.

TOM WALDRON
President

Cottesloe

For years we have been talking about going on a bus trip and at last we made it – to the International Tattoo, with 40 of us in Reg Heaney’s luxury coach. All concerned must be congratulated on a really great show.

The other good news is we intend placing another plaque on our War Memorial Town Hall to remember those who took part in the Malaya, Korea, Borneo and Vietnam campaigns. The cost of the plaque is funded by the Their Service – Our Heritage commemorative programme and the Cottesloe Council. We plan to have it unveiled at our Anzac Day Service at 7:00am by the Mayor of Cottesloe and hope all members will attend.

Sadly we have lost two of our members – Bert Galbraith and Derek Robertson. We Will Remember Them.

JOHN MCGUIRE
Secretary

Eastern Region

This Sub-Branch is the proud recipient of a grant from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Joint Venture Scheme enabling us to upgrade the computer. The more advanced software and greater memory capacity will enable us to utilise its capabilities with budgeting reports, financial records, membership records and the production of a large print newsletter.

Mr Graham Whitworth from Department of Veterans’ Affairs presented the President, Mr J. Cox JP, with the new computer at our Christmas function.

BERNIE ARRAH
Secretary

Left to right: President J. Cox JP, receiving the equipment from Graham Whitworth representing the Minister, Department of Veterans' Affairs.
Geraldton

There is an opportunity for everyone to express tangible appreciation of the great work of the *Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels* in World War II by strongly supporting the RSL National Appeal to help victims of the drought-stricken Highlands areas of Papua New Guinea.

State President Ken Murphy told the 80th anniversary luncheon of the Sub-Branch in December that the present PNG situation had been described as unbelievable. None of the natives could remember anything like it. He said the RSL was working with the organisation *Care Australia* to ensure that people affected would be provided with water pumping equipment, seed for crops, etc.

The Sub-Branch had already written to the Prime Minister on the subject and had sent $200 to the RSL Appeal which at that time stood at $143,000.

Commenting on a computer-produced document 80 Years of History 1917-1997 (Geraldton Sub-Branch). Secretary Brian Cooper said:

"I have nothing but admiration for those who created this history by their care and compassion for their fellow veterans; while there are many who choose to snipe at the RSL and those in it. I hasten to remind everyone that the RSL is, arguably, the largest welfare organisation in the nation with 250,000 members extending their services to the veterans wherever they may be."

Mr Cooper, who brought the history project to fruition, paid tribute to all associated with it, including initiator Kerstine Jansson, Peter Barden and Charlie Britt. He presented a copy to Mayor Phil Cooper for use in the library.

Auxiliary President Gillian Sharp made a farewell presentation to Life Member Edie Rogers who is moving to Wagga Wagga in NSW after being Secretary since 1971.

In our 80th anniversary year we registered our fourth consecutive record for income from Remembrance Day Poppies. The total of $4,446 was $738 up on last year and included $536 from seven schools. About 5,500 poppies were distributed. White crosses with poppies attached were placed on the graves of 83 servicemen in the War Cemetery and poppies on graves in the general cemetery during our annual pilgrimage.

Despite the loss of a leg, 82 year old former New Zealander Brendan O’Neill was on parade at our Remembrance Day Service – 79 years after the Armistice was signed to end World War I in 1918.

PETER BARDEN
PRO

Nollamara – North Perth

Congratulations to Graham Worth, Arthur Timms and Committee members on the organisation of the 40th anniversary reunion of the Western Australian Naval Concert Band held at the Sub-Branch on 22 November 1997. More than 150 members and ex-playing members attended, with 26 performers including the conductor, providing entertainment of the highest standard. One of the highlights was Albany’s Graeme Bots’ rendition of Deep Purple, played on the beer bottle bugle.

Many thanks to the helpers and collectors on Remembrance Day, including Cadets from the no. 15 Cadet Unit, Girrawheen. Without all the support the Sub-Branch received, the day would not have been such a financial success.

The AGM was again well supported and office bearers are: President – Keith Boxshall: Vice Presidents – Ken Hawke, and Barry Fotheringham: Secretary – Carlo Lipari: Treasurer – Steve Bergles; Membership – Gary Robilliard: Auditor – Ted Ogden; Memorial Wardens – Don Graham, Phil Clements, Bill Rowe, and Reg Craig: Committee – Mel Cryer, Ray Axon, John Russell, Ross Jones, and Jeff Wilkie: Ladies Auxiliary – Joan Southern.

The Day Club was well supported by 50 members at the Christmas show when an enjoyable time was had by all. and $300 has been provided to the No. 51 Cadet Unit, Girrawheen to buy a music system. Due to booked bands not turning up at their socials.

The 1997 Sub-Branch Sporting Divisions – Club Champions:

Mens Darts Singles
Frank Taylor R/u: Ron Nilsson
Mens Darts Doubles
Mark Bartlett – Ron Joyce
Runners-up
Frank Taylor – Gary Robilliard
Ladies Darts Singles
T Houghton R/u: D Grocott
Ladies Darts Doubles
Denise Pearson – Anne Nimetto
Runner-up
Dot Grocott – Michelle Hogg
Pool Division
Tracey Long

The Sub-Branch Pool Division also won the Video Link Cup Trophy for 1996 and 1997.

ROSCO JONES
PRO
Port Kennedy

We ended 1997 with many pleasant memories, one of which is the trip to Coolgardie RSL in early November and followed by a well represented Remembrance Day.

Our first Christmas party for the children was held at Safety Bay beach when Santa dropped in (by parachute, see him trying to miss the power-lines) and gave presents to 24 children.

We now have two Life Members who received their badges and Certificates last November; Trevor Lloyd and Doug Hinkley. Both have dedicated so much of their lives to the RSL. Well done!

We have a new Committee this year: Barry Wells is still President and Jim Moncrieff our new Secretary.

Congratulations Mrs Laurel Stevenson, who won the 1997 Club Person of the Year Award in recognition of a year's hard work in helping with fund-raising and functions.

Don't forget our Friday night Chocolate Wheel, between 1600hrs and 1900hrs. There are great prizes to win and everybody is welcome. Our meetings are on the last Sunday of every month, except the April 1998 meeting when we will meet on the 19th. Meetings are also held at the Port Kennedy Tavern, Wambro Sound Avenue, Port Kennedy and start at 1300hrs.

For club information please contact myself or our Secretary, Jim Moncrieff, on phone (08) 9592 1496 or PO Box 2038, Rockingham WA 6967.

S.A. MONCRIEFF
PRO

Riverton

November brought the club to its peak of activity, firstly with the traditional and formal Armistice dinner. We were greatly honoured by the attendance of the State President who provided an informative address on the last charge of the Australian Light Horse. We thank Ken and his wife for taking the time to share the event with us.

The dinner was followed by the Melbourne Cup lunch, where this author had a profitable day thanks to the sweeps.

On 9 November last, the club observed Remembrance Day at the club's Memorial. We thank our Local Members of Parliament, Navy, Army and Air Force and local council and schools' representatives for their attendance and participation. The professionalism shown by TS Canning in the provision of a Catafalque Party is a clear indication that ex-service people and volunteers are providing excellent training for the young people in military matters. From us all at Riverton - well done.

TONY MEEHAN
Publicity Officer
Scarborough

At the December meeting the following office bearers were elected: President – Norm Sanders; V/President – Malcolm Till; V/President – Gordon Harvey; Secretary – Doug Piggott; Treasurer – Dudley Docking. Our new committee met prior to the January meeting and planned events for the coming year. It was decided to leave our bus trip etc. until after the very hot weather has ended.

Our first big occasion will be the Anzac Day Service at the Wall of Remembrance on 25 April at the Doubleview Bowling Club, followed by afternoon tea. Members have been asked for suggestions on how to improve the format of this special day which attracts more visitors each year.

New members are invited to our meetings at 1400 hours on the second Monday of each month. We boast that “You may not know us when you arrive – but when you leave, you will have made many new friends”. Contact our Secretary, Doug Piggott, on 9446 1331 so that he can look out for you.

GORDON HARVEY
Vice President

RSL War Veterans’ Homes Video Library

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

Further information may be obtained from Jill Van Blommestein on (08) 9370 0200 during office hours.

The RSL War Veterans’ Home
51 Alexander Drive
Mount Lawley 6050

or: The RSL War Veterans’ Home
62 Oakmont Avenue
Meadow Springs 6210

The Listening Post

CLASSIFIEDS

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# New Members

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

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UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

Listening Post reminds all Unit Associations that it is the responsibility of each to keep its information to State Headquarters for this section up to date. Changes to the office bearers must be in writing.

AIRCREW ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President/Chairman: George Oliver, 2 Ainslie Crt, Kardinya; Ph: 9337 7163. Secretary/Treasurer: Lionel Pizzey, 11 Windell St, Innaloo; Ph: 9446 5751. Meetings bi-monthly as arranged.

ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS ASSOCIATION
President: Neville Philp, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount; Ph: 9294 1798. Secretary Mrs B. Philp, same address as President. Meetings and luncheon at Anzac House, second Friday in February, April, June, August, October and December at 11.30am.

ALLIED MERCHANT SEAMEN ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Maurice O’Rourke; Ph: 9364 3837. Secretary: Jack Edwards, 1 Cromer Rd, Brentwood 6153; Ph: 9364 8793. Treasurer: Alec Edwards; Ph: 9405 4261. Meetings 1.00pm Anzac House, last Tuesday each month.

ASSOCIATION OF FIRST INFANTRY BATTALIONS (WA)
2/1st Aust Inf, 1 RAR also any Allied 1st Bn.
President: Ken Alcorn; Ph: 9249 9365. Secretary: John Cunningham, 39 Plane St, Carlisle 6110; Ph: 9361 3483. Meetings: contact secretary.

ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH
President: Mrs Mary Tearne, 3/63 Corbel St, Shelley 6148; Ph: 9457 9059. Hon. Secretary: Mrs Mary Wyse, 1/16 Rambutan Pl, South Lake 6164; Ph: 9417 9877. Meetings fourth Thursday of each month, 10.30am Anzac House.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: RD (Bob) Smith, 14 Dundee Ct, Duncraig 6023; Ph: 9448 5023. Secretary: BG (Barry) Long, 6 Hazelteine Ct, Yanchep 6035; Ph: 9561 1741. Meetings: after Anzac Day, AGM mid-June, birthday ceremony end of July. Others shown in quarterly newsletters.

AUSTRALIAN EX-SERVICE ATOMIC SURVIVORS’ ASSOC. INC.
President: Max Kimber, 1 Romford Pl, Kingsley 6026; Ph: 9409 7241. Secretary: Randall Harding, PO Box 405, Greenwood, 6024; Ph: 9448 1609. Meetings 3rd Monday February, April (AGM), June, August, October, December, Belmont RSL Hall, Leake St, Belmont.

AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSOC. (WA) INC
President: Neil Chaplin; Ph: 9302 1388 (w) 9307 8460 (h). Correspondence to PO Box 1724, Wangara 6065.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN (INC)
President: LCW Hutchings, 17 St Johns Ct, Kingsley 6026; Ph: 9309 9675. Meetings 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; Ph: 9224 8211 (w). Secretary: Bob Nugent; Ph: 9425 2425 (w). Meetings for “Happy Hour” last Friday each month at The House, 6 Battery Road, Campbell Barracks (6010) — ladies most welcome.

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS AND DEFENCE SERVICES COUNCIL (WA COUNCIL) AVSC
Chairman: Air Cdre SW Dallaway OBE AE (Retd); Ph: 9383 3161. Secretary: PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meetings 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 Nourrington St, East Victoria Park 6101; Ph: 9361 2824. Treasurer: Ruth Franklin, 126b Basinghall St, East Victoria Park 6101; Ph: 9361 5157. Meetings: Anzac House, 1st Thursday of even months, 10am-12noon.

BCOF ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Ms J Whiting, 15 Turo Cl, Willeton 6155. Tel: (08) 9457 0368. Secretary: L A Bland, JP, PO Box 639, Balcatta 6914. Tel: (08) 9345 5503. Meetings: 4th Monday (if Mon holiday-Tues) 11am-Feb to Nov, Belmont RSL Hall, cnr GT Eastern Hwy and Leake St, Belmont, Bus 306 new Bus Station or stand 45 cpr Pier St and St Georges Tce.

BLINDED SOLDIERS OF ST DUNSTANS WA
President: WA Walters, RSL Retirement Village, Third Ave, Mandurah, 6210; Ph: 9535 3602. Hon. Sec/Treasurer: Mrs P Dean, 31 Lamond St, Melville 6156; Ph: 9330 5458. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday in February, April, June, August and October; 1.45pm, Red Cross House, 110 Goderich St, East Perth.

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

CATALINA CLUB OF WA
President: Ivan Feirce, 14 Abjomson St, Manning 6152; Ph: 9450 1231. Correspondence to Catalina Club of WA, PO Box 866, Canning Bridge 6515. General Meetings 10am 2nd Thurs-day March, June (AGM), September & December at Anzac House.

DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Lt Col (ret’d) P Winstanley RFD, 55 Jeannes Rd, Karrinyup 6018; Ph: 9341 6883. Secretary: Maj (ret’d), PC Pickersgill RFD, ED, 191 Kitchener Rd, Booragoon 6154; Ph: 9330 4015. Meetings held monthly — all members welcome.

EX-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S LAND ARMY (AWLAWA)
President: Mrs Phyl Ptolomey, 84 West Rd, Bassendean 6054; Ph: 9279 2279. Secretary: Mrs Hilda Grey, 21B Elvira St, Palmyra 6157; Ph: 9339 5391. Meetings: Anzac House, 4th Thursday each month from 10am-12 noon.

EX-FORTRESS ENGINEERS ASSOC.
President: Harold Smith, 58 Napier St, Nedlands 6009.; Ph: 9386 3305. Secretary: Reg Kidd, 257 Holmes Rd, Forrestfield 6058; Ph: 9453 2393. Meetings: mid-year general Meetings and Christmas ‘get together’. All enquiries to the Secretary.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOC. OF WA
President: Arthur Robinson, 19/26 Pinaster St, Menora 6050; Ph: 9271 4733. Secretary: Ruth James, 7b Wenden Pl, Williton 6155; Ph: 9457 8727. Meetings 1pm, 1st Wednesday each month at Anzac House.

EX-WRANS ASSOC. OF WA
President: Mrs Beverley Kain, 3 Voyager Ct, Cooloongup 6168; Ph: 9527 3401. Secretary: Mrs Joan Alberti, 1B Imperial Ct, Ocean Reef 6027; Ph: 9300 6119. Meetings: 2nd Monday each month at Anzac House Function Room, Perth.

FEDERATED TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN’S ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Frank Hamilton, 35 Clement Dr, Karrinyup 6018; Ph: 9448 5204. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer, 16 Dowell Pl, Bibra Lake; Ph: 9417 9598. Meetings last Monday of month except Jan.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS CONT.

FIGHTER SQUADRONS ASSOC. OF WA
President: Mick Michael, 6 St Barnabas Pl, Mosman Park, 6012; Ph: 9384 4222(h) 9221 3719(w).

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA
President: Hilton Devoreux, 49 Stradbroke Gdns, Merriwa, 6030. Secretary: Theo Bushe-Jones, 26 Baltic Mews, Waiwikii 6169; Ph: 9527 9186. Correspondence: PO Box 3886, Stirling Street, Perth 6849. Meetings second Wednesday Feb, April, June, August, October, December, 71 West Parade, East Perth.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Ken Brown MBE. Secretary: Andy Britton, PO Box 370, Tuart Hill 6939; Ph: 9409 9468. Welfare Officer: Arthur Budgen. Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at Anzac House, at 7.30pm (unless otherwise advised).

HAMAS AUSTRALIA VETERANS' CLUB
President: Don Cookesley, 3 Dorking Rd, City Beach 6015; Ph: 9385 7061. Secretary: Harry Townsend, 2A Darnelle Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 2489. Meetings: 1st Tuesday in March, June, September, December at Naval Association HQ, 71 West Pde, East Perth, at 1100 hrs.

HAMAS BATAAN VETERANS' ASSOC.
President: Dick King, 89 Empire Ave, City Beach 6015, Tel: 9385 9089. Secretary: Colin Hepburn, 39a Fallow Cres, Spearwood 6163.

HAMAS CANBERRA/HAMS SHROPSHIRE ASSOC.
President: Keith Noldahl, 66 Todd Ave, Como 6152; Ph: 9367 3102. Secretary: Arthur Carter, 93 Tamar St, Palmyra 6157; Ph: 9339 1483. Meetings as required.

HAMAS HOBART ASSOC. (WA DIVISION)
President: Graeme Purkiss, 14 Hollis St, Samson; Ph: 9339 8976. Secretary: Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Rd, Shenton Park; Ph: 9381 8705. AGM/annual reunion held 2nd Friday in February. Contact Secretary for details of all events.

HAMAS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS' ASSOC.
President: TK (Trevor) Lloyd, 48 Bell St, Rockingham 6168; Ph: 9527 1817. Secretary: TE (Tom) Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont 6010; Ph: 9384 3042.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: KJ Emberson, 48 Fleetwood Circuit, Woodvale; Ph: 9409 3037. Secretary: A McMorland, 10 Ridgeway Pl, Mahogany Creek; Ph: 9295 3459. 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; Ph: 9450 6428. Postal Address: Bag Lot No. 2, Post Office, Como 6152. Meetings 1st Wednesday each month (except January). 1.30pm.

MALAYA MERDEKA VETERANS (WA)
President: L Phenna, MBE, JP; Ph: 9349 5859. V/President: B Dennis. Secretary: J Wimbridge. Meetings: 1st Wednesday each month at 1400hrs in the Board Room at Anzac House.

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

"N" CLASS DESTROYER ASSOC.
President: Noel Sinclair, 289 Sydney Rd, Gnarabup 6065; Ph: 9405 1598. Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy Higgins, 69 Spig Hill Way, Bateman 6150; Ph: 9332 5723. Meetings: contact Secretary.

NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC
Chairman: G Chapman, 18 Zelkova Way, Parkwood 6147; Ph: 9437 0482. Secretary: J Hully, 9a Glover Place, Huntingdale 6110; Ph: 9398 5983.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Oliver Lovelle, 22 Lynmouth Rd, Dianella; Ph: 9276 1676. Secretary: Ken Pages-Oliver, 54/47 Forest Avenue, East Perth, Tel 9221 2937. Correspondence to: Secretary, PO Box Y3023, East St Georges Tce, Perth 6832.

NAVAL ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President/Secretary: AD Needham, 16 Warragoon Cres, Attadale; Ph: 9930 3411. Meetings: 1100hrs last Monday each month at Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle 6160.

NAVAL ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
President: Ben Haseldeine, 71 Lynton St, Mt Hawthorn 6016; Ph: 9444 3762. Secretary: John Ross, 1 Benwee Rd, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9387 6960. Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm at 71 West Parade, East Perth. Correspondence to the secretary.

NAVAL ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA) SECTION INC.
President: Jack Appleby, 143 McDonald Street, Joondanna; Ph: 9444 3598. Secretary Tom Oakley, 43 Strickland Street, Mt Claremont; Ph: 9227 8143.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA INC.
President: E Baints, 154 Wood St, Inglewood 6052. Secretary: J Kuijpers, 18A Dauntless Way, Duncraig 6023; Ph: 9448 7178. Meetings: Tuesday 1100 hours, Nollamara/North Perth Sub-Branch RSL, 68 Sylvia Street, Nollamara 6061. Correspondence to Secretary, PO Box 311, Inglewood 6932.

NORMANDY VETERANS' ASSOC.
President: JE Mayers, 15 Finlay Ct, Rivervale, 6103; Ph: 9478 2071. Secretary: R Bruce, 2/159 Fitzroy Rd, Rivervale 6103; Ph: 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 Meetings held at Anzac House at 1.00pm, 1st Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: Maurice John Rinaldi (Maurie), 35 Weaponos Rd, Scarborough 6019; Ph: 9341 6151.

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

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC. SUB-BRANCH No. 9
President & Hon Secretary: Dr W Gorski, OAM; Ph: 9387 7347. Correspondence to 33 Eighth Ave, Maylands 6051.

RAAF ASSOC. MANDURAH BRANCH
President: Ron Lopaten; Ph: 9535 7830. Secretary: Trevor Martin; Ph: 9537 7101. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 133 Mandurah Tce, Mandurah (May-Oct at 1330 hrs). (Nov-Apr, 1500 hrs): Correspondence: PO Box 1015, Mandurah 6210.

RAAF 467-468 LANCASTER SQUADRONS ASSOC. WA
President: John McKenzie, 186 Weaponos Rd, Wembley Downs; Ph: 9341 1358. Secretary: Angus Belford DSO, 59 Sulman St, Wembley Downs; Ph: 9245 1828. Meetings four times a year at the RAAF Association, Bullcreek.

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Contact Information Officer Don Horsley, 11 Celestine St Wanneroo 6065, Ph: (08) 9306 2946.

RAEME OFFICERS' ASSOC. SMD (WESTERN REGION) INC.
President: Maj Steve Cartner; Ph: 9457 1720 (h), 354 4993 (w).
Secretary/Treasurer: Capt Perry Bear, 38 Emily St, St. James 6102; Ph: 9458 3952 (h), 9420 3354 (w).

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOC. (WA) BRANCH INC.
President: W C (Bill) Mahar, 272 Marmion Street, Palmyra; Ph: 9339 2187. Secretary: Mrs Betty Rumble, 13/19 Byron Road, Kalambunda; Ph: 9293 2723. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month, Anzac Club at 1:00pm.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOC. (WA DIVISION)
President: Sqn Ldr TF Agnew, Secretary: W01 BF Cooper JP, AIMM; Ph: 9409 6577. Fax: 9409 6577. All correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month at the USI Rooms, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta at 1400 hours. Any member is welcome to observe.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOC. (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: Norman RT Jarrett; Ph: 9247 1354. Secretary: Maurice McFadyen, 161B Gibson Ave, Padbury 6025; Ph: 9401 5839. For information contact Secretary.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOC. WA DIVISION INC.
BULLCREEK BRANCH
President: Allan Steward; Ph: 9310 7239. Secretary: Ph: 9310 9127. Meetings: held at 1930 hours at the Meg Olive Room, Air Force Memorial Estate, on 2nd Monday of each month.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOC.
President: J (John) Williams, 11 Cornish St, Armadale 6112; Ph: 9399 3452. Secretary/Treasurer: RJ (Ray) McMahon, Unit 6/52 Keymer St, Belmont 6104; Ph: 9478 2598.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION (WA) BRANCH
President: Mrs Irene England, 18 Connought Street, Forrestfield. Secretary: Miss Helen Birch, 82 Florence Road, Nedlands; Ph: 9386 2396. Meetings: quarterly; contact the Secretary.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC. (WA)
President: JAT Hobbs, 10 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 2568. Secretary: Doug Morris, 178 Empire Ave, Wembley Downs 6019. Meetings: 3rd Monday each month at 10am, Anzac House downstairs – open to all members and members of affiliated Associations. If public holiday, following day.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOC. OF WA
President: MJ Ryan OAM, Bus Ph: 9481 0205; A/H 9307 2385; Mobile 015 446 666. Secretary: NJ Clark; 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: Neville Philp, 14 Hamilton Tee, Greenmount; Ph: 9294 1798. Secretary: Mrs B Philp, same address as President. Meetings and luncheon at Anzac House, second Friday in February, April, June, August, October and December at 11.30am.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVERS ASSOCIATION WA CHAPTER
President: Alex Donald, DSC, 7 Woodley Cres, Melville Heights 6156; Ph: 9330 6596. Meeting: Anzac Day (AGM) 1300, Navy Club, 1 High St, Fremantle.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOC. (WA)
President: B Edmondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley, 6148; Ph: 9457 5620. Secretary: J Shephered, Unit 45, Ocean Gardens, 60 Kalinda Dr, City Beach; Ph: 9385 8400. Meetings: February, May, August, November.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOC. WA (INC)
President: John Brierty, 221 Erindale Rd, Hamersley 6021; Ph: 9342 5606. Secretary: Brian Macauley, 173 Hardey Rd, Belmont 6104; Ph: 9277 1406. Meetings: 1st Thursday each month (except Jan) at 7pm at Anzac House. All Signallers welcomed.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOC. (WA) INC.
President: Ray Sargeant, 29 Bouvardia Way, Greenwood 6024; Ph: 9448 5787. Secretary/Treasurer: Philip Bray, 33 Naipa Way, Duncraig 6023. Meetings: Anzac Day, Corps Birthday (July) and Christmas.

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

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION
President: Alan Jameson, 7 Rodondo Place, Shelley; Ph: 9457 1715. Secretary; Mike Pearson, 8 Henry 66 Great Eastern Highway, Rivervale; Ph: 9361 9234.

SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH
President: John Rana, 6 Banksia Pl, Yangebup 6164; Ph: 9417 1811. Secretary: WJF (Bomber) Wells, 56b Planet St, Carlisle 6101; Ph: 9470 6921. Meetings: quarterly Feb (AGM), May, Aug, Nov. Details and notices: Secretary or http://www.ausub砷.au.

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN LTD WA BRANCH Inc
President: Geoff Dunne. Secretary: Glen Cox. Correspondence: TP1 Memorial Estate, Bag Lot 2, Post Office, Como 6152. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday each month (except Jan) at 10.30am.

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT ASSOC. WA BRANCH
President: Jack Patterson, 15A Greville Way, Girrawheen; Ph: 9342 0142. Secretary: B Thomas, Victoria Estate, Unit 18-19 Buirush Dr, Bibra Lake; Ph: 9417 8585. Meetings: 1st Monday each month (except January) Anzac Club 11.30; when Monday is a public holiday, 1st Tuesday.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOC. WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brig N E G Manual (ret'd),11/10 Houtman St, Rosssmoyne 6108; Ph: 9459 1191. Secretary: Ben Colquhoun, 5 Oakland Ave, Clevedale 6105; Ph: 9277 4814. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month at 49 Banksia St, Joondanna.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOC. (WA) BRANCH
President: John Barton, Unit 7/5 Sepia Crt, Rockingham 6168; Ph: 9527 3351. Secretary: Mrs Vivienne Holmes, 11 Doonan Rd, Nedlands; Ph: 9386 1495. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday each month.

THE HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Len De Grazza, 43 Pitt Street, Dianella; Ph: 9276 7253. Secretary: Mrs Ronnie Roach.; Ph: 90 Herdman Parade, Wembley; Ph: 9387 1843.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOC.
President: Garnet J Buckley JP, 23 Quarkum Street, Wanneroo; Ph: 9306 4232. V/President: J.J. Allen, 2 Harvell Close, Glen Forrest; Ph: 9298 9510.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOC. (WA BRANCH)
President: Ken Barrington; Ph: 9446 4227. Secretary: Kevin Trent, 3 Broad St. Kensington 6151; Ph: 9367 7794. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday at 8.00pm in February, April, June (AGM), August, October & December. Enquiries/correspondence to Secretary.

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THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOC. WA BRANCH
President: G Norton, 39 Woodman Point Resort, 132 Cockburn Rd, Munster 6166. Secretary: A Richards, 27 Orion St, Rockingham 6168; Ph: 9592 1474. Meetings: The Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle, 8.00pm last Tuesday of every month, including public holidays. Correspondence to Secretary.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION FREMANTLE (WA) BRANCH
President: David Wiseman; Ph: 9592 1458. Secretary: Frank Cooke-Willis, 23 Foss Street, Palmyra; Ph: 9339 5573. Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month (except January) at the Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle at 7.00 pm.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC. (MARMION BRANCH)
Chairman: Tony Hobbah, 29 Centennial Gardens,Hillarys; Ph: 9402 4748. Secretary: H Walmley, 217 Gibson Avenue, Padbury. Meetings: Second Tuesday of each month at Whittington Sea Sports Club, Ocean Reef Boat Harbour, Ocean Reef.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, PERTH (WA) INC.
Chairman: I R Hunter, 28 Bandol Gardens, Secret Harbour, 6168; Ph: 9527 1612. Secretary: Geoffrey Pate, 106 Lansdowne St, Kensington 6151; Ph: 9367 1945. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday each month at RSL Hall, 22 Leake St, Belmont. Visitors welcome.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION (ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS) BRANCH
Chairman: Derick Ramsdale, 6 Falcon Ct, Rockingham 6168; Ph: 9527 9515. Hon Secretary: Dorothy V Rawle, 62B Frederick St, Shoalwater 6169; Ph: 9592 6148. Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month (except Jan) at TS Anzac, Point Peron Rd, 7.30pm.

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

THE SPITFIRE GROUP
Organiser: Eric Carpenter; Ph: 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
President: JP Hall, AM BEM JP, Unit A/3 Hellam Gr, Booragoon 6154; Ph: 9364 7776. Secretary: Mrs FE Johnson OAM, 38 Renwick Street, South Perth; Ph: 9367 5949. Meetings: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, 4th Wednesday March, May, July, September and November. Enquiries to the Secretary.

UNITED KINGDOM-COMBINED EX-SERVICES FEDERATION
President: G Norton RM; Ph: 9418 8284. Secretary: EH Martyn JP, 9B Wilson Place, Belmont 6104; Ph: 9277 2061. Meetings: quarterly. Correspondence/function enquiries to the above address.

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

VIETNAM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: Vic Boreham, 8 Hollis St, Samson 6163; Ph: 9337 8885(h), 9334 2489(w). Secretary: Brian Long, 38 MacArthur Ave, Padbury 6025; Ph: 9402 0241. Meetings: Victoria Cross Room, Anzac House Perth. 3rd Tuesday every 2nd month.

VIETNAM VETERANS AND DEFENCE FORCE JOBLINK
President: Doug Rasmussen. Administrator: G Purcell, 148 Lord Street, Perth; Ph: 9227 6961 or 9227 6963.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH) INC.
President: Rob Cox; Ph: 9332 4964. Secretary: Keith Jones; Ph: 9443 1530. Office: 219 Railway Pde, Maylands; Ph: 9370 3011. Fax: 9332 4964. Correspondence: PO Box 21, Maylands 6051. Meetings: every 3 months at office.

VIETNAM VETERANS M.C. AUSTRALIA
President: John Lewis. Secretary: Brian Rees. All correspondence to the Secretary: PO Box 1442, Wangara 6065, Tel/fax business hours only: 9401 1546.

WA RSL BOWLS SECTION
President: Les Fynmore; Ph: 9364 1476. Hon Secretary: Ted Philp; Ph: 9450 4033. Meetings: 3rd Monday each month at the Royal Park Bowling Club, Charles St, North Perth at 10am.

WAAAF ASSOCIATION (NOR-WAAAF GROUP)
(Northern Suburbs branch of the WAAAF Association)
Meetings: last Thursday of each month at 1200 hours, upstairs at Anzac House, except December and January. For information ring Lillian Waldie on 9349 1829.

WAAAF BRANCH RAAF ASSOC. (WA DIVISION)
President: Mrs Kathleen Adamson, 27 The Promenade, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 4028. Secretary: Mrs Kathleen Quan, 65 Burnett Ave, Leeming; Ph: 9332 1798. Meetings 2nd Monday each month at 10.30am.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President/Secretary: Mrs May Tomich, 2 Ludlands St, Morley 6062; Ph: 9276 8616. Correspondence: Secretary, PO Box 6149, East Perth 6892.

WRAF BRANCH - RAAF ASSOCIATION
President: Mrs Laeraine Ewen-Chappell, 35 Lakeview Dr, Edgewater 6027; Ph: 9306 2681. Secretary: Mrs Judy Bland, 2 Graphic Ct, Beldon 6027; Ph: 9401 8296. Meetings: 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Meg Olive Room at the RAAF Association, Bullcreek.

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

Z SPECIAL UNIT INTERNATIONAL (INC)
Chairman: Jack Sue; Ph: 9257 1260. Secretary/Treasurer: Lou Pola; Ph: 9446 2784. Correspondence: PO Box 7, Innaloo 6918.

1st AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION WA BRANCH

2/2 PIONEERS WA
Chairman: LA Preedy, 152 Keightley Rd, Shenton Park 6008; Ph: 9381 6294. Meetings: Anzac House on 3rd Friday in March, July and November.

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: R Finklestein, 31/1130 Cresswell Rd, Dianella; Ph: 9276 7160. Secretary: JW Carey, 13 Stoddard Way, Bateman; Ph: 9332 7050. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10am Anzac House.

2/2 COMPOSITE ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT, SEARCH LIGHT BATTERY ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Jack Manners, 3/85 Macleod Road, Applecross; Ph: 9364 5649. Secretary: Merv Smith, 3/7 Juffington Rise.
3 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION WA
President/Secretary: WST Stacy; Ph: 9337 6227. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month, 11am at Anzac House.

2/3rd MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: KE Eckermann, 31 Tranquill Rd, Kelmscott 6111; Ph: 9390 6072. Secretary: FJ (Banjo) Binstead, 101 Star St, Carlisle 6101; Ph: 9361 8762.

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

27th AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT ASSOC.
President: Bill Hepton, 2 Cooba Pl, Duncraig 6023; Ph: 9447 4473. Secretary: Bill Woods, 4/2 Lewington Gdns, Bibra Lake 6163; Ph: 9417 3989. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday monthly (except January) in the Pure Steel Room, Gloucester Park at 11am.

27th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOC. WA SECTION
President: Keith Fruin, 2/4 McCallum St, Ardross 6153; Ph: 9364 7160. Secretary/Treasurer: Vern Sprigg, 8 Moss Vale, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9387 6732. Reunion after Anzac Day March and Service.

27th FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOC.
President/Secretary: Hal Finkelstein, 15 Jukes Way, Glendalough 6016; Ph: 9444 0328. Reunion: September each year.

2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
President: Mervyn Schofield, 8 Tyre Avenue, Riverton; Ph: 9457 2421. Secretary: Len McCarthy, 31 Marradong Street, Coolbinia; Ph: 9444 1927. Meetings: Reunion 1st Friday in October & pre-Anzac Day luncheon at Anzac House each year.

1/6TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BN AIF ASSOC.
President: J F Moir, 6 West Court, Bullcreek; Ph: 9332 6684. Secretary: J S Miller, 120 Lockhart Street, Como; Ph: 9450 4170. Meetings: 1st Wednesday each month, Anzac House at 10:30 am.

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

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOC. (WA)
President: Collin Savage, 467 North Beach Rd, Gwelup 6018; Ph: 9448 7907. Sec/Treasurer: Colin Edmiston, 3/456 Main St, Balcatta 6021; Ph: 9349 0799.

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

3 TELECOMMUNICATION UNIT ASSOC. (RAAF)
President: RJ Squiers; Ph: 9349 0955. Secretary: Ray De Fraine, 10 Cordova Court, Craigie 6025; Ph: 9401 3293. Lunch muster 2nd Thursday each month at Anzac Club. 1100-1300.

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

7TH BN THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (Pig Bn)
President: Don Crudul, 26 Little River Close, Jane Brook; Ph: 9374 0014. Secretary: Doug Fieldhouse, 509 The Strand, Dianella; Ph: 9275 8598. Meetings: As arranged.

11TH BATTALION ALF 13TH BGDE WWII
President: Roy Walsh MM, 63 Sexton Rd, Inglewood, 6052; Ph: 9271 5769. Secretary: Don Angwin, 7/6 Mt Henry Rd, Como 6152; Ph: 9450 1833. Correspondence to Secretary.

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOC.
President: Bill Gill; Ph: 9332 8536. Secretary: N Deakin, 20 Canterbury Dr, Willetton 6155; Ph: 9457 1163. Regular meetings held at Secretary’s address.

11TH (1914-1918) & 2/11 AIF BNS ASSOC.
President: IM Walter, 4/18 McLeod Rd, Applecross 6153; Ph: 9364 3270. Secretary/Treasurer: JC Watson, 686 Canning Hwy, Applecross 6153; Ph: 9364 2126. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday each month (except January) 10.00am, Gallipoli Room, Anzac House.

16TH BATTALION, THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WA ASSOC.
President: Robert Boyd, Villa 4/208 Burslem Ave, Maddington 6109; Ph: 9493 1175. Secretary: James Richardson, 6 Isaac St, Melville 6156; Ph: 9330 5405.

28TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (AIF) 1939-45 ASSOC.

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

44TH BATTALION ASSOC.
President: R. Collins, 134 Roseberry St, Bedford; Ph: 9271 4448. Meetings: when called. Annual reunion on advice.

48TH & 2/48TH BATTALION ASSOC.
President: AK (Don) Spencer, 6 Killara Way, Craigie 6025; Ph: 9401 5744. Secretary: Brian Corboy, 11A Ventnor Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 7829. Meetings/luncheon Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East, at 11.30am on 3rd Monday each month.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOC.
President: WEM (Gerry) Bateman, DFC, 30 Norton Ridge, Winthrop 6150; Ph: 9332 5051. Secretary: NB Johnson, 63 Kirwan St, Floreat Park 6014; Ph: 9387 4229. Meetings: quarterly.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS’ ASSOC.
President: RH Duncaife; Ph: 9298 8574. Secretary/Treasurer: Peter W Hessel; Ph: 9344 1756. Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at Anzac House (Club) at 1.30pm.

UNIT ASSOCIATION DETAILS

Please note: Unit Association details for inclusion in this column are limited to name, address and telephone numbers of the President and Secretary, plus meeting details. It is important that these entries are restricted to five pages only in this magazine. In this way, more articles of general interest submitted are able to be included.

G. TANNER (EDITOR)

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Last Post

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

NOVEMBER 1998
V505258 Abott, C., Central, Aust Fld. Amb
243964 Allan, P.J., Dongara, Worcs Regt
2/900163, Badger, H.B., Armadale, 1 RAR
WX23243, Brand, B.A., Eastern Region, 1 Area WShop
WX34313, Branson, H.E.R., Fremantle City, Sigs
63912, Brennan, O.E.A., Gascoyne, 29 Bty NZ Army
WX41538, Buchanan, W.K., Bunbury, GHQ
WX41783, Bullock, AG., Mandurah
48522, Camac, D.R., Three Springs–Arrino, 78 Sqn
22806141, Common, J., City of Perth, Mod
F5575, Downing, N.A., Wembley–Floreat, RAN
23675225, Drake, J.M.C., City of Perth, REME
17006, Eastman, H.A.C., Bunbury, 25 Sqn
5712798, Fortune, J.J., Riverton, 16 Inf Bn
80374, Gore, A.E., City of Rockingham
WX6, Grieve, B.R., Claremont, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
84147, Haley, K.L.F., North Beach, 40 Sqn
WX40275, Hall, F., Geraldton City, 7 Aust Div Sigs
WX74191, Hallowes, J.H., Dowerin, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
WX9735, Healy, P., Belmont, 2/3 Fld Bty
7911866, Hibbert, A. City of Perth, 8 Royal Tank Regt
2365637, Hooton, R.J., City of Perth, Royal Corps Sigs
80417, Hunter, G.C., Bunbury, RAAF
T/61699, Jeffery, G.C., City of Wanneroo
WX32004, Johnson, H.T., City of Perth, 2/7 AGH
53439, Jose, D.A., Nollamara – Nth Perth, RAAOC
WX15639, Joynes, R.W., Narrogin, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
WX3441, Kenworthy, L.H., Osborne Park, 124 Aust Gen Tpt Coy
6914001, Lancaster, D., City of Perth, Rifle Bde Para Regt
WX5853, Langley, S.J., Brookton, 2/22 Fld Pk
WX17827, Lavater, L.W., Mandurah, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
WX34784, Leslie, R., Eastern Region, 8 Sup-Dep
VFX62909, Lindsay, M.F., Returned Sisters, 2/9 AGH
WX2739, Love, A.S.H., Eastern Region, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
2301436, Macfarlane, A.T., Scarborough
XI1137, McCulloch, D.J., Northam, Royal Marines
WX33413, Mcrae, S., Central, 25 Line Sec
WX29020, Norman, J.L., Doverin, 11 Div Sigs
5/400347, Nutland, L.J., Busselton, 2 RAR
439, O’dea, B.L., Eastern Region, Railway corps
WX15714, Odgers, E.P., Como, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
WX4826, Opie, E.H., Rivervale – Carlisle, 2/2 Aust Fd Pk
WX31865, Paynter, H.C.M., Central, AIF
85352, Perkins, L.A., Albany, RAAF
3397V, Robertson, D.M., Cottesloe, Rand Light Inf

NX78378, Rodden, J., Central, Angau
WX36856, Russell, R., Denmark, 138 A/A Bty
400602, Sandford, J.T., City of Perth, RAAF
WX5489, Sarti, D.E., City of Perth, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
16395, Saw, A.F., Scarborough, RAAF
WX11405, Scott, A.F., Busselton, 2/32 Aust Inf Bn
WX19660, Sears, C.D.C., Rivervale – Carlisle, 2/6 Indp Coy
WX1913, Shaw, A., City of Perth, 2/3 F/Regt
WX4100, Stokes, J.P., Applecross, 2/7 Fld Regt
5353, Streeter, B.J., Mandurah, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
WX3319, Surridge, P., Applecross, 2/11 AGH
7533200, Texeira, C.E., Cockburn, RAMC
75W24913, Tinson, W.E., City of Rockingham, 125 AGT Coy
WX7711, Watkins, E.E., Toodyay, 2/3 Tank Att
26341, Westlake, H.M., Central, RAN
A5428, Wight, A.N., City of Perth, RAAF
WX26218, Woolley, G.C., Canning Dist – Victoria Park, 2/11 Inf Bn

DECEMBER 1997
WX62748, Adams, H.J., Eastern Region, 2/12 Fld Regt
QX27722, Benstead, S.S., Canning Dist – Victoria Park, 2/43 Bn
WX37412, Bonds, E., Scarborough, 4 Sigs
WX25318, Bryson, R.M., Mandurah
WX11043, Bunce, G.H., Eastern Region, RAE
WX5640, Collingwood, P.A., Mandurah, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
WX18845, Collins, A.D., Claremont, 8 Line Sec
506875, Dawes, D.C., City of South Perth, RAAF
320836, Dawson, F., Bedford – Morley, Royal Army Corps
47694, Diprose, G.S., Albany, RAAF 8 Sqn
WX49948, Eaton, D.G., Belmont, 19 Garrison
P/JX731934, Gardner, W.A., Riverton, RN
WX7123, Hampson, R.D., Bedford – Morley, 2/4 MG Bn
NX48515, Harrison, A.W., Busselton, 2/5 Fld Coy
WX41207, Hart, H.F., Claremont, 2/3 Port Op-Coy
WX121033, Johnston, M.R., Claremont, 7 Aust Div Sigs
DJX319687, Leadbeater, W., Bicton – Palmyra, RN
**A1000001, Lonie, F.W., Albany, MN
441523, Lowe, T.R., Mandurah, RAAF
DX202, McDonald, P.J., Mandurah, 2/3 Pioneers
WX1015, Mell, J.B., Bedford – Morley, 2/32 Aust Inf Bn
WX14113, Mills, L.W., Scarborough, 1 Ind Sig Coy
3086, Owen, A., Shenton Park, RAN
P/JX157167, Parry, J.I., Bicton – Palmyra, RN
C/JX350804, Poole, H.A., Bunbury, RN
38981, Price, D.J., Scarborough, RAAF
144477, Rabbitt, A.E., Albany, RASC
160, Saunders, K.P., Geraldton City, Land Army
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