LISTENING POST

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OF W.A.

PATRON: THE GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL JEFFERY AC MC

HMAS Westralia

LEST WE FORGET
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Sub-Branch News

New Members

Unit Associations

Last Post

Deadlines

for contributions to The Listening Post

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

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

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

Cover picture courtesy
Eric Jones, PR, HMAS Stirling
Anzac Day 1998 was a huge success with a record Dawn Service attendance at the at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. The Parade and Service at the Esplanade in Perth was similarly graced with a record number of marchers and spectators. The Armed Services were very well represented with the inclusion of the ships companies of HMAS Sydney and HMAS Success and also a contingent of RNZAF personnel currently training in WA.

The most significant aspect of the day was the very large number of young families and children present at each event. This surely bodes well for the future of our National Day of Commemoration and the League’s most significant day of the year.

Similar attendances were recorded throughout the State at Sub-Branch ceremonies. Well done everybody concerned and thank you all on behalf of the WA Branch of the League.

JOCK GELDART

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The Listening Post relies on support from advertisers who contribute to our magazine. It is important that, when you are using their services or shopping for goods, you mention that you are responding to an advertisement in this magazine. The advertisers then know that their advertisements are working and will continue their support of the RSL in this way.

It makes sense, doesn’t it?

So, please remember to tell the person you are dealing with

“\textit{I saw your advertisement in The Listening Post}”.
It is with great sadness that we received the news of the deaths of four serving members of the RAN and injuries to others, due to an accident aboard HMAS Westralia en route to exercise north of Australia. Although the public accepts casualties as part of a war-time scenario, it is much harder to accept these during peace-time training. Regardless of the timing, it is still difficult and heart-breaking for the next of kin to accept the loss of loved ones under such circumstances.

On behalf of the League in Western Australia our thoughts and sympathy are extended to all who have been affected by this tragedy.

**Able Seaman Phillip Carroll** of Victoria
**Leading Seaman Bradley Meek** of New South Wales
**Midshipman Megan Pelly** of Queensland
**Petty Officer Shaun Smith** of Western Australia

LEST WE FORGET

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**Anzac Day Address**

_by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC MC Governor of Western Australia_

It is a great pleasure for me each Anzac Day after the Dawn Service to walk out of Government House at about 9am and meet informally with the veterans, cadets and families before leading the march through city streets thronged with supportive citizens; then with pride and great admiration to take the salute here for the thousands of you who have fought, supported or are still presently serving our nation.

For as you swing by I see the stomachs pulled in, the chests swell, the heads lift, the pain of old wounds forgotten and the eyes gleam. The sound of your marching feet tells its own story; of men and women who are so rightfully proud of what they have done in the ultimate service to their nation: the defence of its basic freedoms.

And what a group you are. The fighting crews of HM Australian ships and submarines, fighter, bomber and transport squadrons of the RAAF: infantry battalions and engineers, the reserves, special forces, armoured and cavalry regiments and signallers: the whole vast organisation of a cohesive fighting machine are represented by you who are marching today. Then there are the support groups, the logistic units, the nursing sisters, the women’s services, including the women’s land army and wonderful to see, the smartness and discipline of a rapidly expanding cadet corps, which I sincerely hope might become a national cadet corps of say 60,000 before too long.

And we have our allies marching too: Kiwis, British, Polish, US, Greek and Vietnamese to name but some. Your combined presence brings to me, and I am sure to all those watching here and on TV, a feeling of intense pride in you all and our nation and in all those who continue to serve it in the armed forces today.

I note with particular pleasure the increasing number of Vietnam Veterans present and I urge you all to be proud of your contribution to peace in South East Asia and to perpetuate that pride by joining your local RSL: because it is now to you that World War II and Korean War Veterans must naturally hand on the baton, and it is through the RSL that the needs of servicemen both former and serving are articulated to government.

Today is a special day in the history of Anzac, because it is the 80th anniversary of the successful Australian counter-attack on the small French town of Villers-Bretonneux by 4,000 soldiers of the Western Australian 13th and the 15th Brigades — regarded as the finest feat of arms on the western front, an attack that stopped the final great German thrust for Paris.

Two Western Australians were highly decorated for this action: Lt Sadlier with the Victoria Cross and Sgt Stokes with the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Both had led parties of grenadiers and riflemen to wipe out a series of enemy machine-gun posts that had inflicted heavy casualties on the Australians and temporarily stopped the counter attack.

As we stand quietly and reverently overlooking our beautiful city and river, and perhaps thinking of men such as Lt Sadlier and Sgt Stokes, and the hundreds of thousands
who left these shores to go to war, of whom 100,000 never returned, we are again reminded that the freedom to be here in the first place, with our families and friends, and our comrades in arms is such a precious thing. For example, if 53 years ago we had lost World War II, that freedom, that fundamental right to go where we like: to speak our magnificent language without restriction; to live under the rule of law and to be governed in accordance with the wishes of the people, would have been taken from us.

That this did not happen is due in large part to the indomitable spirit of our Australian fighting men and women and those who supported them from the home base. In World War II alone we lost 23,000 fine young men and women killed, some 40,000 wounded and 32,000 became prisoners of war, often being held in hell-holes of POW camps under cruel captors.

And from that war we remember with pride the exploits of our Middle East Divisions: the 6th, 7th and 9th: in Syria, Tobruk and at El Alamein, and the magnificent fighter pilots of 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons who supported them: and the ships of our navy, the “scrap iron flotilla” sailing boldly to support the Tobruk garrison. through bitter and constant air and sea attack.

We remember the trauma of Japanese raids on our homeland: Darwin bombed 63 times. and also Townsville, Broome and Derby. Of the sudden thrust of the Imperial Japanese Army across the Kokoda Trail. stopped almost in sight of Port Moresby by a gallant 39th Battalion of militia soldiers, and Arnold Pott's 21st Brigade: of the hard-slogging follow-up by the 16th and 25th Brigades; of Gona, Buna and Shaggy Ridge and the brilliant operations of the 7th and 18th Brigades who inflicted the first crushing defeat of the Japanese Army at Milne Bay.

And of the Kittyhawk. Beaufort and other RAAF Squadrons in close support: of the Dakotas dropping supplies to troops in jungle-clad mountains in flying conditions of great severity and high danger.

And of our navy at the Battle of the Coral Sea where, in support of the American Fleet, the Japanese Carrier Force was reduced to such an extent that they lost the key maritime battle of the Pacific – the Battle of Midway – one month later.

We remember our servicemen and women and support organisations at home; the armoured and infantry divisions in Western Australia; the munition and factory workers and the women’s land army.

We remember our doctors and our nursing sisters; wonderfully courageous and capable women, some of whom were brutally killed in cold blood at Banka Island.

We remember the wives and young families who struggled in remote areas. on the stations and farms and in cities, without husbands and fathers: and for the 22,000 families who never saw their loved ones again.

We remember those bravest of the brave: people of the ilk of Lt Col ‘Weary’ Dunlop, and our own West Australians. Air Commodore Hughie Edwards, VC; Max Shean. DSO. of midget submarine fame; Sister Vivien Bulwinkle. AO MBE. and WO Jimmy Gordon. VC. representing supreme gallantry in unassuming bodies.

And we remember our veterans of the Korean War, the Malayan emergency. Borneo confrontation and Vietnam: our peacekeepers and our peacemakers with the United Nations Forces: our SAS soldiers presently in the Middle East and our servicemen and women carrying out wonderful humanitarian work in PNG. Irian Jaya and Bougainville.

And we think of the trauma of war. Of footrot, beriberi, hunger and thirst: of no sleep: of mud and heat and being permanently wet: of the crump and thump of mortar artillery: of the crack of the rifle and the chattering burst of machine guns: of being hit: and the eight-to-thirty-day carry over the Kokoda Track before being properly treated. And of the stench of death. Because war is not fun: nor is it pretty.

But then we think of mateship: that indescribable affinity between fighting men gained from being totally dependent on one another for survival. Of humour: of food, water and even mail shared; of being together through thick and thin. Of the padre standing on a used ammunition box
in the quiet of a jungle or desert morning and of young faces expectant, intent and in close communication with their God.

We remember the other great qualities of our Australian servicemen: loyalty, personal and group discipline, initiative, physical and moral courage.

And if we are sensible we remember too that we were lucky at the outbreak of war in 1939, in that we were totally unprepared for it, and that for two years Great Britain fought virtually alone; yet somehow we were able to win after a long cruel fight.

There are crucial and enduring lessons from the sacrifices of our Anzacs and these are:

First, the security of the nation is its first responsibility. And if we don’t pay an adequate insurance policy then sooner or later our house will almost certainly be burgled and possibly burnt down.

Capable defence forces can be run down in a year or so but take 5 to 15 years to rebuild. Yet in the history of modern war, we have never received more than 6 to 12 months notice to prepare.

The second is a need to get back to the fundamental philosophy of what a worthwhile life is all about, and what I suggest our ex-servicemen and women intrinsically believed in and fought for.

That is, a spirit of service before self; of being close communities again; an abiding sense of honesty and fair play in our dealings with others; a firm and practising belief in the essential spirituality of man; a sense of individual and group responsibility; a total commitment to family values as the basis of a just and caring society; and an absolute conviction that true democratic freedom has to be nurtured and protected and, when threatened, is worth fighting for and, if necessary, dying.

And I am confident given the fundamental characteristics of our people and the diversity and great wealth of our nation, that these hopes of those who paid the supreme sacrifice, will have every prospect of coming to fruition and in so doing, if demonstrated collectively, will show Australia as a generous, integrated and caring people and as a nation of excellence: a beacon of all that is good, strong and enduring within the global community.

So, on this 1998 Anzac Day as we look to our future in a rapidly changing, exciting, yet challenging world, let us arm ourselves with the virtues displayed by our Anzac forbears, and use them skilfully and unselfishly, to go forward as one nation in pride and confidence, to build the kind of country they would want us to have, and for which 100,000 of our servicemen and women paid the supreme sacrifice.

A thoughtful, inspiring and happy Anzac Day to you all.
Horace Flitcroft –
Last Light Horseman

Horace Flitcroft, WA’s last Light Horseman and a rider at the world’s last great cavalry charge of Beersheba, died on 1 December at Hollywood Private Hospital, aged 98.

Time had not dimmed his memories of his World War I service with the 10th Light Horse Regiment in the Middle East from July 1917 to November 1918. In fact, the black and gold regimental colours figured prominently at Horace’s recent 98th birthday party attended by more than 40 family members in Swanbourne.

Born on 18 July 1899, Mr Flitcroft was still 17 when he left Australia headed for Port Suez in 1917.

On recalling his role in one of the last great cavalry charges in the world, Mr Flitcroft said, “We rode for three nights, so the Germans would not see us, and we charged on the fourth day. Only the men in the centre had bayonets: we were carrying rifles on the flanks.”

But it was the surprise attack by the Germans at El Salt Barracks that stuck most in his mind. “We were dismounted when the Germans attacked. That was a dinkum bayonet charge.” Mr Flitcroft said.

On his return to Australia in 1919, and under the Soldiers’ Settlement Scheme, Horace took up land at Gabbin, in the north-east wheat belt, clearing the virgin land and living in a hessian humpy for five years before building a brick home.

In 1928 Mr Flitcroft was married to Marjorie, and they lived on the farm for approximately 30 years. Farming commitments meant it was 50 years after his return from the war before he began to take part in Anzac Day activities.

Courtesy: STAND TO

STOP PRESS

Due to an up-surge of appeals to the Veterans' Review Board, Margot Harness has had to relinquish taking on 'primary level' Pension Claims. First-class guidance and claims assistance however, is provided by the Services Assistance Programme at Anzac House. If you are applying for a pension, please ring them for an appointment on 9221 7010.

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LISTENING POST - AUTUMN 1998 - PAGE 7
A Brief History of No. 35 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force

Introduction

In 1942 the Royal Australian Air Force set up a number of transport squadrons in Australia. The entry of Japan into the war had intensified the need for greater mobility in both supply and operations, so it was essential to increase the air transport resources of the RAAF by the formation of new squadrons. One of these was No 35 Squadron, formed at Pearce, WA, on 11 March 1942.

World War II

Initially equipped with a Fox Moth and a DH84 (Dragon), the Squadron flew to such places as Geraldton, Rottnest Island and Kalgooerie. From 6 April 1942 the Squadron was based at Maylands and, until the arrival of Flt Lt P.C. Burdeu at the end of the month, was under the command of Flg Off R.O. Giles, a Communications Officer from Western Area Headquarters.

The duties of No. 35 Squadron included transporting VIPs around Western Area. Amongst the first passengers was Lieutenant-General Gordon Bennett, veteran of the Malayan campaign and Air Commodore De La Rue, Air Officer Commanding Western Area.

Accidents in the early days of the Squadron’s existence were not infrequent and, on 14 June 1942, the Dragon force-landed in the sea 18 miles south of Dongara. This accident (fortunately not harmful to either passengers or crew) reduced the aircraft strength from two Fox Moth and the activities of the Squadron had to be curtailed accordingly. A Moth Minor was received shortly afterwards, but No. 35 Squadron alone could not adequately fulfil the needs of the Western Area. A shortage of accommodation in September 1942 added to the Squadron’s difficulties. In the same month the aircraft strength was increased by two Fairey Battles and, in October, by a Moth Minor and an Avro Anson. These new aircraft improved the efficiency of the Squadron, making possible numerous flights. The Battles were used as target-towing and dive-bombing aircraft in naval co-operation manoeuvres. In November, a Dragon Rapide was received. In December 1942 and January 1943, six Tiger Moths and a Northrop Delta arrived. With this motley collection of machines of various makes and ages, No. 35 Squadron supplied dispersed RAAF units, transported passengers and did special work as required for the Navy and for Western Area Headquarters.

On 5 August 1943 the Squadron moved from Maylands back to Pearce. By this time its collection of aircraft included Ansons, Dragon Rapids, Fairey Battles, Fox Moths, Tiger Moths, DH84s AND DH86s. One interesting aspect of the Squadron’s work was the occasional inspection of Western Area by the AOC, Air Commodore R.J. Brownell. On these tours No. 35 Squadron would fly the AOC as far north as Corunna Downs and Broome, where he would visit outlying units accessible only by air.

The Advent of the Dakota

In November 1943 came the welcome news that No. 35 Squadron was to be re-equipped with C47 Dakota aircraft and that No. 7 Communications Unit was to be formed to take over the light communications work of Western Area. No. 7 Communications Unit would also do the drogue-towing exercises formerly undertaken by No. 35 Squadron. This re-organisation was to give an important increase of efficiency in supplying men, mail, food equipment and other materials to the multitude of distant units around Western Area. No. 7 Communications Unit commenced operations on 1 December 1943, and the first of No. 35 Squadron’s Dakotas arrived on 18 December 1943. The existing collection of different aircraft being gradually transferred to the new unit. The next year, 1944, began well with No. 35 Squadron embarking on a new period of history. Of longer range and much greater carrying capacity than the old aircraft, the Dakotas began to replace the DC2s which had been shot down into the sea by the Japanese. Van Praag rescued two members of the crew of his DC2, which had been shot down into the sea by the Japanese. Van Praag rescued two members of the crew, who had become unconscious, by swimming with them for a long distance through shark-infested water to Soemba.

On 8 March 1944, Squadron Leader K.A. Hopkinson took over the command of No. 35 Squadron from Squadron Leader P.C. Burdeu, who had been the popular CO since shortly before the Squadron’s formation in 1942. In May another notable arrival on the squadron was Flg Off L.M. van Praag, who had won the George Medal near Koepang early in 1942 for rescuing two members of the crew of his DC2, which had been shot down into the sea by the Japanese. Van Praag rescued two members of the crew, who had become unconscious, by swimming with them for a long distance through shark-infested water to Soemba.

On 11 August the Squadron moved from Pearce to Guildford. Later in the month a detachment was formed at Brisbane to perform special duties in eastern and northern Australia. The Squadron’s activities were thus extended over almost the whole of Australia.

On 16 October 1944 the control of the Transport Squadrons (including No. 35 Squadron) passed from the
Directorate of Air Transport, Allied Air Forces, to RAAF Headquarters, Melbourne. On the following day, a detachment of three aircraft was sent from No. 35 Squadron to Higgins Field, at the tip of Cape York Peninsula, for a special service to Aitape, on the northern coast of New Guinea.

November 1944 was a remarkable month for No. 35 Squadron. The month opened tragically on 2 November when a Tiger Moth crashed and burnt at Scarborough, killing the two pilots. They were Warrant Officers G. Gear and H.G. Reilly and their loss was deeply felt by their comrades. Then, on 11 November 1944, news came through from the other end of Australia that one of No. 35 Squadron’s aircraft had lost its starboard engine while flying from Hollandia to Higgins. The Pilot, Flg Off R. Drake-Brockman, flew the aircraft a distance of 130 miles on one engine and made a perfect landing at Merauke. On 20 November, Wing Commander Hopkinson relinquished command of the Squadron and he was succeeded by Squadron Leader L. Harber, who had been a member of the Squadron some time before and was now returning.

By this time the Squadron’s aircraft in north-eastern Australia were operating from Townsville and were staging through Iron Range, Merauke, Hollandia and Noomfor to Tadji. Another detachment was at Darwin. The Squadron Headquarters continued to operated at Guildford. On 8 December 1944 the Dakotas flew even further afield when three of them helped move No. 452 Squadron from Darwin to Morotai.

In January 1945, after nearly three years in WA, No. 35 Squadron received news it was to move to Townsville. The advance party left on 31 January and arrived in Townsville on 3 February. The rest of the Squadron moved in small parties during February and March. Regular scheduled operations from the new base began on 1 April 1945 throughout eastern Australia and New Guinea. Later in the month a detachment was sent to Morotai and operated from there to forward areas.

**The Post War Period**

On 29 June 1945 Squadron Leader N.W. Webster took over command of the Squadron from Squadron Leader Harber. Then, on 20 August 1945, Squadron Leader Webster handed over to Squadron Leader K.S. Brown.

On 15 August 1945, the long and bitter struggle against the Japanese was brought to an end. But the job was not yet done for No. 35 Squadron: regular schedules continued as usual and special missions increased in frequency. Supplies still had to be taken to the north and thousands of men who had been fighting in New Guinea and the islands had to be flown back to Australia. A new chapter was added to the Squadron’s history when, on 25 August

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1945, Squadron Leader A.W. Page flew on a mission to Singapore. Several more of these flights were made later. In the middle of November, Flight Lieutenant S.J. Eddy flew his Dakota from Morotai to Tokyo and back, visiting on the way Tacloban, Manila, Okinawa and Kanoya. This was the first time a member of No. 35 Squadron had flown to Japan. Trips were also made to many more exotic places, such as Kuching, Bandjaras in and Macassar. The regular flights of the Morotai Detachment were mainly to Labuan, Tarakan and Balikpapan.

Misfortune marred No. 35 Squadron’s first post-war Christmas when one of the Squadron’s Dakotas (captained by Pilot Officer F. Robinson and a crew consisting of Flight Lieutenant N.J. Hazle, Pilot Officer, G. Connell and Sergeant F. Bodley, with 21 passengers) was missing on a flight from Ambon to Darwin on 20 December 1945. A thorough search was conducted with aircraft and launches, and the natives in the area were interrogated, but no trace was ever found of the missing Dakota.

In February 1946 No.35 Squadron helped in the transfer of No. 81 Wing to Japan where it was to become part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. The Morotai Detachment and some other aircraft from Townsville took part in this move and for some months flights were made at intervals to Japan and back.

By the end of March, all scheduled runs from Townsville had ceased and in April the Morotai Detachment was closed. One Dakota continued to operate in Japan for some time. The Squadron did not finally disband until 10 June 1946, and as they returned to their homes and families, officers and men alike were confident that their important job was done at last.

The Squadron in Vietnam

No. 35 Squadron was re-formed out of wartime necessity. The Australian government had committed an RAAF force, the RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam, to Vietnam in July 1964. This force consisted of 15 officers, 80 airmen and six aircraft, located at Vung Tau, 37 miles south of Saigon. With the deployment of No. 9 Squadron to Vietnam, RAAF Transport was dissolved and the RAAF Operations Element, Australian Task Force was officially formed in June 1966. At that time the Squadron consisted of 15 officers and 72 airmen and seven Caribou aircraft under the command of Wing Commander C.J. Melchart.

EDITOR

Hazardous Material Safety Data

Women (WO2)

Chemical Analysis
- Element: Woman
- Symbol: WO2
- Discoverer: Adam
- Atomic Mass: Accepted as 50 Kgs but known to range from 45 kgs to 250 kgs
- Occurrence: Copious quantities found in all urban areas

Physical Properties
- Surface usually covered in painted film
- Boils at nothing and freezes without reason
- Melts if given special treatment
- Bitter if used incorrectly
- Found in various states from virgin metal to common ore
- Yields to pressure if applied at correct points

Chemical Properties
- Has a great affinity for gold, silver and precious stones
- Absorbs great quantities of expensive substances
- May explode spontaneously without warning or reason
- Insoluble in water but activates when soaked in alcohol
- Most powerful money reducing agent known to man

Common Uses
- Highly ornamental – especially in sports cars
- Can be great aid for relaxation

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- Highly dangerous except in experienced hands
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OR JOHN MCKECHNIE
Halls Head
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Left to right: President Mrs Pat Thyer, Treasurer Mrs Shirley Larke, Mrs Harper-Nelson, with her Life Membership Certificate, and Mr Ken Morrison.

Life Membership Awarded

Mrs Barbara Harper-Nelson was recently awarded Life Membership of the League in recognition of her 36 Years service to the RSL. The presentation was made by our retiring President. Ken Morrison.

Mrs Harper-Nelson is also a foundation member of the Darling Range Ex-Servicewomen’s League and has served as Hon Secretary for 12 years.

PATRICIA THYER
President, Darling Range Ex-Servicewomen’s Group

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 Blommesteen 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

First day

It was the rosy-cheeked girl on the Land Army poster who beckoned me as she sat on a tractor in her tailored overalls with a jaunty hat atop her short brown curls.

Parental consent was finally given and I caught the train to Pinjarra. My hat was not jaunty and came from army surplus—second-hand and battered—and my overalls were too big though I was assured they would shrink in the first wash. Nevertheless I presented myself, excitedly, at the farm-site on my first morning.

There was much activity with the farm manager detailing land girls and other workers to various jobs. I was left until last and kept moving to keep myself in his line of vision. Finally I was sent off to help the gardener who was sitting under a tree smoking. His horse, harnessed nearby to a one-blade plough, drooped, with eyes closed and occasionally swishing his tail. The gardener asked me about myself. Finally he got up, spat, hitched his trousers and told me to hold the reins while he ploughed up and down these old furrows, waving his hand in the general direction.

At last I’m a land girl. I take the reins and shake them to rouse the horse but he still naps. “Harder” says the gardener. I shake again but still no response. The gardener spat, grabbed the reins, brought them down hard on the horse’s rump and shouted: “Giddup ya fartin’ old bastard”. The horse leapt into action and charged down the furrow, farting all the way. I stumbled along holding the reins and trying to feel important.

How perky would that girl on the poster have looked after a couple of hours downwind of my farting-and-spitting workmates?

NB: Nettie Clarke, an Ex-Land Army Girl, submitted this story of her ‘first day’ in the Land Army. EDITOR.

City of Perth Sub-Branch

CARAVAN PARK – POINT PERON

Ideally situated with a beach frontage to Cockburn Sound.

Sites are available to financial members of the League at a cost of $8 per night, or $50 per week.

You will require your own van.

Please contact the caretaker on (08) 9527 8551 for reservations
The Royal Australian Regiment Association

Veterans from one of Australia's proudest Army units, The Royal Australian Regiment, honoured their fallen mates on Thursday, 6 November 1997, when a media campaign was launched for a National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Tim Fisher, who is a former member of the Royal Australian Regiment and a Vietnam Veteran, unveiled a plaque commemorating the media launch. One thousand native trees, donated by the Brisbane City Council, have been planted along the Memorial Walk of which 676 are to be dedicated to those soldiers of the Regiment who died on overseas services and who are buried mainly in military cemeteries overseas.

Each tree will have a plaque purchased by the soldiers' relatives and comrades, and the plaque will be embossed with his regimental number, name and the unit with which he was serving at the time of death. Part of the Memorial Walk will also include a contemplation building, designed by a leading Brisbane architect, which will contain an Honour Roll of names and location of each soldier's plaque. The contemplation building will provide a quiet area where visitors can examine the Honour Roll and pause in remembrance of the sacrifices made. It will also provide a focal point for services of remembrance on significant days such as Anzac Day.

Although some funds have been provided by State and Federal Governments, more donations are required so that the $250,000 project will be ready for the Regiment's 50th Anniversary. This takes place in Brisbane on 22 November 1998 with a national reunion of ex-members of the Regiment. On that day, the Governor General of Australia will officially open the Memorial Walk.

A member of the organising committee, Ron Perkins, said that the project has a special significance for the friends and relatives of those who died while serving in the Regiment, as well as providing a fitting expression of gratitude to the more than 70,000 soldiers who have served in the various battalions over the past half century.

The Royal Australian Regiment has a proud history; it was initially formed from three battalions raised to serve as part of the occupational forces in Japan at the end of World War II. Since then, it has served in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam, as well as its soldiers serving with the United Nations peace keeping operations in Lebanon, Sinai, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Western Sahara, Rwanda, Somalia and Cambodia.

After its birth in 1945, the Regiment saw almost continuous combat operations until 1972, during which time its battalions were either training or actually participating in action. At the height of the Vietnam war, the RAR had nine battalions; due to Army re-organisation, there are currently six battalions in Brisbane, Townsville, Sydney and Darwin.

We are appealing to members of the public to assist in funding this worthwhile project. Relatives or friends of soldiers who died overseas in the last 50 years may be interested in nominating a soldier when they donate $45.00 towards one of the gummetal plaques. They will then receive a Certificate of Appreciation with the donor and the soldier's last name listed on it. Any donation, no matter how small, will be gratefully received and a receipt issued.

Donations to the Memorial Walk are tax deductible. To obtain this tax deductibility, cheques or money orders must be payable to The Royal Australian Regiment Foundation (QLD Trust), and forwarded to:

The National Memorial Walk Fund
The Royal Australian Regiment Foundation
PO Box 3112
Canberra ACT 2601

For further information, contact RON PERKINS on (07) 3843 1438.
At the start of World War II, Richard Haynes Utting of Peppermint Grove volunteered for service as a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RANVR). War had started half a world away in a militaristic Europe, a long way from the peaceful suburbs of Perth.

Lieutenant Utting was promptly posted to the Royal Navy in England, which was fighting a losing battle against German U Boats striving to sink merchant ships and thereby close off England's lifelines. After participating in defence of the UK, Lieutenant Utting sailed for Iceland, as Navigating Officer of a British Destroyer, operating to the Russian port of Archangel, far to the north in the Arctic circle.

The Royal Navy was escorting large convoys of Allied Merchant ships carrying vital war supplies to the Russian armies who were desperately holding back the German panzers from the heartland of Russia. The British convoy route was from Iceland to Archangel. The Navy crews had to face bitterly cold arctic weather conditions as well as continuous attacks from German U Boats, torpedo boats and stuka dive-bombers. Heavy casualties were suffered by the Navy crews and the merchant seamen who manned the freight ships. One convoy was completely wiped out by a determined German attack. Despite this setback Churchill ordered that the convoys should continue.

After two years' service on the Russian Front, Lt Utting was transferred to the Ceramic. In mid-Atlantic at 2000 hours on 6 December 1942, three torpedoes struck. The crew took to the lifeboats. As darkness fell a fierce gale engulfed and swamped the lifeboats. The U Boat surfaced. One survivor was dragged on board the U Boat with a boathook. This sole survivor spent the rest of the war in a German POW camp. His report written on his repatriation to England at the war's end is a sad story. It is assumed that the ship's crew perished in the stormy waves of the Atlantic ocean.

Richard Utting, who was 27 years old, left a wife, Beryl, and two very young children, Judith and Jenny, also a father, mother, five brothers and a sister.

This is a sad day for Richard's family. However, they are-pleased that after 47 years the Russian Government has, by the award of this decoration for heroism, recognised the gallant services rendered to Russia and the Allied victory by Lieutenant Richard Utting and the 46 other heroes who are remembered here today.

Sadly, later in the war which had engulfed the whole world, Richard's youngest brother, Able Seaman Peter Septimus Utting, was killed in action on HMAS Australia. In 1944 the flagship of the Royal Australian Navy, Australia, was in the vanguard of the American invasion fleet in Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines. The Japanese air force fiercely attacked the Allied invasion fleet. During the battle, a Kamikaze aircraft struck Australia amidships, crippling the cruiser and inflicting many casualties among the crew. Peter Septimus Utting, who was manning a 4 inch AA gun, was severely wounded and died of his wounds later the same day. He was just 21 years old.

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.

We appreciate your contributions to

The Listening Post

This is your magazine and we want it to fulfill the broad requirements of all our readership. If you have something you believe would be of interest to your fellow RSL members please send it in to:

The Editor, Listening Post
RSL
PO Box Y3023
East St Georges Tce
Perth 6832

Please observe the deadlines and general requirements for copy listed on page 1 of this issue, under the 'Contents' information.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of The Listening Post.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Written by John Utting in sad memory of his brothers, for the award ceremony for Richard's wife, Beryl, of the Russian Commemorative Medal. 47 medals were awarded to Australian veterans by the Russian Ambassador to Australia at Anzac House, Perth on 23 November 1989. John Utting sent this to us with the following information.

Captain James Horatio Utting

The following refers to the article ‘Yachtsmen Schemes’ (in the Summer edition of The Listening Post) and recalls some of those troubled times.

My father, Captain James Horatio Utting, had retired from the sea and was living with his wife, six sons and one daughter at 3 Keane St, Peppermint Grove.

The Freshwater Bay Yacht Club is situated at the end of Keane St. It was initially on the river bank at the foot of Irvine St, with a wooden walkway leading to a small structure with boat pens. In the 1930s it was dismantled when the Yacht Club leased its present premises from the Lands Department. There had been a Red Cross home for disabled ex-servicemen on the Keanes Point reserve.

I was a junior member of the club and sailed a VJ in club races. I acquired the VJ from Bill Wreford, who built it in his backyard from plans acquired through the Vaucluse Yacht Club of Sydney.

Soon after the outbreak of World War II, the Australian Navy took over the Yacht Club and some of the largest motor launches. The largest was the Hiawatha owned by Club Commodore Roland Smith. The club was given the title of HMAS Leeuwin 2 and became a minor naval base. At one stage a Dutch submarine was moored there.

There were many young men wanting to join the Navy under the Yachtsmen Scheme. Captain Utting, as a volunteer instructor, taught navigation and associated subjects to the young civilians through the training course he instituted. The course was of several weeks duration, followed by a written examination. Those successful were enlisted into the Navy as Sub-Lieutenants RANVR and posted to Flinders Naval Depot for initial training.

One of the first to the trainee yachtsmen was my eldest brother, Richard Haynes Utting. He had been a bank clerk with the Union Bank. He was married with two very young children. He enlisted as Sub-Lieutenant on 9 June 1941 and was promoted to Lieutenant on 15 November 1941.

Lt Utting was posted to England to service with the Royal Navy on a number of warships: HMS King Alfred, Pyramus, Lord Middleton, Pembroke, Shrapnel and

Excellent. These ships provided protection to the large British convoys carrying war material to Archangel for the Russian front. After this tour of duty he was posted back to Australia, travelling on the SS Ceramic when it was torpedoed by a U Boat in the Atlantic in 1942. He was presumed lost at sea, as described in the above article.

Captain Utting, although then 60 years old, went into the Naval Auxiliary Patrol. The NAP, part of the Australian Navy, was manned by persons over-age or otherwise unfit for overseas service. They operated a small fleet of small boats out of the Port of Fremantle. Captain Utting was given the rank of Sub-Lieutenant in the RANVR.

A part of the duties of the NAP was to operate small boats on daily anti-submarine patrols in Gage Roads as there was the continuous threat of Japanese submarines operating off the WA coast. One day in 1943, while on home leave from the RAAF, I went on one of these patrols with my father. He was the skipper of a small boat with a crew of four. One of the crew as Cottesloe resident Albert Pope, a retired farmer and Anzac veteran. We spent the day patrolling between Parker Point and Swanbourne Fort, returning to port at sunset. Albert told me that on a previous patrol a rope had fouled the propeller. As none of the crew volunteered to do anything, Captain Utting—who was a good swimmer—dived under the boat and freed the propeller.

Captain Utting, who had served in the British Army in Mesopotamia in World War I, continued in the Navy for a couple of years after the end of the war. He was the skipper of a Navy boat engaged daily in loading ammunition at the Port of Fremantle and then dumping it overboard on the west side of Rottnest Island.

About this time, HMAS Leeuwin 2 reverted to its civilian role as the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.
Australian nurses are joining together to raise $2 million to build a memorial in honour of nurses who have served this country in times of war.

Since the Boer War in South Africa from 1899, Australian nurses have cared for casualties in every conflict to which Australia has sent troops. The first 14 from New South Wales sailed for South Africa in January 1900, with nurses from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia following. About 2,500 nurses served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front in World War 1. 388 of these were decorated, including seven who were awarded Military Medals for bravery under fire; sadly 25 died.

More than 4,000 operated alongside our armed forces in all theatres in World War II. Many died; others suffered terribly as prisoners of war. Hundreds were decorated for service and bravery; two received the George Medal.

Since then our nurses have served Australia in Malaya, Vietnam and the Gulf War and with UN Missions in Somalia, Cambodia and Rwanda. They stand ready today, as they always have, to serve again with care and compassion.

As the 100th anniversary of their first war approaches, everyone agrees that Australia’s nurses who went to war should be honoured. The men they served alongside have been honoured already by memorials on the Avenue of Remembrance, Anzac Parade, in Canberra, our national capital. The Federal Government, on 7 November 1996, approved the concept which was suggested by the Australian Royal College of Nursing. The site was dedicated on 15 February 1997.

Now $2 million is needed to build a fitting memorial to be unveiled in October 1999, the centenary of service nursing in Australia. A competition will be held to produce a winning design.

Your donation (tax deductible) is needed and will help build a suitable memorial. The Federal Government and many state governments, including Western Australia, have made major contributions already. Other agencies, professional associations, private sector firms and service clubs are being approached but more funds need to be raised.

You can help by sending your donation to:
Freepost No. 139
National Nurses’ Memorial Trust
c/o Royal College of Nursing Australia
1 Napier Close
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Any group wishing to hold a fund-raising activity, please telephone Margaret Watson, Chairperson, Western Australian Taskforce for Fund-raising on (08) 9346 4959

The theory of divine intervention came originally from a very religious Headquarters Company NCO who had an accident during a nervous outburst soon after the battle and, consequently, was given early retirement from the Service. He surfaced in the 1950s and pronounced a theory of divine intervention in the jungle which was eventually taken up by religion-based groups, and others who followed his theory of that day on Bougainville.

Over the years since 1945, I have had discussion with former officers who were engaged in the Easter battle. All agreed that the miracle, which ‘occurred’ on 5 April 1945, had more to do with the sitings of the Vickers, the nine Bren guns and the 17 survivors of B Company than to divine intervention. When Napoleon Bonaparte made his astute observation that ‘God is on the side of the strongest formation’ he had no experience with Australian troops. It is said that there are two types of men: those who sit and pray when experiencing a crisis, and those who stand up and do something about it. Lieut. Col. McKinna obviously led a battalion composed of the latter type.

EDITOR
See Letters to The Editor for further comment.
Legacy Badge Day Appeal

Congratulations and sincere thanks to all members and Sub-Branches who supported our recent Badge Appeal. The results from both existing and new members and Sub-Branches are excellent and we trust that our close association continues to grow.

1998 Legacy Raffle

As Legacy commemorates 70 years of service in Western Australia this year, we need your support to help us raise our much needed funds.

Our raffle this year has three major prizes:

1st: $5,000 cash
2nd: Pentium II 233 Deluxe Computer System with Windows 95, Fax Modem and Colour Printer – Valued at $3,600
3rd: Five prizes of one dozen Evans & Tate premium wines – Valued at $200/dozen

Tickets are only $2.00 each and available in books of five. To order your books of five tickets contact Terry Healy at Legacy House on (08) 9367 5799 or send in the form below. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 14 September 1998.

Help keep the Legacy torch burning

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 Dependents and this figure continues to grow.

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
RSL Two-Up Winner

For the tenth consecutive year the RSL has received financial support from Burswood International Resort Casino to assist and provide a wide range of services for war veterans.

World War II and Vietnam war veteran Mr Percy White (a Distinguished Conduct Medal, USA Silver Star medal winner) accepted on behalf of the RSL a Burswood cheque for $8,045.00 being the net winnings from the operation of the Casino’s Two-Up rings on Anzac Day 1998.

Mr White, a 73-year-old veteran, spent 39 years in the Australian Armed forces from 1939 to 1980 and served in Borneo, the Tarakan and Morotai Island campaigns during World War II as well as in Vietnam.

Burswood International Resort Casino Chief Executive Officer, Ed Posey, said Burswood Casino was again delighted to assist the RSL in its welfare work for war veterans.

Gaming floor patrons exhibited the spirit of Anzac Day by enthusiastically supporting the diggers’ traditional game of Two-Up when the rings were opened after midday.

Burswood is delighted to announce that over the past ten years, Anzac Day donations from their Two-Up rings to the RSL have totalled more than $127,000, excluding this year’s donation.

BRUCE BRISLIN
Burswood’s PR Manager

RSL Vehicle Number Plates

RSL Vehicle License Number Plates are now ready for ordering which must be done through Anzac House. If members wish to order plates the procedure is:

- Contact the Office Co-ordinator, Ms Judy Almond, who controls the register of Vehicle License Plate Numbers; she will check to ascertain if the required Plate Number is available.
- A Department of Transport Application Form will be provided to be completed and returned to Anzac House with a remittance of $125 to cover the cost of the number plates.
- A receipt then will be returned to the applicant after which the Vehicle Licensing Centre will inform him/her when the plates are ready for collection.

Secret Map Found

An old map of Darwin, highlighting artillery pieces, naval bases, water depths and marked in Japanese, has been found at the Australian Archives in Villawood. It was found by a researcher in the J-files, a collection of material confiscated from World War II internees in Australia.

The map’s discovery came just before the 55th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Darwin on 19 February, 1942. Australian Archives staff have not been able to locate the map’s author, known only as Mikiyawa. No records of him other than the map appear to exist.

The map was marked ‘confidential’ by Australian intelligence agents, who apparently translated the Japanese text on the map into English. The map is marked North Australian Japanese Society. Australian Archives spokesperson Robert French said: “We wondered why it was in the Sydney files. It could be he was detained here. The map may not have been used for the bombing but he’s identified coastal batteries, naval bases, shallow beaches and depth soundings. It could mean he was identifying a good spot for an invasion”.

The archivists’ search continues. “We don’t know what else is in these files,” Mr French said.

Courtesy: FRANK GREGORY, EDITOR.
THE DARWIN COMMEMORATION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
Come fly with us
The group who recently returned from Thailand could only express themselves with one comment “Amazing Thailand”.

Viva Rino Tours – in conjunction with local travel agent Flightline Travel – are the only West Australian Travel Agent that offer a fully escorted 10 day tour package to the regional areas of Thailand, giving participants an insight into the history, culture and contact with the Thai people.

The itinerary also covers the areas of the Thai-Burma Railway, including an emotional visit to the Allied War Cemeteries, Hellfire Pass, Hintok Camps, and the JEATH War Museum.

We invite you to join the next group departing 26 November 1998. Contact Ryan Rowland at Flightline Travel for further information on (08) 9295 2155.

You are encouraged to come to the Thailand Promotion Dinner on 19 September 1998. Book early!

Viva Rino Thai Triangle

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Remember Then
by Tammy Ellis

There's an old man resting, on a rusted chair. He is frail and unable to move far. He wears baggy worn trousers, that sit on his shoes, And an old flannel shirt in differing hues.

His head is balding and his sight is bad, he is weak and unaware of his surroundings. He still lives in the time of the Second World War, he sees the horror, and his wounds still feel open and raw.

He remembers the weather, that showed the wrath of the gods, Like the sun that burned her image on each mind. Or like the tears that cascaded from the heaven to the ground, that came in the darkness, where life was lost and not found.

He remembers the conditions of pain he endured, As did all his fellow comrades, Like the sleepless nights and the constant fears. And the blood and death and the endless tears.

He looks down at his hands, that are now old and worn, And remembers the time when they were big and strong. And he remembers the time when they fired a gun, And caused other grown men in fear to run.

And he remembers the time when he shot a man, Up so close he could see his expression. And he saw that man die, and he saw that man's pain, and from the wound he made, blood fell like rain.

And he remembers the times that the enemy attacked, And all the lives that were stolen those nights. He remembers that he looked up to the sky, And pleaded with the gods not to let his mates die.

And he remembers the trails of nameless graves, That marked the path that they travelled. And he remembers the men that fought and that died, And the heroes that were never recognised.

And now he stops remembering times gone by, And he thinks about the lives lost in vain. Who will pass on the stories of war to the young once he is gone and memories can't roll off his tongue?

What will happen to the men that sacrificed their lives, To save the freedom of their land Australia? Will the men be forgotten in their unmarked graves, Or will the tradition be kept and their honour saved?

And he thinks to himself, what was achieved? And he thinks to himself, how much blood did they shed? What good was their victory, if all memories are dead?

One day that rusted old chair will be empty. We decide if he dies in vain, if we remember his heroic crusade, can learn from his fight and his pain.

If we continue to hold up his traditions, if we continue to show our thanks, if we continue to acknowledge the past, in our memory he never he'll last.

Then it is up to us to keep him alive, It is up to us to show our respect. Let his honour not be forgotten, Remember then "Lest We Forget".

This poem was composed by Tammy Ellis (Head Girl, Mt Lawley Senior High School) who read it at the POW Memorial Commemoration Ceremony in Kings Park on Friday 13 June 1997.

EDITOR.

At the Going Down of the Sun

I crouched in a shallow trench on that Hell of exploded beaches... steeply rising foothills bare of cover... a landscape pockmarked with War’s inevitable litter... piles of stores... equipment... ammunition... and the weird contortions of death sculptured in Australian flesh... I saw the going down of the sun on that first Anzac Day... the chaotic maelstrom of Australia’s bleeding. I fought in the frozen mud of Somme... in a blazing Destroyer exploding on the North Sea... I fought on the Perimeter of Tobruk... crashed in the flaming wreckage of a fighter in New Guinea... lived with the damned in the place cursed with the name Chadji. I was your Mate... the kid across the street... the Matric student at graduation... the mechanic in the corner garage... the baker who brought your bread... the gardener who cut your lawn... the clerk who sent your phone bill... a Naval Commander... an Air Force Bomb-aider. No man knows me... no name marks my Tomb, for I am every Australian serviceman... I am the Unknown Soldier. I died for a cause I held just in the service of my land.... that you and yours may say in freedom...

I am proud to be Australian.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Note: While looking through some old papers that had belonged to my late father (WX 33035 PG Tanner), I found the programme from the 1966 Cairns, Qld, Anzac Day Commemoration Service and it featured the above presentation/poem as part of the service.

GEOFF TANNER
March Past – March Future
(On the Green at York’s Old Railway Station, but also
Durrington Cemetery, near England’s Salisbury Plain.)

My Dear
Another Anzac Day,
Another poem of how I saw you last year
Deep in memorabilia early morn,
Whole absorbed,
Plaiting, wiring, shaping
Red-bloomed Bougainvilia;
Time-long Wreathing it devotedly,
Recollection intermingling with other flowers,—
And all for one
Whom you can only with difficulty
Recall,
Your father,
Some eighty years long dead,
And gone, and humed,
And epitaphed,
As you have seen, year past,
At Durrington nigh Salisbury Plain;
For he, from there to Heaven, went home
Never to return your way ever,
Except in memory,
Again.

And, love you laid in York
I saw, those same wreathed, tender flowers
This Memorialsed lovely morning,—
Then retraced to grace your chair,
Hymned, and — punning! — ‘Himmed’
(Say, dare I)
By ‘Lest we forget’
Those orphaned years have dwindled away,
And thanks only to you, I fancy,
Love,
Your Sire is remembered yet.

Why, now, who come?
Self-sacrificing ‘Salvos’ a trumpeting,
The Big Drum by a woman (what else!) borne,
This Anzac morn,
To honour the remembered Dead, still in ‘The Last
Post’,
But in a sense re-living when,
As in Rousing and Right rally
They resurrect to Reveille.

Sing out now ‘O God our help’,
Last year same as,
As Next will sing again,
Enduring as your left Everlastings that have lain
Another year by Salisbury Plain,
And will be there a new twelve-month,

And on,
And on,
By the dear, dead Sire’s headstone, still,
To keep fresh in mind your love,
My Dear
Who laid them there, the same, all way from home
To bide in thought forever.
A silent Epitaph
At Durrington

“NAT” (CC) GOULD 1998

Poet’s Corner continued next page

Hi from Reg and Julie
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Anzac Day – What it Means to me
Anzac Day is a broken heart
A story of countries torn apart
The men going off with fears in their heart, so strong
Who would have thought anything could go wrong?
It means more to me, much more, than days off and one minute silence,
Wrapping feelings up as a defence,
Let us tell of lost loves
And set them free like white doves,
So let it be known of what to do,
To your country, Always be true.
ELIZABETH JONES

What Anzac Means to Me
Anzac is a broken Heart,
Two happy people torn apart
The young, the old,
The weak, the bold
All went off to war we’re told
They fought all through the night,
They fought in dark, they fought in light.
This may have caused a lot of deaths,
But in the end it was for the best!
They gave us what we have today,
And now we thank them in every way!
MADISON S BAITZ

Come along and join the Anzacs
Let’s not forget the Anzacs,
Show them that we still care.
When they have their dawn service,
Show up, please be there.
Go visit them in hospitals,
And the Old Folks Homes too.
To show them that we appreciate,
What they did for me and you.
Surely it’s not too much to ask,
An hour of your time.
It may have been your great Grandfather,
Or fathers of yours and mine.
The young may not understand,
The horror and hardship they went through,
To make this our wonderful country,
Safe for me and you.
So please don’t forget the Anzacs,
It’s not too much to ask.
They knew that they could lose their lives,
And it was not an easy task.
GLORIA MARTIN

Lybian Campaign
In a camp of rest where all is peace
Where Guards and duties all must cease
A unit lay in quiet repose
Till the Trumpeter his trumpet blows
At once the men awoke from rest
And ready armed and at their best
For through the camp the word has passed
That action would be seen at last
Well equipped the lorries stand
A wave then from the close at hand
Has sent the convoy on the road
Dragging guns, a heavy load
The purr of engines in the night
Will not cease until the light
Of Day has come, then on again
Through blinding sand and pouring rain
A halt is called and drinks prepared
Not too much water can be spared
For in the morning our guns will speak
And water is needed for the breach
Fully pressed we kept our seat
The night was cool from the day of heat
And slow the hours began to pass
Who knew if these hours will be our last
From where we sat gunfire was heard
The experience was our first
Our lips felt dry as if from thirst
At two am the guns in line
Began to move for now the time
Had come to take our place
To find at dawn when night expired
At six o’clock, the zero hour
The time had come to show our power
And all the guns ranging from left to right
The lanyards pulled, it showed our might
In the flash and roar of thundering guns
That gave our fathers their fighting sons
A four hour barrage giving hell
To Italian gunners as well
No chance was given to reply
Their guns as targets they had to die
The guns had ceased their roaring sound
A deathly still lay all around
The Gun red hot and trailing smoke
Left sweat grimed gunners cracking jokes
The tenseness of the alien had passed
This battle wouldn’t be our last
They realised this but had no care
The hell of war was now laid bare
Another day of rest was due
Then on again we had to move
And battle after battle was fought
While nearer the peace we sought
A vanquished foe was put to flight
The empire showed her how to fight
Should occasion arise again
The ending still would be the same
The motherland knew how to breed
The men and women she would need
Secure in Justice and Peace and right
She will defend with all her might.

Faith in justice and in right once more would be fulfilled
And sweet content would be our lot as our Creator willed.
The maker of this universe had nobler things in view
When he gave the sun, the moon and stars to me and you;
The woods and stream, the mountains high, the sea with golden shore
Were never meant to be the cause of senseless, useless war.
Oh would we have the will, the power to stay with nature’s plan
And build a world of peace to serve the brotherhood of man?
No race to snatch at power by the sacrifice of youth
But, rather true contentment built on faith and trust and truth.
Oh, men and women of this earth, whatever be your creed,
Consider well your every thought, examine every deed,
So that your children’s children, and theirs, till time will cease
Will live in perfect happiness, in unity and peace.

The Human Touch
In this world of progress in which we live today
We find what intellect can do to lifeless earth and clay.
We see how man can utilise from nature’s mystic store,
The forces lying dormant and never used before.
But, when inventions multiply and science does so much
We rather tend to minimise the vital “human touch”.
We attained the age of iron, machinery... and force.
Until machinery can do what once was done by horse.
By harnessing ingredients we’ve found upon this sphere
We’ve re-assigned the jobs men did before machines were here
And in our workmanship today, in music, art and such,
We’ve seen how use of man-made tools can kill the “human touch”.

We had our lesson in the war, of where it all could lead
When scientist and chemist worked to meet the nation’s need.
The slaughter of a million men – by gas, by steel, by gun
Taught the awe-struck sons of earth what mind and brain had done.
Yet, midst the swelter and the blood, with faltering hands
we’d clutch
That clear white, shining radiance - the heroic “human touch”.
There’s surely something very wrong when Christian men employ
Their knowledge, brains and power merely to destroy.
One day these great inventions that benefit so few
May claim a strange injustice by harming me and you.
Should that day come, be assured, we couldn’t hope for much
For we gave up our birthright when we lost that “human touch”.

GEORGE ROBINSON

George Robinson, an 88 year old resident of the Salvation Army Hostel, contributed the following poems

Confidence
Confidence is what we need throughout the world today,
Confidence in what we do and in the things we say.
Confidence so great and sure that nations trust each other
Until the races of mankind can treat each as a brother.
There is enough of everything upon this good old earth
To meet the need of everyone no matter what they’re worth.
Enough of every living thing by nature is provided.
If we could only see that it was equally divided.

No need for any living thing to hunger or to thirst,
No need to quarrel who should be the last or be the first.
Help for all the weaker ones if given by the strong
Would add a greater zest for life and help this world along.
Separate Veterans' Review Board Retained

The Federal Opposition has welcomed the Government's announcement that it will maintain the Veterans' Review Board as a separate tribunal in its current form. Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Laurie Ferguson MP says the decision is a victory for ex-service organisations and the Opposition, who had campaigned against the Coalition's proposal to merge the VRB into its new Administrative Review Tribunal.

"This original proposal threatened veterans' access to a knowledgeable and expert repatriation appeals' body that includes service members," Mr Ferguson said. "As I pointed out in Parliament on 2 September 1997, veterans have had access to independent review boards since 1929. The War Pensions Entitlement Tribunal and the War Pensions Assessment Tribunal, set up in that year, were in fact Australia's first-ever independent merit review boards."

"The Coalition’s plan generated considerable anxiety in the ex-service community. It is gratifying that they have finally seen the light and have agreed to retain for veterans the specialised system of merit review put in place for them by Labor."

For further information:
LAURIE FERGUSON MP
Ph: (02) 9637 4714

Veterans Rate with the Howard Government

Your members are no doubt aware that the Hon. Bruce Scott, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, has instigated a review into issues of concern to the Veteran community. Included in this review is the issue of Gold Cards to those currently not eligible under the Act, put in place by the former Labor Government.

However the Minister’s concerns do not end there, and I would like to highlight three examples in which additional assistance and recognition have been forthcoming in the last few months in which I have been personally involved:

1. Following a conversation I had with Mr Len Phenna of Yokine about the apparent lack of care of some Australian War Graves in Malaysia, I requested the Minister raise this issue with the British Ministry of Defence who, by agreement, look after our interests in that region. I am pleased to report to members that the Minister has taken prompt steps to redress the lack of maintenance in West Malaysia. Under that contract, the Australian Government, through OAWG, will meet half the annual costs associated with maintaining the whole of the Kamunting Road Christian Cemetery.

2. Following the Australia Remembers campaign there were some not-yet-completed projects honouring the ADF who defended this country’s freedom during World War II. One such project was the Australia Remembers Gazebo built by the Karrinyup Rotary Club. I wrote to the Minister for additional funds to provide a wood-carved AIF Rising Sun to be placed on the gazebo. Again I am pleased to report that the Minister has provided the funds and I presented this cheque to Karrinyup Rotary on behalf of the Minister and the Howard Government.

3. The Minister received a request for additional funds for the Royal Australian Air Force Association to put suitable plaques on three of their WA centres: Bull Creek, Merriwa and Mandurah. Again I am pleased to advise members that the Minister has made funds available for these projects.

I trust that this report demonstrates to members the strong commitment the Howard Government has to the concerns and special needs of the Veterans.

EOIN CAMERON
Federal Member for Stirling.
I hear it said that we are about to enter upon a national debate, the question posed being whether we should cease to be a monarch and become a republic.

That is an apparently simple question, so much so that there are some politicians who would say to hell with the debate, let's put the question to a vote of all the people by referendum. It is a question which is neither simple nor singular. One source of difficulty is that there are currently seven monarch's representatives in Australia, each resting on its own legal foundation. I have no time to discuss the difficulties created by that. It may be that there is no legal way of achieving the change. The oath of allegiance. Who will move the first reading of the bill for an act to abolish the monarchy? Section 28 of the Commonwealth Constitution.

I will return to the legalities if we have time but there are two general observations which I would like to make because I think them to be of fundamental importance.

The first general observation which I would make is that people living in free democratic societies all over the world, aided by their free enterprise profit-driven media, are not very good at conducting a public debate on any issue of importance. Their track record is not good. There are probably many reasons for that. In many cases the media fails to tell the citizen the basic relevant objective facts because to do that does not increase circulation nor improve ratings. In some cases the citizen has not the educational equipment to understand the idea involved in the question. Such people either have no interest in the debate and make no contribution to it or they enter upon the debate with an enthusiasm often displayed by people who know not that they know not - the bulls in a china shop.

The minds of others have been switched off by cynicism and the minds of others have become crowded out by contrived distractions. In the result, when a referendum is contemplated, you have a void or wasteland which the true believers jostle to control. And in the jostling, you will find the people to whom I have referred and with them the card-holder who has made up his mind a long time ago. He is not interested in debating. To him it is tiresome talk. And we will see the politician who can see that the question is dividing his supports. He will run around the issue making as much noise as possible in the hope that the issue will go away. He is a member of the Highly Derogatory Order of the Disappearing Elephant.

The elephant on the table at Reno. But the monarchy-republic argument will not go away and sooner or later the Australian people must find an answer to it.

This leads one to say that, if the debate on the question is to be of any use, we must ensure that the message reaches - and is understood in - the waste land. We must each assume a personal commitment to elevate the standard of debate. Republicans as well as monarchists are well intentioned. And we must recognise that if we allow the debate to generate heat and distrust and if we fail to come up with a solution which will operate to serve our democracy and which is acceptable to the ordinary man and woman of goodwill, we have sown the seeds of discord which will be a monkey on the back of Australia for years to come. It is an important question and an important debate in which it is more important to listen to the other fellow has to say, maybe more important than talking.

That is why I think that you good people are important, critically important. You will, I hope, bring a discipline to the debate and by doing that impress upon people that their future is being committed to their judgement and that debate demands that everyone does his or her best to understand it and, by listening as well as talking, to make his or her honest and informed contribution to it.

The second observation which I would like to make is to say that the answers are easy but the formulation of the question to be answered is often very difficult. It was my experience in the law that is you could formulate the true question thrown up by the facts then you had every chance with that right answer. But if, on the other hand, you got the question wrong then the answer, however learned it might appear to be, was necessarily wrong.

The observation is very relevant to the impending debate.
The debate as billed assumes the question to be a choice between a monarchy and a republic and hence assumes that we are presently under a system of government which is under a monarchy. It then asks whether we should abandon that system and throw it overboard and in lieu adopt a system of government which is presidential. In political terms this is a nonsense question. We do not live under a system of Government which can be said to be a monarchy.

A monarchy, as the name tells you, is a rule by one. It is the kind of rule which James I had in mind where the source of power is within the office of the King sustained by the divine right of kings. Anyone who thinks of our system of government in that sense must think that English political history stopped running and was closed off at some date between the year 1602 and 1688 and he fails to grasp the fundamental truth which is that we live under a system of government which I would call a Parliamentary Democracy or, as you would call it, a Constitutional Monarchy – within which the monarch is a necessary institution but with all the power of state, including the power of the Monarch invested in the Parliament.

The monarch is not there by divine right. It is a constitutional monarchy. It is but one of the three arms of government.

The movement from a monarch in the James mode – the divine right of kings – to a Parliamentary democracy is a monument to the genius of the English people. The system of Parliamentary democracy is both a political and a cultural thing. It has at its base Christianity and is sustained by a number of inherited ideas – the most important being individual liberty, the rule of law, human rights and cultural freedom.

Those ideas and the institutions which have been created to give effect to them – the Parliament, the Crown and the courts – combine to create our system of Parliamentary democracy and within that system, in case of conflict, the power of the Parliament which is the power of the people when lawfully exercised must be supreme.

And that exposes the $64 question. What purpose does the Head of State – be it a monarch or a president – serve within the system? The answer to that question is single and simple. The Head of State alone or with help from the legal arm of the government exists to preserve and defend the authority of Parliament by preventing it from being "taken over" by an illegal usurpation of political power by the executive or anyone else. It is there to ensure that the power of the people be preserved and that it is lawfully exercised.

If that is so, it determines the answer to the question which I take to be central to the debate, being: Should the Head of State be elected and if so by whom, or be appointed and if so by whom?

I see that question as central to the debate because the only answer to it, which can live with our system of Parliamentary democracy, must be that he should be appointed by the government of the day – in the same way that the other arm of the government – the judges – are appointed. The opinion polls tell us that is not the received view and in my opinion any form of election which gives "the people" the right to choose directly will create a power base for the Head of State which lies outside the Parliament. Sooner or later this will bring it into conflict with the Parliament and the Prime Minister or Premier as the case might be. It will create instability and may destroy our Parliamentary democracy. It could turn the system on its head by permitting the guardian to the constitution to take over what he was supposed to protect – not be the first time a person has been bitten by his watchdog. As it seems to me, when this is understood, and it must be, it is the end of the argument.

So, if the proposition were to be that we move to a Republic within which the President is appointed by the government of the day, I could do business with that idea and would be pleased to discuss it. But otherwise no. Our system of Parliamentary democracy cannot live with a President who has a power base which lies outside the Parliament as would be the case if the office of the President were to be politised and at the same time given a source of authority – votes – which could be seen as superior in political clout to the authority of the Parliament. And our system of Parliamentary democracy is to me an absolute not to be subject to that risk.

After all, we have been there before. The English Parliament could not function while Oliver Cromwell whose political authority lay outside the Parliament, was the Protector. That lesson should not be forgotten. The history of Oliver Cromwell could be dwelt upon for a moment. As the curtain goes up on Oliver Cromwell we find him to be a man of property, a puritan and a member of the House of Commons – and a champion of the House of Commons against the authority of the Crown. And as that conflict is fought out in the Civil War, Cromwell establishes himself as the invincible general who defeats the King and subsequently presides over his execution. So Cromwell becomes the de facto and later, in the office of the Lord Protector, the Legal Head of State. But the essential lesson was that the authority of the Executive Government must rest with and be dependent upon the Government of the day to muster the numbers in Parliament. Cromwell never saw his
authority to be sustained by Parliament. As he saw it, he was sustained in his office by a power base, it being the New Model Army and his Major Generals. And so the wheel has turned the full circle because Cromwell now finds himself in exactly the same position as Charles I. And in that way the Parliament was bitten by its watchdog.

Cromwell could not get on with his Parliaments and he could not get the money to run the country without them. He became Lord Protector at the age of 54 and died in that office six years later without that problem being resolved. The problem could not be resolved because Cromwell’s power base lay in a direct line to God and in the New Model Army and with his Major Generals and hence outside Parliament – as with Charles I, but with a different god. In short – and this is the bottom line – our system of Parliamentary democracy demands that all, repeat ALL, of the legislative authority of the State be vested in the Parliament and the system cannot work if you have a Head of State who draws an overriding from some other source.

I cannot finish without telling you this: Cromwell was interred in the Abbey at the east end of Henry VII chapel with much pomp and ceremony but after the restoration in 1660 his embalmed body was exhumed and, together with the exhumed body of John Bradshaw, who had presided over the trial of Charles I, and with the body of Cromwell’s son-in-law Henry Ireton, dragged, at dawn, through the streets of London from Holburn to Tyburn. Here they were hung up for public inspection until 4 o’clock in the afternoon. They were then cut down and each corpse was beheaded and Cromwell’s skull was taken to Westminster. It was then blown from the pole in a gale. The sentry took it and sold it and, after a fairly well documented history, found its way to Cromwell’s old college and was subsequently buried at an unmarked site near to the College Chapel – unmarked to prevent anyone from digging it up. We surely do not want to go through that again. Whatever the outcome of the debate, we should use the opportunity provided by it to consider the powers which should be conferred upon the Head of State so that those powers can be seen in the black letter law sustained by the authority of the Parliament, so putting to rest the ongoing debate sustained more by faith than by reason as the existence and content of the “reserved powers”.

And we should consider whether the Head of State should be appointed for a fixed term not to be extended with judicial security of tenure. Those and other questions will no doubt be debated when time allows.

(Reproduced with the kind permission of Sir Francis Burt KCMG AC LLB Hon. LL.D.)

Previous articles on this issue have caused much comment; see Letters to the Editor.
Alan George Goyder was the only member of the 10th Light Horse to be taken prisoner by the Turks in the Middle East in World War I.

Born in Hillgrove, NSW, in 1896, Alan came to WA in 1904 with his parents, his elder brother (my father, Evan Woodroffe Goyder) and his sister. With his brother, he attended Scotch College in Swanbourne from 1906 to 1912. He joined his family on the farm at Corrigin, where his father had taken up land in partnership with his brother-in-law, as well as working as a government surveyor on contract.

He and his brother joined the 10th Light Horse in 1916. On 19 October 1916, with regimental number 3180 he was posted as a trooper to the 3rd Brigade, Australian Light Horse. The brothers arrived in Suez on 11 March 1917, from where they marched into ‘Details Camp’, which had been established at the foot of the pyramids.

On 30 April 1918, during a battle against German-led forces to capture the hillside village of Es Salt (in what was then Palestine) Alan Goyder was reported to have suffered a gunshot wound while in contact with the enemy and was evacuated to the former Turkish hospital in the captured town. On the night of 3 May, in the face of a determined Turkish counter-attack, the Australian Medical Officer considered Goyder’s condition too serious to allow his removal with the retiring regiment. Accordingly, he was left behind in the hospital and, with the recapture of Es Salt by the Turkish Army, he became a prisoner of war. His AIF statement of service cites a cable from AIF HQ in London: “Previously reported ‘wounded and missing’ now reported ‘died of wounds’ whilst Prisoner of War Turkey on 11.5.1918.”

The Statement of Service further cites a letter from the 3rd Echelon, Egypt, dated 13 May 1919, which says: “...Damascus ...Abandoned at Es Salt was reported died Prisoner of War in Turkish hands. Surgical Hospital Damascus from wounds received in action (GSW Abdomen). In fact, his condition was so serious that on the night of 3 May the unit Medical Officer’s prognosis was grim...’condition moribund...could not live out the night’.” (But he did live out the night and another 8 days.)

It is not made clear in the official records, but I understand that the hospital in which my uncle died, although in Turkish hands, was administered by British staff who obviously remained on duty when it was captured. I have a letter written to my grandmother (Alan’s mother) which reads as follows:

Surgical Hospital, Damascus.
May 12th 1918.

I am very sorry to inform you that your son died quite suddenly yesterday evening. He was quite cheerful up to the end and suffered no pain. He had already written the postcard which I now enclose. All his friends here send you their deepest sympathy in your loss.

Yours Faithfully,
Geoffrey Dobbs, Corporal”

As a further matter of interest, I also have in my possession a telegram written on Egyptian State Telegraph to my father, from his father, which reads:

“3181 Goyder, Eozone Stralis Rest Camp, P(ort) Said. Alan died on eleventh May officially informed. Father.”

Several years ago, I visited the Middle East and made inquiries through the War Graves Commission as to the exact whereabouts of my uncle’s grave. I thought it would be a good idea to visit it. He is buried in Plot D, Grave No 46, Damascus British War Cemetery. I contacted the company organising our tour about this matter, but its representatives were unwilling to guarantee my safety outside the boundaries of Israel. Conditions were rather tense at the time. (Actually, whilst visiting the Dead Sea we saw a flight of Israeli planes fly up the centre of the Dead Sea, heard the bombs falling on Lebanon and saw them fly back.)

For those who take an interest in military history, the following is a more detailed description of the battle in which my uncle was wounded, taken from the official records:

“Chauvel was ordered to capture Shunet Nimrin and the key town of Es Salt. 16 kilometres to the north-east. This meant that Chauvel would be attacking 8500 Turks. Chauvel planned to attack Shunet Nimrin...while the Australian Mounted Infantry pushed 24 kilometres up the east bank of the Jordan, then swung around the ranges to capture Es Salt and cut off the Turks at Shunet Nimrin...the Australian Mounted Division rode from the coast, through the outskirts of Jerusalem, taking three hours to pass two abreast along the ancient, narrow street.

On the night of April 29th, the huge mounted force clattered over the pontoon bridge across the Jordan, then rode through the British perimeter...waiting, drawn up in fours. to march to Shunet Nimrin.

Before dawn, Grant’s 4th Brigade, as vanguard, struck north through the thick scrub. A trooper recalled: ‘...we soon heard miles away to our right, a splutter of rifle fire, and then a wild outburst of bombing and shafts of the sound of machine guns. The Londoners had again gone home with bomb and bayonet’.

The 4th Brigade moved to a trot in the open ground; then, as dawn streamed across the peaks of the Moab, Turkish artillery opened fire. The Brigade spurred to a gallop.
and scattered across the rocky plains, following the 3rd Brigade. The two Brigades engulfed the broken Turkish front line like a tidal wave, whilst artillery fired at random, confused by the thousands of hurling targets.

About 7am the next day Brigadier General Lachlan Wilson and the 3rd Brigade began the 1200 metre climb up the (Es Salt) road...About a kilometre from Es Salt, the scouts came under fire from a 300 metre redoubt which barred the approach to the town.

After a brief rest, the 10th Regiment prepared to attack the Turkish position. A dismounted bayonet attack was launched from a ridge opposite the redoubt, two lines of men charging down the slope and across a gully, while a third line gave covering fire before following. Some of the defenders broke and ran; others met the charge briefly then, while the mop-up was in progress, the 8th Light Horse started forward at the trot. They quickly spread out, engulfing small Turkish posts, and a troop...galloped straight into town down the slippery, narrow, stone paved streets.

After a brief and scattered fight the Turkish troops surrendered...A German officer said that the Lighthorsemen ‘had galloped where none else would have ridden at all’, and the fall of the town was announced by a remarkable wireless message by the Turks. ‘Es Salt has been captured by the reckless and dashing gallantry of the Australian cavalry.”

It was not yet dusk on May 1st and the operation seemed a stunning success...but to the south west...they knew from reconnaissances that Turkish forces were converging on the Damieh bridge, preparing to cross the Jordan (to attack up the Es Salt road). The expected counter attack came on the next morning (2nd May)...But nothing could have prepared the Lighthorsemen for what happened...Men fell back to their horses for a scattered retreat to the foothills.

In the quaint hill town climbing to steep slopes at the head of its valley, a grim siege was developing. The 1st and 2nd Brigades had joined the 3rd. The Turks were counter attacking from Amman, and a large force was advancing up the Damieh track...the third day of action saw serious fighting above and below. On a little natural fortress called Table Top...men of the 4th Light Horse beat back Turkish attacks until ammunition and grenades were exhausted, then bombarded the enemy with rocks before retreating.

That evening (3r May) a disciplined withdrawal began from Es Salt, walking wounded and Christian refugees stumbling down the appalling little track...The Light Horsemens brought more than 600 Turkish prisoners with them, leaving only two seriously wounded men in the Turkish Hospital. (One of them was my uncle, Alan George Goyder. I understand that military historians have tried to find out who the other was, but apparently without success.) IAN W. GOYDER (Nephew)

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**Reunions**

**Reserve Forces Week**

A celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the CMF

Australia’s defence has always relied of having a strong reserve force for defence of the nation. Over the years since Federation the name may have changed – Militia, Citizens’ Military Force (CMF) or Reserves – but the concept has not.

Before World War II, the Militia numbers reached 80,000. Many of its members went on to form the basis of the 2nd AIF which eventually disbanded on 30 June 1947. The CMF was formed on 1 July 1948 with many of its original members being officers, NCOs and soldiers from the 2nd AIF. Reserve members have served in all conflicts and in United Nations Forces since then – the latest being Rwanda.

July 1 1998 will see the 50th anniversary of the raising of the CMF. To celebrate this, a number of

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Wally Dennison, Member of Nollamara/North Perth RSL
activities are planned:

**Sunday, 28 June 1998**

Dedication of a Memorial Plaque to the memory of those who served in 25 Squadron over the past 60 years at the Air Force Memorial Estate, Bullcreek Drive, Bullcreek.

**Wednesday, 1 July 1998**

A Service at St George’s Cathedral to commemorate the creation of the CMF on 1 July 1948 at 12.30.

**Saturday, 4 July 1998**

A Military Parade comprising present serving members, past members and cadets of the three services (the Past, Present and the Future of the Defence Force).

Plans are being finalised, but indications are that the Parade will assemble on the Esplanade at 9.30am and march up Barrack Street to Murray Street, left into William Street and back to the Esplanade where the Governor, Major General Michael Jeffrey, will take the salute and briefly address the participants.

To confirm details, watch the paper or call DVA on (08) 9366 8462 or (08) 9366 8465.

There will also be some publicity through the DVA radio sessions on 6PR, 6NR and 101FM.

**REUNIONS CONTINUED...**

**RAAF**

**Ex-Staff & Trainees**

**Ballarat 1945 - 1961**

**Laverton 1961 - 1973**

A reunion of Ex-Staff and Trainees of Ballarat and Laverton post-war Radio Schools will be held in March 1999. Preferred dates for the week long reunions are 22 – 28 March at Ballarat. The week’s activities will include social get-togethers, sports, official functions, bus day-trip and/or wine tasting.

Those interested in attending or wishing to receive further information should contact:

Brian Hook, 5/6 Abbott Cres, Malak NT 0812, or
Bob Wood, 15 Bishop Cl, Armadale WA 6112

BOB WOOD
Ph: (08) 9497 2403

**86 Transport Platoon**

Around Anzac Day 1999 a reunion is being organised for the men who served in 86 Transport Platoon in South Vietnam from 1968 to 1972. This reunion will be held in Adelaide and is being organised by a small committee comprising Bill Moyle, Bill Denny, Bill Hignett, Rod Langman and Barry Field.

We are attempting to contact as many people as possible to develop a data base to send a newsletter on the reunion to everyone who was in the unit in Vietnam. So, if you were in 86 or know the address of someone who was, would you please contact:

BILL HIGNETT
18 Wattlebury Road
Lower Mitcham SA 5062
Ph: (08) 8276 2579

**National Ex-Services Association and NESA News**

The first National Reunion and Congress of former Servicemen and Women will be held in Blackpool from 5 – 9 June 1998.

Matters to be discussed will be: the petition for a service representative within Government Constituency; outstanding claims for compensation ranging from the Far East Prisoners of War, Nuclear Test Victims and other individual claims, including the contradiction by Local Councils when assessing War Pensions against claims for subsistence allowance, plus the subject of servicemen who served terms of imprisonment for doing what was seen to be their duty.

CHRISTOPHER BRIGGS
Ph: (08) 9364 2973

**Combined Ex-Service & Servicewomen’s Committee (WA)**

All Ex-Service and Servicewomen are invited to the annual luncheon in Gallipoli Room, Anzac House at 12 noon for sit-down at 12:30 pm on Friday, 7 August 1998. Cost is $20.00, which includes pre-lunch drinks and hors d'oeuvres, main meal, dessert, tea and coffee and drinks at the table.

Please contact your Association representative/Secretary for tickets:

CECILE HINTON
Secretary
Combined Ex-Service & Servicewomen’s Committee (WA)
Ph: (08) 9387 2237
Women who served in the forces during World War II have been honoured at Hollywood Private Hospital.

A memorial to ex-service women has been erected in the grounds of Hollywood Private Hospital and was unveiled in early April by Mrs Marlena Jeffery, wife of His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery, the Governor of WA.

The memorial was an initiative of the Combined Ex-Service and Servicewomen’s Committee of WA. Hollywood was chosen as the site because of its early history as a military hospital, built during World War II.

Special guests at the function included Miss Sylvia Perry (now in her 90s) who was Deputy Assistant Controller for Western Command during the war.

Miss Perry was posted to 110 Australian General Hospital Hollywood (as it was known then) in 1941 with a contingent of Voluntary Aides who were enlisted to work in wards and departments throughout the hospital. In mid 1942, Miss Perry was transferred to the headquarters of the Deputy Director of Medical Services, Western Command. After the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service came into operation, Miss Perry was posted as Deputy Assistant Controller, Western Command, and was later posted to Darwin.

Following the war, Miss Perry worked at Hollywood as staff supervisor of hospital assistants until her retirement.

The Combined Ex-Service Women’s Committee (WA) decided to place the memorial in the grounds of Hollywood Private Hospital where many women served during the War. World War II was unique in being the first time that individual women’s service groups were recognised.

Most women in one of these services had some connection with Hollywood, which was known as the 110 Australian General Hospital, or 110 Army General Hospital or 110 Perth Military Hospital and was officially opened in 1942.

Hollywood nurses return to the River Kwai

Two Hollywood Private Hospital nurses have recently returned from a second pilgrimage to the River Kwai with ex-prisoners of war who worked on the “death railway” in World War II.

The nurses, Patricia Gurney and Sandra Howell, were selected by the hospital last year to make the tour to Thailand and found it both moving and awe-inspiring.

The World War II veterans were so impressed with the two nurses, they invited them to go again this year.

“It was a privilege to meet such heroes. What they’ve been through is extraordinary,” Patricia Gurney said.

Patricia and Sandra spent seven days on the “Quiet Lion Tour”, including Anzac Day, this year with ex-POWs who worked on the railway and some of their family members and members of the Dunlop Hundred, young people between the ages of 14 and 24.

Patricia and Sandra also laid a wreath on behalf of the hospital at Hellfire Pass on Anzac Day.
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Women's Auxiliary

State President's Report

Arrangements are well in hand for the 71st Conference, which will be held in four weeks' time. Decisions will be made there which will affect us all and it is a time when we can renew friendships.

As the sun rose on our Anzac Dawn Service the sky turned red and the background of city lights made this a memorable sight. I hadn't attended a Dawn Service since I was a child and was surprised to see so many young children attending. Our ex-service people will never be forgotten whilst so many young families attend this service.

During the past year I have received function invitations from many Auxiliaries. Sub-Branches and also Kindred Organisations. I thank you all and enjoy making these visits. Congratulations to all Auxiliaries who received Life Membership Certificates, Gold Badges and Certificates of Service. Good luck to you all. Keep up the good work.

To all those who are not in good health just now, get well soon and God Bless.

MARGARET FISHER

KEEP THE FLAG

Listening Post – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 32
was left on a chair in the corner of the servery and was still there when I left the camps a few months later.

I came to Australia in June 1959. In 1981 I was living in Carlisle where I met an ex-Australian WAAF who told me that six of that Squadron came back. She was going to find out who they were. I can't remember her name, and, having moved away shortly after, I lost touch. More than half a century has passed and the years between have been swallowed up.

I was never personally involved with any of these lads but am interested to know if Tony made it back to collect that guitar?

Maybe someone who served with me at Walthan during 1943-44 knows about those lads who came back. If so, I hope they will get in touch.

(MRS) A.P. FARRAR
Ph: 9277 5727

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**Pte W. Rutherford**

Among my grandfather's World War I medals is one which did not belong to him. As both he and my father are deceased, I am unable to discover why he had this in his possession — although it has been in our family for years.

The inscription on the medal's edge reads "Pte. W. Rutherford. 2Bn A.I.F.". My grandfather had the same service medal but the two men were not in the same battalion; maybe they were friends.

I would very much like for the medal to go to the family of its rightful owner and hope that someone can assist me to arrange this.

RON PEACH
4 Marshall Street
Quindalup 6281
Ph: 9755 3255

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**Regimental Police Section**

I am hoping to locate a group of my fellow service-men of some 30 years ago with a view to organising a reunion.

I was a member of the Australian Regular Army from July 1960 – July 1966; in July 1963 I was a member of 12 Platoon 3RAR when we embarked on a two year tour of duty to Malaya/Borneo. Shortly after our arrival at Terendak Barracks, where we formed part of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, I was selected to fill a vacancy in the Regimental Police Section.

Our Battalion CO was Lt-Col Bruce MacDonald, the RSM was WOI Arthur Stanley and our RP Sergeant was Ron Sigg who was promoted to WOII and transferred to the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam. The RP Sergeant's position was then taken over by Sgt Vince Vella, later killed on operations in Borneo in 1965.

The following Diggers, also members of the RP Section, are those I am trying to locate: Corporals John King (nickname Ringie), Ron Johnson (nickname Johno), Bob Walker and Ron Hare (nickname Bunny).

On return to Australia in July/August 1965 our Battalion was disestablished – half going to South Australia to form a new Battalion and the other half going to Puckapunyal to form 7Bn. John King, Bob Walker and I went to Puckapunyal, but I am not sure about the other two men.

It is now 31 years since I had contact with these men but am hoping that someone may be able to help me trace them.

PETER SALTER
62 Tijuana Rd
Armadale 6112
Ph: (08) 9399 2860

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Honour Avenue Committee Report

On 16 April, a memorial plaque dedicated to the late AM (Max) Brice OAM, ISM, was unveiled by Mrs Patricia Brice at a ceremony in Kings Park. In attendance were members of the Honour Avenue Committee, representatives of Kings Park management and staff, family, friends and other invited guests. After an opening address by Committee Chairman, Bish Kwiecinski, Highgate Sub-Branch President, Tom Horton, and Director of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens Dr Steve Hopper gave speeches honouring Max's achievements.

The plaque is mounted on a park bench overlooking Perth and the Swan River and is worded:

In Honour of
A.M. (Max) Price OAM ISM
(1917 – 1997)
Secretary of Highgate RSL Honour Avenue Committee
(1947 – 1997)
His selfless dedication inspired a small working Committee of Veterans to maintain plaques in these avenues
To honour those who sacrificed all. A great bloke.
‘Lest We Forget’
Dedicated by his Highgate RSL Mates and Kings Park Board

The plaque and morning tea were provided by the Kings Park Board, with whom RSL Honour Avenue Committees have had the pleasure of working for almost 80 years.

Note: Apologies to Warrant Officer Graeme Smith of the 11/28th Battalion RWAR who, due to a misprint in the last edition, lost his surname. Warrant Officer Smith and other members of his unit placed poppies on memorial plaques prior to Remembrance Day.

CHRIS BROOKS
Hit My Smoke
Targeting The Enemy in Vietnam
by Chris Coulthard-Clark

This book tells the story of 36 Australian RAAF pilots who fought in Vietnam during the period 1966 to 1971. They were attached to USAF Bases and flew American aircraft as FACs (Forward Air Controllers). Their role was to direct tactical strike aircraft against targets on the ground.

This could be an extremely dangerous operation requiring the FAC to circle an area, often at low altitude and in the face of heavy enemy fire, while identifying and marking targets and observing the conduct and efficiency of the strike. The task required constant observance to ensure the string of procedures, designed for the effective employment of the attacking aircraft and the safety of “friendly ground troops” in the vicinity of the target.

The part played by the Australian FACs was of great significance, even though there were no more than four of them ‘in country’ at any one time. During their short tour of duty in Vietnam (usually about six months) these pilots would fly about 260 to 280 combat missions, averaging some 100 hours per month.

All were not combat missions. On a regular basis they would fly to the Australian Base at Vung Tau and pick up supplies of Australian foodstuffs and beer, to relieve the “suffering” from American issue rations. The ‘Warrant Officer Caterer’ referred to in the section covering Flight Lieutenant Riding is the writer of this review, and I would add it was my absolute pleasure that I was able to assist them in any way I could. (Some of the supplies – well, how and where I got them is another story!)

Generally not much is known by the Australian public of the role and contribution the Australian FACs in Vietnam. In the five-and-a-half years they operated in Vietnam no other group, with the possible exception of the AATTV, saw more action on a consistent, almost daily, basis than these men.

The RAAF FACs in Vietnam were among the most highly decorated groups of Australians sent to war. They gained collectively 23 Commonwealth Awards and 29 Foreign Awards.

Having met some of these men personally, whilst I was in Vietnam, I feel it an honour to be able to review this book. The history of this select band of RAAF pilots is not a well known story and, for that reason, it must be told – it was a very important part of the Australian involvement in the war in Vietnam. It is also a tribute to the undoubted ability and expertise of the RAAF FAC pilot. I recommend this book most highly to all those interested in Australian war history.

Hit My Smoke is available from the publishers Allen & Unwin, PO Box 8500, 9 Atchison Street, St Leonards NSW 2065; or from leading booksellers. The recommended retail price is Aus. $19.95.

GEOFF TANNER

Whistle As You Go
The Story of the Kiwi Concert Party and Terry Vaughan

Whistle As You Go relates the story of the formation of the Kiwi Concert Party in the early stages of World War II and its continuation through the war years into a successful post-war period.

The author, Terry Vaughan, was the driving force behind this incredible success story. His ability to produce shows of such talent with limited resources, equipment, unrealistic venues and schedules illustrates the man’s ingenuity. The story takes the reader through the hardships and to the many venues the Concert Party travelled during the war years.

My own memory of the Kiwi Concert Party was rekindled as I twice attended their concerts at His Majesty’s Theatre in Perth. The name of “Red Moore” has remained in my memory and, being only 14 years old at that time, I can recall being bewildered as to how “those women were really men”. After record breaking performances across Australia and New Zealand and, after many years on the road, the Kiwi Concert Party gave its final performance.

But this was not the end for Terry Vaughan and he continued to show what an extraordinarily talented man he was in the world of theatre, radio and music. Throughout his career he pursued his goals and aims without shirking or detouring around “Most Waski” (narrow bridges). Finally, as with the Kiwi Concert Party, it all had to end. Terry Vaughan retired from the Canberra Theatre Trust and, in closing his remarkable career, he took in the vast emptiness of the Canberra Theatre Auditorium while he reflected his lifetime of music. The “Gozo Boat” now had a permanent home, the birds had

Listening Post – AUTUMN 1998 – Page 35
The Long Carry
A History of the 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion 1939-46
by Philip Hocking

In *The Long Carry* the author, Philip Hocking, has traced the history of the 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion from its formation in 1939 to the end of World War II, which took it through Great Britain, Greece, Crete, the Middle East and Papua New Guinea before being attached to the 7th Division for the invasion of Balikpapan in Borneo.

The book also answers those who may ask “what was it like when the Germans invaded Greece? When they over-ran Crete? And what was it like returning from the Middle East to fight in the jungles of the Pacific area?” Such questions are answered in graphic detail and give great insight to those who ponder them. My own interest lies within the Balikpapan campaign. My late brother served with the 7th Division in the invasion. I never learned of his experiences in Balikpapan, so that part of the book is of particular interest to me.

I thoroughly recommend this book to those former members of the 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion, to their families and friends and to anyone interested in the history of Australian fighting forces.

(The Battalion’s Association would like to hear from any former members of the Battalion or their families. They can be contacted at 22 Busana Way, Nunawading Victoria 3131 or phone 03 9878 6520.)

The hard-cover book is available from the Association at the above address or from KR White Books, PO Box 1767, Tuggeranong ACT 2901 at a RRP of Aus. $45.00 plus postage.

GEOFF TANNER

The Sharp End
The Trauma of a War in Vietnam
by Brian Hennessy

Many books have been written about the war in Vietnam and the trauma that affected most of those who served there. It would be foolish to say that I would have read them all, but I have read many such books and believe *The Sharp End* is the most poignant in its descriptions of events that are likely to cause Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I found it to be most constructive in recognising the causes of PTSD and dealing with the problem.

All who served in Vietnam can and most probably will be subjected to PTSD in some form at some time – from the very severe cases of those whose job it was to venture into unknown tunnels, to those caught in ambushes, the booby-traps, the mines in unexpected places that jumped out of the ground to rip a body to shreds, to patrols lasting for days on end through unfriendly country and villages. There was no relief from danger even when on R&R in the comparative safety of Vung Tau. The Viet Cong, it was said, also took R&R there. It was not a safe place after dark.

It was not recognised or considered at that time how deeply it would affect future behaviour. But 20 or more years later, the memories suppressed for so long are now surfacing and have to be dealt with. PTSD is a very real problem and those people most badly affected may never be completely free from it. With the help of counselling, through agencies such as the Vietnam Veterans’ Counselling Service, they may be able to leave Vietnam behind.

Brian Hennessy must be congratulated for producing this book. It would not have been easy for him to suppress his own fears of his Vietnam experience but he has done it for his fellow soldiers in the hope that it may give them the guidance needed to recognise the problems of PTSD and seek help.

I recommend *The Sharp End* to all those who served in Vietnam (as I know all have suffered PTSD to some degree) and also to family and friends so that they may understand the reason for the mood swings and behavioural problems.

*The Sharp End* is available from the publishers Allen & Unwin, PO Box 8500, 9 Atchison Street, St Leonards NSW 2065; phone (02) 9901 4088 or fax (02) 9906 2218, or from leading booksellers at a RRP of Aus $19.95.

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Gold Health Card

I would like to thank the RSL for the major role it has played in gaining the Gold Health Card for all World War II Returned Veterans. Individual veterans in their own right have assisted but it is acknowledged that the RSL had an overwhelming effect upon the final decision.

As co-ordinator of the Gold Health Card Campaign, I would like, through your publication, to thank the efforts of those individual members who also played a part to bring about the successful outcome for the mental, physical and financial benefit of thousands of our war veterans.

BRIAN DOUBE
6 Nicole St, McLaren Vale SA 5171

Note: The following poem was enclosed with Mr Doube’s letter.

Editor.

Lest We Forget. WWII Vet

There’s a million for the Games
And even a Gold Card for the dames,
But what does our Aussie
Digger get from that farce?
Yes I’ll tell you – just another kick in the ....

But that poor old Front Liner
Who took the brunt of the fight
He still has to battle
And battle with all his might!
For he is now old,
And his health is fading fast
So our Government now sees
He hasn’t too long to last.

So don’t give him a cracker
As much as he does deserve,
Keep delaying longer
And there’ll be more in the Reserve.

More for the Games and
Athletes to the Star
More for Foreign Aid to help those afar,
So just forget our War Veterans’
And forget what we owe,
They’ll be dead very shortly
And we can pretend that we didn’t even know.

G.L.D. Card

RAAF Discipline

The recent dismantling of a long cement-rendered brick fence at what was once the Manning Road border of a property once generally referred to as Clontarf Boys’ Town (now Clontarf Aboriginal College, Waterford, by the Canning River) will awake recollections among West Australian ex-air crew trainees of the World War II Empire Air Training Scheme.

In the early months of 1942, the RAAF controlling hierarchy in Melbourne decreed an air crew Initial Training School be established in the Perth metropolitan area where recruits could be processed and taught appropriate Air Force subjects such as Air Force Law, Navigation, Mathematics, Physics and Science as well as such practical items like rifle drill and Morse Code (as I remember it).

Everything “on course” was conducted strictly but one exercise I well remember was the pre-breakfast run. We would sprint out the main gate and run west along Manning Road which was then a passable 12 feet wide tarred surface leading as it does now to Canning Bridge and the Raffles Hotel. Every morning we had to repeat that run to the western end of that long brick fence and then rush back to the main quadrangle. (The surroundings of which look very much the same today.) In its way it was very ordinary military practice, except that among the young men selected as air crew trainees were some athletic lads straight from private schools who were great runners; it really could be a hectic sprint when the schoolboys got the lead. That is when I used to notice the length of that wall which seemed to stretch forever.

The school was strictly disciplined and general conditions were not unkind, but there was a disadvantage created by circumstances – the Clontarf Boys’ Town was taken over on the very minimum of notice from the Catholic Education Authorities and their wards. This posed problems for the Christian Brothers which they

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.
solved with a tent-town at Bindoon but it was not so easy for the RAAF.

The number of trainees they sought to house put pressures on available living space but the air crew trainees came out all right. Good beds and bedding with sheets and blankets, showers and washing facilities etc., but the quality of the meals was, as ever, controversial. Looseness of the bowel, as all ex-servicemen are aware, is not a respecter of persons and, in view of the number of people coming to Clontarf, a sewage disposal scheme which had catered for an institution soon proved inadequate.

The answer was latrines in "the pines", a plantation of which was reasonably close to the buildings of the establishment and more convenient for anyone "taken short". It was incidental that those pines were in the path of the afternoon sea breeze.

As a sanitation measure the trench latrines did dispose largely of the sewage problem except when the deposits were not earth-covered and this sometimes would happen with the usual results. As I remember, "the modesty walls" of the ubiquitous hessian would sometimes lean at crazy angles due to wind pressure but being among the pines such measures were not all that important. What did bring a response was the smell plus a fly presence and improvement seemed set to await the onset of cooler weather. However, there were those who were not content to merely grumble about the state of things.

One indignant mother of an air crew trainee wrote to the Editor of The Daily News complaining about the scandalous state of sanitation as practised by the RAAF at No. 5 Initial Training School at Clontarf and the general alleged ill-treatment of her only son. The letter was very emphatic, newsworthy, most topical and was promptly printed.

As would be expected, a grand parade was called of trainees and staff at the Clontarf establishment at which the gathering was harangued by a fiery Flight Lieutenant with more than a touch of apparent blood pressure; he convincingly threatened the parade with dire consequences should this breach of security be repeated and would lead to punishment beyond belief.

I spent a few months at Clontarf and terminated my Air Force Service there. As I remember the afternoon sea breeze was better with the onset of cool weather.

I never did discover what happened to the lad whose mother wrote the letter, apart from what Dame Rumour had to say. As far as I know nobody ever again dared to be involved with a complaint addressed to The Daily News about the RAAF.

JACK BENARI
Salter Point

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**Vehicle Spare Parts**

As a result of a recent announcement from the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, that all World War II veterans are to receive a Gold Card, it is appropriate that eligible veterans be made aware of benefits for spare parts for their own vehicles.

In the past it has been difficult for eligible veterans to receive the Sales Tax exemption, to which they are entitled, for their car repairs. The RSL has made several approaches to MTA (Motor Traders Association) but with no clear response. An approach has also been made to DVA and we are awaiting their response.

To ensure that eligible veterans obtain their Sales Tax receipt, it is suggested that you contact your car repairer's suppliers with your tax exemption forms asking them to assist you; the car repairers that the RSL have spoken to say that "it's too difficult to work your Sales Tax exemption".

As a result of RSL persistence, a breakthrough has been made on Sales Tax exemption for parts, the first car company to come on board is Auto Classic of Victoria Park.

For further information about spare parts for BMW and Honda contact: Peter Stanley, Director, or Malcolm Angus, Manager, on 9311 7533 or fax 9311 7598.

D. CONNELLY

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**Beaufort Crashes**

I refer to the interesting article on the Beaufort in the Autumn issue. Whilst I was at Manchester University in the early 1950s one of our lecturers, an ex-RAF Medical Officer, spoke of the unexplained crashes of the Australian-built Beauforts. He said that during post-mortems some of the crews had been found to have very high levels of carbon monoxide in their blood which could have caused unconsciousness, if not death, prior to the crash.

Investigations had shown that the UK-designed aircraft had a cabin heater connected to the exhaust manifold of one of the engines, but in the Australian-built ones this had been blanked off at the cabin wall. Although this was gas-tight when built, stresses on the air-frame in service had caused failures and allowed carbon monoxide from the exhaust gases into the cabin with disastrous consequences.

It would be interesting to hear what ex-RAAF crews, who had flown or worked on the Beaufort, think of this theory.

DR JOHN WATSON
Expatriate Pensions

May I advise D. Hamilton of Balga (letter to the Editor, Autumn 1998) there are no forgotten few. The UK Pension is based on time worked in that country, i.e. work till you are 65 for a full-time pension and so down the scale.

I get the UK age pension, including war service and pre-Army service, which is based on 30 years in the UK.

After I came to Australia, I purchased my first house in 1971 (mortgage of course) and have updated five times. I purchased my first Holden FB for $350 and have updated 12 times – the last was a 1991 Magna for $14,000.

I have never been on sick leave or on the dole and have always spent my money in this country – including a War Disability Pension which I regret I receive. (That pension started in 1945.)

Mr Hamilton, just stop to think: all those stamp duties on houses, transfers on cars, all the pensions from the UK and never one penny into the coffers of the UK – Income Tax etc goes to this country. I consider it fair that Australia pays me a part pension for the period spent working, living, spending here. I would consider it grossly unfair to expect that the elderly in the UK should get a lesser pension to give us more when we do not contribute there.

This is the land of milk and honey – no death duties, no VAT. Why should the people of the UK pay for the increased cost of living here?

F.P. TURRELL
Mandurah

The Beaufort Squadron

The article in the Autumn edition of The Listening Post was very interesting; however, I think there was more to the unexplained crashes than a “defective spring washer in the controls”.

In 1943-44 I was a Cpl Fitter 2A (Airframe) attached to 17 RSU at Cunderdin, where part of our work was carrying out 240-hour inspections on Beauforts from 14 Squadron based at Pearce. We had heard of the mystery crashes, but when W/C Learmouth was crashing into the sea off the coast, he was able to tell accompanying aircraft that he had lost control of his elevators.

The trim tabs on the elevators and rudder were actuated by screw jacks, with the split end piece attached to the actual trim tab, held to the jack by a tapered pin. We had three Beauforts under inspection and we had to remove the nine jacks, (three per aircraft) and inspect the pins by removing them. We found that several pins (I have forgotten the exact number) were made of aluminium, not steel, and had probably sheared in service.

I would be very interested in any other comments on this incident, perhaps some comments from Air Force records could be obtained.

LESTER F SMITH

The Battle of Slater’s Knoll

I read Ward Curedale’s article (Autumn 1998) with great interest. At the time in question we were back at Torokina and, from what we knew of the goings on at the Buin Road, were glad we were.

Let it be said that the article retells those events quite as we understood them, albeit from a distance, but certainly they were hectic times and we were proudly conscious of the skills and courage of the 25th. Undoubtedly they qualified for the infantry compliment – “Be happy to have them on our flank!”.

The principal reason for my writing relates to a re-enforcement (?) we got from 25th Battalion. Our unit had a succession of COs and was due for another. When he arrived, it was none other than Major Weppner, the 2/LC of the 25th Battalion mentioned by Ward Curedale. Regardless of what we may have expected, he more than made up for previous disappointments – he had an immense facility for gaining the loyalty and support of his subordinates.

Later on, when it was our turn to go back down the Buin Road, we were somewhat surprised to find that Slater’s Knoll was not the free-standing hillock we had imagined, but, apparently, a large protuberance on the river bank near the crossing – or at least that was what was made of it. Close by were small foxholes, right alongside the track (Buin

L/CPL Geoff Angove

In the Autumn edition of The Listening Post there is an article headed “The First Western Australian Infantry Casualty 2/11 Bn” which was a pleasure to read.

I want to know if I can find out more about L/CPL Geoff Angove and perhaps contact him. I was a young girl at Torbay when Geoff was employed by a family named Rutherford. He left them to join up and to us young people he was a hero – we really felt that there was a war on. I have his photo in my souvenir book. In those days all men who joined up had their photos in The Western Mail. I do hope you can help me.

(MRS) BARBARA MORGAN (Nee Morris)
Contact: John Watson, Secretary, Legs Eleven Minor 686 Canning Highway, Applecross 6153
EDITOR
Road) from which it was said the Japanese used to pop up to blow the tracks off a passing tank by placing one of their toy hand grenades in the suspension. Considering the robustness of a Matilda and its running gear this was a futile act not given to longevity. Perhaps they were the prototype Kamikazes! (Later on they did succeed in knocking out a tank and its crew, but this employed a 250lb aerial bomb with remote control and a 6 inch shell).

There was rarely, if ever, a day that Major Weppner didn’t visit the forward Company and he was not averse to taking his turn at leading scout. Needless to say he endeared himself to his men (although we didn’t really approve of the leading scout bit) and there was nothing he could ask that wouldn’t be done willingly by everyone in the unit. It is little wonder that the Japanese must have wished they had never heard of Slater’s Knoll, after this man organised its defence.

Our considered opinions were that we were blessed with the best of all worlds. We had tops in CO Brigadier Simpson and GOC Bridgford.

A.R. TERRY
Private, 47 Aust Inf Bn (Ret’d)

**Royal Army Medical Corps**

The Royal Army Medical Corps was formed on 23 June 1898 from the Medical Staff Corps and the Army Medical Department. The 100 years of its existence has seen it wreathed in glory, testified by the award of 14 Victoria Crosses and two Bars signifying a subsequent award.

Soon after formation the Corps found itself in action in the Sudan and shortly after, during the second South African War, it gained the first VC’s. World War I was where the RAMC gained the reputation it now enjoys. In the forefront of all the great actions and battles, 6873 members of the RAMC paid the supreme sacrifice. World War II saw the RAMC keep pace with modern warfare, including the introduction of parachute troops. Personnel also endured captivity both in Europe and the Far East, many of whom did not return to their families.

Since 1945 the RAMC has accompanied the forces of the United Kingdom throughout the world on the many military and humanitarian actions that the forces of the Crown have been called on to carry out. The Corps has also been at the forefront of advances in health and disease prevention and many RAMC doctors have pioneered the prevention and treatment of tropical diseases.

As it enters the second century of its existence, the Royal Army Medical Corps will live up to its motto of *In Arduis Fidelis* – Faithful in Adversity.

A service will be held in St George’s Anglican Cathedral at 11.00am on Tuesday 23 June 1998 to commemorate the centennial of the establishment of the Corps. All past members of the Corps and the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps are invited to attend and the presence of present and past personnel of the affiliated Corps of the Australian and Allied Services (including the Naval and Air Force branches) would be particularly appreciated. Members of St John’s Ambulance, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other persons associated with the healing professions would also be welcome.

This service will precede, by a few hours, the Service of Celebration, Remembrance and Dedication that is to be held in Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

**Batchelor Air-strip**

I was interested in the photo which appeared in the latest edition of *The Listening Post* – the concrete slab found near Batchelor air-strip south of Darwin. I think one of the names on the slab, J Campbell, is probably the name of a friend of mine who was with the RAAF. He was killed in a training accident while stationed in the Darwin area.

The Department of Defence report reads – Ex 415227, Warrant Officer John Samuel McClelland Campbell, killed air-craft accident near Adelaide River, Northern Territory, 6 August 1944.

He spent most of his life in the Kondinin district, brought up on a farm.

H M FOTHERINGHAM

**The Republican Issue**

This debate has excited a number of varying opinions; here is a sample of what you are telling us.

**In Response**

I read with interest the letter by Lt Colonel Dan McDaniel in the Autumn edition of *The Listening Post*. May I make a few things clear to him:

* I am a member of the RSL (45 years),
* I love my country, and
* I do not support a Republic.

In the closing paragraph of his letter, Lt Colonel McDaniel states: “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”.

Lt Colonel McDaniel gives me the distinct impression that he wants all these things provided we agree with his way of thinking. It is my opinion that the President’s message said very clearly what had to be said, and he said it well.

PETER NASH
Carine

President’s Report a Concern

Like Lieutenant Colonel Dan McDaniel, I would like to express my concern as to the President’s report appearing to be somewhat contemptuous of people who support Australia becoming a republic.

There are people from both sides of politics, business people, church leaders, academics, legal fraternity and the general public, of whom I am one, who supports a republic: there are also people from the same groups who support retention of the monarchy.

No one wants to avoid spirited debate on this most important issue. However, there are a few things both sides must ensure – the debate does not become more polarised and is not hijacked by a group who has a war of attrition mentality.

A famous Australian World War I General (Monash) convinced the allied commanders of the day that after 4 years of trench warfare and 20 million dead, including 60 thousand Australians, that their tactics were not working. He who broke the war of attrition attitude of those in charge of the slaughter on the Western front.

PATRICK LYNC

Power Corrupts

Dan McDaniel is certainly entitled to his opinions, but I would have thought a man of his experience would have learned a few things by now.

Power corrupts. As an Officer, he must have seen what party politics did to us during the war; and having lived through Prime Ministers from Scullin to Howard, I can assure him there aren’t many politicians I would trust.

Looking after members’ interests includes examining controversial issues. We are an Association of men who gave up normal living to secure the future of this country. We all have opinions on how to achieve this.

I believe someone behind the scenes has a vision of an unattainable Utopia. They want to give Australia a system that hasn’t worked since it was first tried in 250BC. I have the right to say so to my comrades in arms.

Why overthrow the Monarchy? Doing so didn’t do Britain any good in the 16th Century; after forty years they were crying for Restoration. Nor did it benefit France. In Germany it threw up first the Spartacists and then the Nazis; in Italy the Fascists; in Russia, China and Cuba the Communists; and look at Asia, Africa, South America. What makes us think we could do better?

The propagandists point to the United State, but honestly, they’re not so hot. Must we ape them in everything? Do we want a multi-million dollar circus every four years to decide which non-hoper will be our next figurehead?

Despite the antics of the Royal children, much of it overstated, the present system has a tradition of many centuries, beginning in the 1216 with the Magna Carta. The Head of State undergoes a lifetime of training for the job, and, in practice, they cost us virtually nothing.

Why substitute the present imperfect but eminently workable system for one in which more politicians and would-be politicians will find opportunity for inserting the snout in the trough?

MR JACK DOBLE
Ex-W/O Signals RAAF

RSL Risks Irrelevance

I refer to Dan McDaniel’s letter in the Autumn 1998 issue on the Republican Issue. At last The Listening Post has printed a letter expressing a view contrary to that expressed by a State President.

I was moved to write along the same lines as Dan but didn’t because previous letters I had written, expressing concern that the RSL was seen to be taking sides on certain social and political issues that were not appropriate, were not published. One of these issues was Native Title.

A recent report on Radio National of alleged comments emanating from an Eastern States President of the League that membership of the RSL, and a desire to see change in the Australian Constitution were incompatible, also troubled me deeply. I am worried that personal pronouncements, such as this, by office holders have an ex cathedra quality and help form an erroneous public perception of the RSL’s raison d’être.

I concur entirely with Dan McDaniel that there is a very real risk of the RSL becoming irrelevant in the community by taking up issues not directly concerned with the interests of its members. We should stick to our knitting.

GAVIN W RYAN (EX RAN)
City Beach
Belmont

Meetings so far this year have been attended by 50 members or more. We meet every third Sunday in the month at 10.30am. Afterwards we enjoy a hamburger lunch provided by the Sub-Branch. Our Women’s Auxiliary meets at the same time in the kitchen area of our premises. With more than 60 members, the Women’s Auxiliary have won the Metropolitan Cup for the best Auxiliary at their annual conference for the past four years.

Our Membership Officer, Olga Greig, has been taking subs and it appears that we are going to have another good year. A number of new members have enrolled and there have been transfers from other Sub-Branches.

Next year is the Sub-Branch’s 70th Anniversary; we were formed on 15 April 1929 when the Charter was issued. In those days meetings were held in a room off Corlett’s Bakery and if some of the original members were still alive they would be amazed to see the fine premises we have today. Incidentally, the first President was Mr G. Courtland, the father of Grenville Courtland, a member of the Sub-Branch, was the proprietor of Courtland Potteries and is well known in Belmont today.

The Committee hope to organise various events to celebrate the anniversary next year. One important project has been completed and we have produced an outstanding 7-year-old Tawny Port which was bottled and labelled by a team of volunteers who worked enthusiastically and harmoniously, enabling the first sales to take place after our February meeting. The response has been fantastic with more than 200 bottles already sold which should bring a great deal of satisfaction to the volunteers who are too numerous to mention. However, Brian Wake deserves special recognition because he initiated the project and was responsible for organising donations, volunteers etc. Our success is mainly due to his efforts in seeing the project completed on time and without any hiccups. (Pardon the pun! - Ed.) If anyone wishes to purchase a bottle of this port, please contact me at the Club.

HAROLD HAIMES OAM JP
Secretary

Simon Wilson to the important position of hall hire member. Welfare remains in the capable hands of Bren McCarthy and Fay Pike and the recently-named “Woodley’s Bar” is managed by Peter Wilde and Max Cox.

Letters were sent to all Busselton schools with offers of members to speak about Anzac Day. The schools were positive in their replies and the speakers reported attentive audiences and were proud to be able to address the students.

Anzac Day commenced with 45 members assembling for the march to the Cenotaph for the Dawn Service where they were joined by a large crowd. A “Gunfire Breakfast” was provided at the RSL Hall afterwards.

The Anzac Day march consisting of the RSL contingent, Legacy Ladies, 511 Regional Cadet Unit, Fire Brigade, Scout and Guides Association assembled at the RSL Hall under the watchful eye of the Parade Marshall, Henry Adams. The march, with Police escort and led by jeeps carrying the disabled veterans began at 0900 hours to music from the Busselton Shire Brass Band and proceeded down Queen Street to the Cenotaph for the memorial service. The salute was taken by Lt Col Jim Cornwall DSO DCM (Ret’d) (Royal Tank Regiment) who was accompanied on the dais by the Busselton Shire President, Beryl Morgan.

A catafalque party under the command of Cpl Alan Waller was provided by A Coy 11/28 Bn RWAR.

At the conclusion of the service, 50-Year Membership Certificates were awarded to Bob Evans, Bert Rogers and Ken Smith. The contingent then marched back to the RSL Hall for fellowship.

The Busselton Shire Council was most helpful in arranging for the manufacture of a saluting dais and a general tidying up of the memorial and surrounds prior to Anzac Day.

Membership of the Sub-Branch continues to grow and now stands at 186. This can be attributed to an active profile, particularly in the welfare area. At Sub-Branch request, DVA representatives conducted an information forum on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, 19 March attended by 78 and 70 respectively. The welfare team is busy each Friday between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon with veterans’ and widows of veterans’ concerns. A further four members have volunteered and their names have been submitted to DVA for the next available TIP course.

Fellowship evenings on the fourth Friday of the month
have proved popular, especially with the ladies, and will continue for the remainder of the year.

Sadly we lost one of our members – Mr Phil Russell – and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

GARRY LEA
Secretary

Canning Districts and Victoria Park

The trip to Churchman Brook, which included a BBQ lunch, was a very successful day and we thank the organiser and all who came along. Our Club has hired a large TV screen for the football season, so please feel free to bring along friends and help support your Club. Meals start at 6:30 pm on Friday nights.

The Merrymakers’ Day Club meets Mondays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm at the Club and we still have plenty of room for new members. Entry fee is $2.50 to cover tea and biscuits. For further information please ring Carol on 9451 4696.

The Club is preserving its history by applying for the Memorial Rose Garden (The Shirley Neil Rose Garden) to be protected by the National Trust. Named after the first member to be buried there, Mrs Shirley Neil. It also contains the ashes of several deceased RSL members and four memorial plaques commemorating World War I. It is right across the road from Coker Park which was the camping ground for the Australian Special Wireless Group - a signal group set up to intercept Japanese messages in World War II. The Garden is also important because a number of members want to be buried close to where they served and near their RSL Club where they spent part of the last years of their lives.

Our main news has been an increase in membership, not a great increase but there is a move for the Vietnam Veterans to join the RSL. At the last meeting nine new members were introduced.

On 24 April, Kapyong Day, was attended by approximately 100, including members from the 187th American Airborne Division, the “RAKKASANS”. The day was organised by the K&SEAF Association of Australia (WA Branch). Colonel Bill Webber, on behalf of the visitors, gave a very stirring speech on the excellent comradeship between their forces and the Australians in Korea and other areas of conflict. He said that his members were proud to be in Australia and to meet their comrades in arms, their families and Australians in general. Well done to all concerned and a special thanks to Bill and his boys in making Kapyong Day a great one for us all.

Our Anzac Day celebrations – with the Dawn Service, the March and the Memorial Service – were up to the usual high standard of previous years, attended by many young people, schoolchildren, Scouts, Guides, Brownies. Cadets from the three services, the Bands and Ambulance Cadets. Thanks go to all, with a special mention to the Police and the Ambulance for their professional services. It was a very well supported day by political members, Local Government and Chamber of Commerce Officials, Riverton RSL and the general public. And finally thanks to President, Bill Day, and his members for an excellent Memorial Service and re-union.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Boag family and to Carol and family on the sad loss of her husband Jim Newman.

Lest We Forget

WENDY SCHWAB
PRO

City of Cockburn

Anzac Day was once again a huge success. The day commenced with the usual Gun Fire breakfast after the Dawn Service at Fremantle. The early risers enjoyed a hearty meal prepared by committee volunteers.

The fine weather was complemented by a large increase in the numbers of marchers, including cadets, scouts, guides and Joeys. The numbers far exceeded previous years.

Leading the RSL contingent was President Les Pratt and Mrs Millie Beard. Millie, a former member of the AWAS, was invited to march at the head of the column in recognition for her long service with the Red Cross and for her weekly visits to veterans at Hollywood Hospital.

Joining the parade was Maurice Dufficy, a member of the RSL Southport Qld Sub-Branch and the SEAK Forces Association. Holidaying in the West, he thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Cockburn.

Part of the ceremony included the presentation of the inaugural Anzac Day Award for the most improved cadet. This was presented by the Mayor. Mr John Grijusich, to Cadet Lance Corporal Xaviour Garben of the 56 Regional Cadet Unit. All the cadets on the parade were a credit to their units.

Members and their partners enjoyed the first of our Anzac Day luncheons catered for by Deville Caterers; it did not take long to pre-sell the 130 tickets reserved for members and their partners. Their comments and response proved the day was a huge success.

At the meeting on 19 April, members voted with a 95% majority to release funds, enabling the committee to engage
an architect to supply plans and drawings in connection with the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall. When plans and costs are complete, they will be presented for consideration and approval.

On the social scene, Friday night numbers are increasing all the time. On 1 May 56 people enjoyed the fellowship and sausage sizzle. Remember everyone is welcome. The next major social function is the Wintertime Cabaret; this old time theme dinner dance, with a three course meal, will give members and their guests a night to remember – Saturday 27 June.

Keep in mind that every second Sunday of the month at 1000 hours is the general meeting, and every Friday from 1600 hours onwards is for your enjoyment.

ARTHUR J. STANTON
PRO

East Victoria Park and Vietnam Veterans

The Sub-Branch has new hall which cost $500,000. With assistance from the Lotteries Commission and the Victoria Park Council, it is fully paid for. The hall is at 1 Fred Bell Parade, East Victoria Park. (Formerly Ramsden Avenue, it is still listed as such in the street directories.) The Sub-Branch requested the Council change the name to honour Fred Bell, a Boer War VC winner, who had connection at one time with Victoria Park.

The hall has a licensed club which is proudly named “The Stan Gurney VC Club” honouring Victoria Park’s own World War II VC winner. The main hall can accommodate up to 170 people, has a fully equipped commercial kitchen, a bar and can be partitioned to form two function areas. An outdoor covered patio with barbecue facilities can cater for up to 100 people. The building is situated within a park that has a large grassed area, shady trees, seats and children’s playground equipment.

The hall and its facilities are available for hire for functions and meetings etc. The phone (9361 8802) is attended between 11am and 1pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; an answering machine operates at other times.

GEOFF TANNER
President

Geraldton City

A wonderful example set by a Christmas benefactor, who donated thousands of dollars to save the exterior of Birdwood House from crumbling into ruin, was followed by the offer of strong support from Geraldton Lions Club. The offer which was accepted with deep gratitude, includes renovating areas of the 1935 building, starting with the kitchen. Renowned for its community spirit over the years, the Lions Club has been described as a service club with its sleeves rolled up.

With the inevitable ageing of RSL Members, it is possible that the Lions could in time become custodians of Birdwood House and the militia displays on behalf of the owners, the people of the City of Geraldton.

Sub-Branch members gave strong support to the Australian War Memorial’s Travelling Exhibition at the Regional Art Gallery that featured more than 60 magnificent drawings and paintings by Ivor Hele — which was opened by local MLA and RSL member Bob Bloffwitch. The exhibition centred on the work undertaken by Hele, the Australian War Memorial’s longest serving official war artist, in North Africa, New Guinea and Korea.

We also strongly supported a simultaneous service at Geraldton’s Holy Cross Anglican Cathedral in association with the unveiling of a plaque and a memorial parade at Point Cook, Victoria, in honour of the 44 pilots of 77 Squadron who lost their lives in Korea — including John Halley of Geraldton. Members of Midwest Flight of the Air Training Corps provided a Guard of Honour as Dean Ken Rogers lit a candle in the memorial stand that honours John Halley’s name and offered a special prayer for the Korean pilots as well as reciting The Ode.

All the main Officers were re-elected at the AGM including President Dennis Moss, SVP Kevin Grey, JVP Kevin Forrest, Secretary Brian Cooper, Treasurer John Spendlove and PRO Peter Barden. Frank Sharpe has joined Brian Cooper on the Memorial Trust and there are two new Committee members, Lester Mills and John Link.

After watching the TV coverage of the Constitution Convention, Ron Troughton successfully moved that the State Executive be asked to contact all Sub-Branches, requesting they contact the Prime Minister to convey a very sincere wish to retain the present Australian Flag. The WA Executive has also been asked to request all other State and Territory Executives to take similar action.

Secretary Brian Cooper was among about 500 Royal Australian Regiment Veterans who attended the 50th Anniversary Commemorations of the RAR in Canberra on March 1. Asked if he had met any of his old Two Battalion mates, he gave a one word reply: “Heaps” — which meant his wishes had well and truly been granted. Brian won the Military Medal in Korea as a young machine-gun Sergeant. While in Canberra, Brian and his wife Meg visited the Australian War Memorial where major refurbishment of galleries is under way. They took photos of the Korean War exhibit which includes the metal-lined vest that Brian wore on the night of July 24-25 in
1953 when his cool, cheerful and courageous leadership inspired not only his own section but also the US Marines.

President Dennis Moss presented the PRO with a National Headquarters award in recognition of 50 years continuous service to the League. He joined the League in 1946.

The Sub-Branch has been inundated with congratulations on the wonderful response to Anzac Day 1998. About 500 participants were in the main parade including 170 ex-service personnel, with an estimated attendance at Birdwood House of between 1,500 and 2,000.

Earlier in the day about 179 ex-service personnel took part in the dawn service.

The salute during the main march was taken by Police Superintendent Graeme Power, accompanied by Major David Hoare, Mayor Phil Cooper, Greenough Shire President Jamie Edwards and their wives.

A Guard commanded by Sgt Dominic Kelly from the Army Cadet Unit officiated at the Cenotaph and a warm welcome to the ceremony was extended by Mayor Cooper.

Wreath-layers included Vincenzo Costantino, proudly wearing the gold Cavaliere medal that he and five other, now deceased, Geraldton citizens were awarded by the Italian Government in 1976 for their service as Allies of the British in World War I. Best wishes were extended for his 100th birthday on November 18.

The youngest wreath-layer was five-year-old Carra Haynes who wore the medals of her great-great-grandfather, Private William Maxwell.

Youth figured prominently at both services: Nagle Catholic College students, Thomas Kavanagh and Julie Creek, shared the Anzac Day address and the Army Cadet Unit provided the dawn service Cenotaph Guard commanded by WO Michelle Gulich and the main service Guard commanded by Sgt Dominic Kelly.

Four vintage vehicles transporting veterans in the main parade included Bob Parkinson’s 1928 Chrysler and Mike March’s 1936 Dodge. We had the privilege of a double fly-over by Regional CVP Frank Sharp in Chris Shine’s Tiger Moth and by two jets from 25 RAAF Squadron and we were delighted to have the main parade led by Owen Fitzpatrick of the 10th Lighthorse in World War II and Terry Obst.

Mrs Olga Kruta and son Frank and his son Frank Junior, proudly displayed the World War II medals of their late husband, father and grandfather. Frank Kruta, a distinguished fighter-pilot in the Czech, French, British and Russian Air Forces. The latest medal came from the Royal Air Force.

PETER BARDEN
PRO

Mandurah

In the last issue of The Listening Post there were two errors: while Wally Holding has been a Life Member of the League for many years, it was his wife Wyn who was presented with a Life Membership at the annual dinner last December. We extend our congratulations to her—a very worthy recipient of this honour. Wyn is the Sub-Branch PRO, not Wally. We apologise for these mistakes.

EDITOR

Nollamara – North Perth

Many thanks to Principal Doug Lockwood and Deputy Principal Meg Lewis of the Camboon Primary School for their invitation to the Sub-Branch to participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Anzac Day assembly held on 9 April at the school. The Sub-Branch President, Mr Keith Boxshall, was supported by Vice President, Ken Hawke and Committee men, Graham Worth and Ross Jones.

The ceremony was of the highest standard and the superb choir gave rendered versions of Waltzing Matilda, I am Australian, Advance Australia Fair and The Band Played Waltzing Matilda. Several students from year 7 explained clearly to the assembly what Anzac Day stands for and over 300 pupils, teachers and parents were moved by their words, bringing tears to some eyes.

Graham Worth played the Last Post while Ken Hawke, Ross Jones and pupils laid wreaths and then played Reveille.

President Keith Boxshall, the guest speaker, gave an enlightening speech which at times brought laughter from the children and explained the reasons for fighting wars so that we can all live in peace. Doug and Meg, thank you again for the opportunity to participate.

The Anzac Day ceremony held by the Sub-Branch on Sunday 19 April attracted more than 500 people. The popularity of the parade and ceremony showed that the public and members still remember. The City of Perth Band provided the music for the march which had contingents from the Naval Club Fremantle, The Netherlands Ex-Service Association, Cadets from the Navy (TS Marmion), Army (No.51 Girrawheen) and Air Force (No. 2 Flight WA Wanneroo).

Mr John Lewis and twenty eight members of the Vietnam Veterans’ Motor Cycle Club once again brought up the rear with their immaculate motor bikes. Parade
Commander was Captain John Duckford and the salute was taken by several dignitaries, including President Keith Boxshall, Federal Member for Stirling Eoin Cameron and Mr John Kobelke, Member for Nollamara.

Wreaths were laid by our Sub-Branch President, Mrs Vera Lewis, Sub-Branch Auxiliary; Mr Allan Hutcheson, RSL Headquarters; Mr John Lewis, Vietnam Veterans’ Motor Cycle Club; Mr Ernie Baints, Netherlands Ex-Service Association; Mr Eoin Cameron, Federal Member for Stirling; Mr Bob Raiseback, Veteran Affairs; Mr John Kobelke, Member for Nollamara; Mr David Boothman, Balga Ward Councillor and Mr John Rankin representing our Patron, Mr Graeme Armstrong of Toyota Galleria and cadets representing the three services.

Thanks to the Ladies’ Auxiliary for providing a delicious lunch.

ROSCO JONES PRO

North Beach

The Dawn Service was well attended again with the accent on the younger generation. Local schools were invited and pupils laid wreaths and some youngsters marched with their fathers.

Pre Anzac Day, Vice-President, Fred Abbott was guest speaker at the North Beach Primary School where pupils laid wreaths at a school Service. The interest the youngsters are showing ensures the spirit of Anzac Day will live on for some time yet.

Bill Hepton is our new President. Past President Wally Somers, hospitalised after a serious stroke last year, did not stand and Bill Hepton deputised in the meantime. Junior Vice-President Joe Oversby, who has moved to Merriwa, also stood down. He is replaced by Fred Abbott with Eddie Johnson the new Senior Vice-President. Both Joe, a Life Member and long time Legacy worker, and Wally have been staunch members of the RSL. Our best wishes are extended to the Somers family.

Joe Harris remains Secretary. Norm Pearse is Treasurer and the Auditors are Laurie Movley and Don Humphries. Stewards are Bevan Heathcote, Ted Burgess, Max Plester and Syd Cragg; Welfare Officers are Frank Kent, Jack Shaw, Don Wright, Alan Hornby and the executive committee members. The 2000 Memorial (100 years of Federal Government) committee comprises Fred Abbott, Ed Johnson, Bob Sweeney and Joe Harris.

Ex-Servicemen interested in joining the North Beach Sub-Branch can obtain more information from Secretary Joe Harris on (08) 9447 3583

MAX PLESTER
PRO

Port Kennedy

A very successful quiz night was held late in January – we never knew that Port Kennedy had so many brainy people.

We were pleased to welcome members and friends to our function after the Anzac Day March. They enjoyed a memorable afternoon in the true Anzac spirit – good friends and camaraderie in a relaxed family atmosphere – which continued until early evening at our function room. We were very honoured to welcome, as guests, numerous members of HMAS Torrens and HMAS Adelaide, who appeared to really enjoy the day’s activities.

Our membership and Welfare Officer, Bill Jackson, has been kept busy and is taking time off shortly for some well deserved R&R.

We continue to hope for our own club-house and strongly support our hardworking Social Clubs on fund raising. Don’t forget, we hold raffles and membership draws each Friday night at Port Kennedy Tavern and meetings are at 1300 hours on the last Sunday of every month at the same venue.

For club information please contact me on (08) 9592 1496, Secretary Jim Moncrieff on 0418 917 561 or write to PO Box 2104, Rockingham 6967.

S.A. MONCRIEFF
PRO

Returned Ex-Servicewomen

We held our 50th Annual General Meeting in February when the out-going President, Mrs Heather McManis OAM, reported on the many activities during her three-year term of office.

The Sub-Branch celebrates 50 years since its founding by Miss Mary Meares MBE in February, 1948. We are holding a church service at which His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Jeffery will be present followed by a celebratory lunch.

We now have a membership of just over 200 and we raise funds for various RSL projects such as War Veterans’ Homes and RSL Welfare.

The Sub-Branch is open to all ex-servicewomen from any allied service and we have various activities and social occasions. If you are interested in joining, please contact President Cecile Hinton on (08) 9387 2237, Secretary Myrtle Hookway on (08) 9332 4048 or Membership Officer Joan Dowson on (08) 9384 6712.

CECILE HINTON, BEM
President
Riverton RSL

February saw the re-election of the Executive led by Harry Lowe with Joe Ward (Secretary), Rod Lindorff (Treasurer), Tony Meehan (Senior Vice President) and Richard Lewis (Junior Vice President). We welcome the new and old committee members elected to the team.

The Sub-Branch held its Anzac Day parade and march past on Sunday 19 April. The service was attended by more than 200 people including Local Government representatives, State and Federal Members, the Navy Band of WA, the Melville Choir, the Western Australian Police Service, Local Schools and Scouting Units. A good number of members and visiting Associations participated in the service conducted by Major Howard McCullum, the Club's Padre.

The Dawn Service, followed by our popular Gunfire Breakfast, saw more than 75 members and guests attending. We then went to Cannington for the Canning march and a visit to Canning Districts and Victoria Park Sub-Branch concluded the morning. The camaraderie between members and visitors to the Sub-Branch ensured this Anzac Day will be well remembered.

A new chef is now at the club on Friday nights and with live music it's a good opportunity to visit and meet your mates. Club membership is up again on last year: however, some members are not yet financial and we would like to see all outstanding dues paid.

Watch the club's newsletter for future functions with the Rock and Roll night on 27 June and the club's 50th birthday ball on 29 August.

TONY MEEHAN
PRO

Rivervale – Carlisle

On Sunday, 19 April we held our Commemorative Anzac Day Service jointly with Belmont Sub-Branch at Faulknor Park. A large crowd attended and the Director of Ceremonies was Olga Greig from Belmont. It was pleasing to note the large number of young people there and, as media reports indicated, increasing interest and attendances throughout the nation.

The WA Police Pipe Band led the parade and Parade Marshall Cr Alan Richardson, a Life Member of our Sub-Branch, led the march past. Prayers were offered by Councillor Andrew Murfin OAM, JP. The address was given by Laurie Bowman, Principal of Belmont Primary School and a member of Belmont RSL.

Our Sub-Branch recently took advantage of an offer by an officer of the DVA to address members at our May meeting about legislative changes to nursing care and how changes in the Budget affected Veterans.

Our Sunday functions continue to grow in popularity with our Women's Auxiliary doing a wonderful job. The fact that we now enjoy restricted trading hours assists considerably. Some members have expressed disappointment that many leave quickly after lunch, so we intend to introduce games or competitions to encourage them to linger a little longer.

With Winter here, we've decided on 'Eyes down' at 7.30 pm for our Bingo nights. The better the patronage, the bigger the bonuses so what about coming along?

Bob Kerr had an operation in RPH and has been in Bentley Hospital since early April.

New members welcomed recently are Joy and John Harris Ex-RAAF, Noel Winter Ex-16th Aust Inf Bn as well as RAAF and Bill Johnstone Ex-British Army. Bill is also a member of the British Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women. We would like to see a greater attendance at our general meetings as we get only about 12%.

TOM GRIFFITH
Secretary

Scarborough

A good start for 1998 has seen more members at our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 1400 hours and joining the 'Happy Hour' after the business is completed. Our first coach outing was an enjoyable mystery tour. Another outing is planned for June.

The Anzac Day Commemoration Service at our Wall of Remembrance at the local Bowling Club records the largest attendance for many years with more veterans' widows wearing their veterans' medals (some for the first time) and families bringing their children to see the ceremony conducted by our President Norm Sanders. Jackie Young read the prayers and Lorna Pendergrast read My Country. Our bugler was amazing and several wet eyes were seen as he played the Last Post and Reveille.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed after the service and all Committee members are thanked for their help and support.

Again we invite all ex-service people to join us in our efforts to be together and support each other as we 'Soldier on'.

GORDON F. HARVEY
Vice President
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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<td>Van Huet G</td>
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<td>Dunlop R J</td>
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### Returned Ex-Svc Women

- Firman C - Air Force
- Clark R - Army
- Dewing G - Air Force
- Dunn I L - Navy
- Hawkswood R C - Army
- Husk H - Navy
- Issacs R - Army
- McCutcheon R - Navy
- Murray D - Navy
- Noble J - Army
- White D - Army
- Williams B J - Army

### Northam

- Watson C - Army

### North Beach

- Stapledon R - Air Force
- Waldock W - Air Force

### Osborne Park

- Colasante N - Army
- McNeil CS - Army

### Quairading

- Martin G B - Air Force

### Sub-Branch Money Spinner

The RSL needs your support to continue publication of The Listening Post

Advertising revenue is required to pay for production of your quarterly magazine and all members and Sub-Branches are urged to encourage local business proprietors and tradespeople to seek more customers through its pages. The Listening Post has a state-wide circulation of more than 11,500 copies per issue, making it an attractive advertising medium.

All advertising booked and confirmed through a member of the RSL or a Sub-Branch will result in a 25% commission for that member's Sub-Branch. Proceeds will be paid directly to the Sub-Branch as soon as payment is received from the advertiser.

Hotels, caravan parks, holiday resorts, builders, repairmen, stores and commercial professional businesses are all worthy of approach.

The publishers will contact the intending advertiser direct to complete negotiations regarding size, placement, cost etc.

Members with their own businesses are also encouraged to advertise in these pages. For special rates applicable to member advertising, contact Pat Hosking and quote your membership number.

YOU find the advertiser, WE do the work and YOU get the commission!!

Authorised by G. Tanner, Editor.

For further information, please contact Pat Hosking at Westralian Publishers, Unit 20/56 Creaney Drive, Kingsley 6026
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 ASSOCIATION
Chairman: George Oliver, 2 Ainslie Crt, Kardinya; Ph: 9337 7163.
Correspondence to secretary: Basil Lofthouse, 81/177 Dampier Ave, Kallaroo 6025; Ph: 9402 0962. Meetings: bi-monthly as arranged.

ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS ASSOCIATION
President: Neville Philp, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount; Ph: 9294 1798. Secretary: Mrs B. Philp, address as per President. Meetings: 11.30am 2nd Fri bi-monthly (from Feb), Anzac House.

ALLIED MERCHANT SEAMEN ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Maurice O’Rourke, 240 Burke Dr, Attadale; Ph: 9317 2453. Correspondence to secretary: Jack Edwards, 1 Cromer Rd, Brentwood 6153; Ph: 9364 8793. Meetings: 1pm last Tues monthly (AGM June), Anzac House.

ARCTIC CONVOYS VETERANS’ ASSOC WA
President: Alf Prout; Secretary: Jean Prout; Ph: 9561 1164. Correspondence to: 9 Intrepid Crt, Two Rocks 6037. Social meetings 6-8 times/yr. Enquiries phone 9446 4540.

ASSOCIATION OF FIRST INFANTRY BATTALIONS (WA)
President: Ken Alcorn, 22 Rawlinna Heights, Ballajura; Ph: 9249 9365. Correspondence to secretary: John Cunningham, 39 Planet St, Carlisle 6101; Ph: 9361 3483. Meetings: contact secretary.

ASSOCIATION OF WREN'S WA BRANCH
President: Mary Tearne, 3/63 Corbel St, Shelley; Ph: 9457 9059. Secretary: Mary Wyse, 1/16 Rambutan Pl, South Lake 6164; Ph: 9417 9877. Meetings 10.30am 4th Thurs monthly, Anzac House.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA BRANCH)
President: Bob Smith, 14 Dundee Ct, Duncraig; Ph: 9448 5023. Correspondence to secretary: Barry Long, 6 Hazelct St, Yanchep 6035; Ph: 9561 1741. Meetings: after Anzac Day, AGM (mid-June), birthday (end July), others in quarterly newsletters.

AUSTRALIAN EX-SERVICE ATOMIC SURVIVORS ASSOC INC.
President: Max Kimber, 1 Romford Pl, Kingsley; Ph: 9409 7241. Correspondence to secretary: Randall Harding, PO Box 405, Greenwood, 6024; Ph: 9448 1609. Meetings: 11am 3rd Mon bi-monthly from Feb (April AGM), Belmont RSL Hall, Leake St., bus 306 ex-Perth bus station.

AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSOC (WA) INC
President: Neil Chaplin; Ph: 9302 1388 (w) 9307 8460 (h). Secretary: Graeme Briggs; Ph: 9417 5914. Correspondence to: PO Box 1724, Wangara 6065.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN AND MEN
President: Lionel Hutchings; Secretary: Vera Hutchings; Ph: 9309 9675. Correspondence to: 17 St Johns Ct, Kingsley. Meetings: 1.30pm 2nd Thurs monthly, Fremantle Navy Club; AGM: 19 Nov, Catholic Hall, Thelma St, Como.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Laurie Fraser MBE; Ph: 9224 8211 (w). Secretary: Bruce Wallis; Ph: 9384 1933 (w), 9387 6768 (h). Correspondence to the House No 6 Battery Rd, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne 6010. Meetings: 5pm 4th Wed monthly, The House (as above); AGM Sept.

AUST VETERANS AND DEFENCE SERVICES COUNCIL (WA) AVADSC
Chairman: Air Cdre SW Dallywater (Retd); Ph: 9383 3161. Correspondence to: PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meetings: 10am 1st Wed monthly (from Feb), USI Rooms, Irwin Barracks.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOC (AWAS)
President/correspondence to: Alice Corry OAM, 4 Norrington St, East Vic Park 6011; Ph: 9361 2824. Secretary: Joy Tufnall, Swan Rd, Attadale; Ph: 9330 3945. Meetings: 10am 1st Thurs bi-monthly (AGM Feb), Anzac House.

BCOF ASSOC OF PERTH WA
President: Len Phenna, 6A Western Ave, Yokine; Ph: 9349 5859. Correspondence to secretary: LA Bland, PO Box 639, Balcatta 6914. Ph: 9345 5503. Meetings: 11am 4th Mon (if holiday – Tues) monthly Feb to Nov, Belmont RSL Hall, Leake St.

BLINDED SOLDIERS OF ST DUNSTANS WA
President: WA Walters, Retirement Village, 3rd Ave, Mandurah; Ph: 9535 3602. Correspondence to secretary: Mrs P Dean, 31 Lamond St, Melville 6156; Ph: 9330 5458. Meetings: 1.45pm 2nd Tues bi-monthly Feb to Oct (AGM Aug), Red Cross House, East Perth.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOC INC.
President: DE Clarke, 11 Merton Pl, Kingsley; Ph: 9309 1046. Correspondence to secretary: Jean Harris, 20 Roydon Wy, Girrawheen 6064; Ph: 9247 1009. Meetings: 1.30pm 3rd Tues monthly (AGM 17 Nov), Anzac House.

CATALINA CLUB OF WA
President: Ivan Peirce, 14 Abjornson St, Manning; Ph: 9450 1231. Secretary: Avis Koening, 5 Vista Grove, Mt Nasura; Ph: 9339 6592. Correspondence to: PO Box 866, Canning Bridge 6153. Meetings: 10am 2nd Thurs, Anzac House.

DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: LCol (Ret’d) P Winstanley RFD, 55 Jeanes Rd, Karrinyup; Ph: 9411 6883. Secretary: Maj (Ret’d), PC Pickersgill RFD, ED, 191 Kitchener Rd, Booragoon; Ph: 9330 4015. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Mon, 13 Infantry Brigade Conference Room; AGM 1st Mon April.

DIGGERS CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
President: Miss HK Henderson; Correspondence to secretary: D Evans, 2 Taylor St, Eaton 6232; Ph: 9275 1144.

EX-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S LAND ARMY (AWLA)
President: Phyl Ptolomey, 84 West Rd, Bassendean; Ph: 9279 2279. Correspondence to secretary: Hilda Grey, 21B Elvira St, Palmyra 6157; Ph: 9339 5391. Meetings: 10am 4th Thurs monthly, Anzac House.

EX-FORTRESS ENGINEERS ASSOC
President: Harold Smith, 58 Napier St, Nedlands; Ph: 9386 3305. Correspondence to secretary: Reg Kidd, 257 Holmes Rd, Forestfield 6058; Ph: 9453 2393. Meetings: AGM mid-April; Christmas last Sun Nov.

EX-POW ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Adam Robinson, 19/26 Menora St, Menora 6050; Ph: 9271 4733. Secretary: Ruth James, 7b Wendon Pl, Willetton; Ph: 9457 8727. Meetings: 11am 1st Wed monthly, Anzac House; AGM 1pm 1st Wed March.

EX-WRANS ASSOC OF WA
President: Beverley Kain, 3 Voyager Crt, Coolongup; Ph: 9527 3401. Correspondence to secretary: Joan Aiberti, 1B Imperial Crt, Ocean Reef 6027; Ph: 9300 6119. Meetings: 12.30pm 2nd Mon monthly, Anzac House; AGM noon 2nd Mon Oct.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS CONT.

FEDERATED TB SAILORS', SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: F. Hamilton, 35 Clement Dr, Karrinyup; Ph: 9448 5204. Correspondence to secretary: Grace Storer, 16 Dowell Pl, Bibra Lake; Ph: 9417 9598. Meetings: last Mon monthly, except Jan.

FIGHTER SQUADRONS ASSOC OF WA
President: Mick Michael, 6 Barnabas Pl, Mosman Park 6012; Ph: 9384 4222.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA
President: Eddy Cook, 5 Arcaman Pl, Sth Lakes. Secretary: Theo Bushe-Jones, 26 Baltic Mews, Waikiki; Ph: 9527 9186. Correspondence: PO Box 8336, Stirling Street, Perth 6849. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Wed bi-monthly (from Feb), 71 West Pde, East Perth.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Peter Mulrennan JP; Ph: 9443 8081. Correspondence to secretary: Andy Britton. PO Box 370, Tuart Hill 6939; Ph: 9409 9468. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Mon monthly (AGM September), Anzac House.

HMAS AUSTRALIA VETERANS' CLUB
President: Don Cookesley, 3 Dorking Rd, City Beach; Ph: 9385 7061. Secretary: Harry Townsend. 2A Darnelle Ave, Mt Pleasant; Ph: 9364 2489. Meetings: 11am 1st Tue's quarterly (from March), Naval Association HQ, 71 West Pde, East Perth.

HMAS BATAAN VETERANS' ASSOC
President: Peter Burnett, PO Box S016, Sth Lakes. Correspondence to secretary: Colin Hepburn, 39a Fallow Cres, Spearwood 6163; Ph: 9339 4288.

HMAS CANNBERA - SHROPSHIRE ASSOC (WA DIVISION)

HMAS HOBART ASSOC (WA DIVISION)
President: Graeme Parkiss, 14 Hollis St, Samson; Ph: 9339 8976. Secretary: Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Rd, Shenton Park; Ph: 9381 8705. Luncheons: from noon last Thurs monthly. Anzac House, AGM/Reunion 2nd Feb.

HMAS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS' ASSOC
President: Trevor Lloyd, 48 Bell St, Rockingham; Ph: 9527 1817. Secretary: 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 Cct, Woodvale; Ph: 9409 3037. Secretary: A McMorland, 7 Ridgeway Pl, Mahogany Creek; Ph: 9295 3459. Meetings: 10am 2nd Sat quarter (from March), Belmont Sub Branch. 22 Leake St, Belmont.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOC OF WA (INC)
President: PR Collins. Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Maddren. TPI House, Bag Lot No. 2, Post Office Como 6152; Ph: 9450 6428. Meetings: 1.30pm 1st Wed monthly (except Jan); Office hrs: 9.11am Tues, 9am-12pm Wed & Thurs.

MALAYA MERDEKA VETERANS (WA)
President: Ted Bowman. Correspondence to secretary: J Wimbridge, 24 Sherington Rd, Greenwood 6169; Ph: 9247 4038. Meetings: 2pm 1st Wed monthly, Anzac House.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOC WA
President: Joan Dowson MBE, 3 Bay View Tce, Mosman Park; Ph: 9384 6712. Correspondence to secretary: Mrs L Fealy, 156/10 Morrison St, Como 6152; Ph: 9313 0456. Meetings: as called.

"N" CLASS DESTROYER ASSOC
President: Noel Sinclair, 16/289 Sydney Rd, Gnarabup; Ph: 9405 1598. Correspondence to secretary: Dorothy Higgins, 69 Spigl Wy, Bateman 6150; Ph: 9332 5723. Meetings: Committee – 1st Mon bi-monthly (general – 10am April & Sept) AGM – 10.30am last Mon July.

NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOC (AUSTRALIA) INC
Chairman: G Chapman, 18 Zelkova Wy, Parkwood; Ph: 9457 0482. Secretary: J Hully, 9a Glover Pl, Huntingdale; Ph: 9398 5983.

NATIONAL SERVICESMEN'S ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Oliver Lovelle, 22 Lynmouth Rd, Dianella; Ph: 9276 1676. Secretary: Ken Pages-Oliver, 54/47 Forest Ave, East Perth; Ph: 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: Don Needham, 16 Warragoo Cres, Attadale 6156; Ph: 9330 3411. Meetings: 11.30am last Mon monthly, Navy Club, Fremantle.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
President: Ben Haseldine. 71 Lynton St, Mt Hawthorn; Ph: 9444 3762. Correspondence to: John Ross, 1 Benwee Rd, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9387 6960. Meetings: 11am 4th Tues monthly, 71 West Pde, East Perth; AGM: 5.15pm 4th Thurs Jan.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA SECTIOINC
President: Jack Appleby. 143 McDonald St, Joondanna; Ph: 9444 3598. Secretary Tom Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont; Ph: 9227 8143. Correspondence to: GPO Box 8289, Perth Business Centre, Aberdeen St, East Perth 6001.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC IN AUST
President: E Baints. 154 Wood St, Inglewood. Correspondence to secretary: J Kuijpers, PO Box 311, Inglewood 6932; Ph: 9448 7178. Meetings: 11am 1st Tues, Nollamara/North Perth Sub-Branch. 68 Sylvia St, Nollamara 6061; AGM 1pm last wk Nov.

NORMANDY VETERANS' ASSOC
President: JE Mayers, 15 Finlay Crt, Rivervale; Ph: 9478 2071. Correspondence to secretary: R Bruce, 2/159 Fitzroy Rd, Rivervale 6103; Ph: 9362 3597. Meetings: 11am 1st Tues monthly, Anzac House.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOC WA BRANCH
President: Tom Hampton, 61 Gairloch St, Applecross; Ph: 9364 2335. Correspondence to secretary: Maurie Rinaldi, 35 Weaponess Rd, Scarborough 6019; Ph: 9341 6151. Meetings: 1pm 1st Tues Dec, Anzac House.

PEGASUS (AIRBORNE FORCES) ASSOC OF WA (INC)
President: Ken Barnes, 51 Homestead Rd, Gosnells; Ph: 9337 1315. Correspondence to secretary: John Hately, 14 Purley St, Bayswater 6053; Ph: 9279 8626. Meetings: 12pm 1st Wed monthly, Anzac Club: AGM Feb.

POHISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC SUB-BRANCH NO. 9
President/Secretary: Dr W Gorski; Ph: 9447 5559. Correspondence to 33 Eighth Ave, Maylands 6051. Meetings: last Fri monthly.

RAAF ASSOC AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION SQUADRONS BRANCH
President: Ron Lopaten; Ph: 9535 7830. Secretary: Ray Smith; Ph: 9534 3522. Meetings: quarterly at RAAF Assn Clubrooms, 133 Mandurah Tce, Mandurah.
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY – ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS
President: Neville Philp, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount; Ph: 9294 1798. Secretary: Mrs B Philp, address as above, Meetings/ Luncheon: 11:30am 2nd Fri bi-monthly (from Feb), Anzac House.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVERS ASSOCIATION WA CHAPTER
President: Alex Donald DSC, 7 Woodley Cres, Melville Heights; Ph: 9330 6596. Secretary: POCS Day, Lot 240 Princeton Dve, Port Bouvard, Mandurah; Ph: 9553 2484 (w), 9534 2753 (h). Correspondence: c/- Auscdt Four HMAS Stirling, Rockingham 6958. Meeting: Anzac Day (AGM) 1pm, Navy Club, Fremantle.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOC (WA)
President: Bernie Edmondson, 3 Moness Pl, Shelley; Ph: 9457 5620. Correspondence to secretary: Jack Shephard, Unit 45/60 Kalinda Dve, City Beach 6015; Ph: 9385 8400. Meetings: 10.30am 3rd Mon quarterly (from Feb), Naval HQ, East Perth.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOC WA (INC)
President: John Brierty, 221 Erindale Rd, Hamersley; Ph: 9342 5606. Correspondence to secretary: Brian Macauley, 173 Hardey Rd, Belmont 6104; Ph: 9277 1406. Meetings: 7pm 1st Thurs monthly (except Jan), Anzac House – all Signallers welcomed.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOC
President: Ray Sargeant, 29 Bouvardia Wy, Greenwood; Ph: 9448 5787. Correspondence to secretary: Philip Bray, 33 Nalpa Wy, Duncraig 6023. Meetings: Anzac Day, Corps Birthday (July) and Christmas.

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND
Contact: 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 Pl, Shelley; Ph: 9457 1715. Correspondence to secretary: Mike Pearson, 19/196 St Kilda Rd, Rivervale 6103; Ph: 9277 3741. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Wed monthly (except Dec) at Leederville Bowling Club.

SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH
President: J. Rana, 6 Banksia Pl, Yangebup; Ph: 9417 1811. Secretary: WJF Wells, 56b Planet St, Carlisle 6101; Ph: 9470 6921 or http://www.austsub.asn.au. Meetings: quarterly.

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WA BRANCH INC
President: Kelvin Ferris, Ph 9450 1921. Correspondence to secretary: Glen Cox, TPI Memorial Estate, Bag Lot 2, Post Office, Como 6152; Ph: 9450 1893. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Tues monthly (except Jan); Lunches: weekdays by booking day prior.

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT RAE AIF ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: J Patterson, 15A Greville Wy, Girrawheen; Ph: 9342 0142. Correspondence to secretary: B Thomas, 18/19 Bulrush Dr, Bibra Lake; Ph: 9417 8585. Meetings: 11.30am 1st Mon (if holiday, Tues) monthly (except Jan), Anzac Club.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOC – WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brig NEG Manual (Ret’d), 11/10 Houtman St, Rossmoyne; Ph: 9459 1191. Secretary: Ben Colquhoun, 5 Oakandy Ave, Cloverdale 6105; Ph: 9277 4814. Meetings: 2nd Wed monthly, 49 Banksia St, Joondanna.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: John Barton, 7/5 Sepia Crt, Rockingham; Ph: 9527 3351. Correspondence to secretary: Vivienne Holmes, 11 Doonan Rd, Nedslands 6009; Ph: 9386 1495. Meetings: 10.30am 3rd Wed monthly (AGM 17 June), Anzac Club.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS CONT.

THE HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Len De Grussa, 43 Pitt St, Dianella; Ph: 9276 7253.
Secretary: Mrs Ronnie Roach, 90 Herdsman Pde, Wembley; Ph: 9387 1843.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Ken Barrington; Ph: 9446 4227. Secretary: Kevin Trent, 3 Broad St, Kensington; Ph: 9367 7794. Correspondence to: PO Box 6409, East Perth 6892. Meetings: 8pm last Tues monthly at Navy Club, Fremantle; AGM: 5pm 28 Feb 1999.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION FREMANTLE (WA BRANCH)
President: David Wiseman; 7 Andros Rd, Safety Bay; Ph: 9524 1458. Secretary: Frank Cooke-Willis, 23 Foss St, Palmyra; Ph: 9339 5573. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Tues month (except Jan), Navy Club, Fremantle.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH NORTHERN SUBURBS

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC PERTH (WA) BRANCH
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Gdns. Secret Harbour; Ph: 9524 7506. Correspondence to secretary: Geoffrey Paise, 106 Lansdowne St, Kensington 6151; Ph: 9367 1945. Meetings: 10am May-Oct. 7.30pm Nov-April. 3rd Wed monthly at RSL Hall, Belmont; AGM: 7.30pm 18 March; visitors welcome.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC (ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS BRANCH WA)
Chairman: Ted Haines, Richard Close, Waikiki; Ph: 9592 9506. Correspondence to: D.V. Rawe, 62B Frederick St, Shoalwater 6169; Ph: 9592 6148. Meetings: 11am 1st Sun June-Aug: 7.30pm 1st Tues Sept-May (except Jan), TS Anzac, Point Peron Rd, Rockingham.

THE SERVICES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
President: Doug Rasmussen; Ph: 9221 7010 or 9221 7090. Fax: 9221 1117. 28 St. Georges Tce, Perth 6000. Includes Services Joblink, Cypress Cottage. Pension Assistance.

THE SPITFIRE GROUP
Organiser: Eric Carpenter; Ph: 9342 2779. Correspondence to: 21 Keemore Dr, Balga 6061. Meetings: 12pm bi-monthly 4th Thurs (from Jan), VC Room, Anzac House; all ex Spitfire Squadron members are welcome.

THIRTYNINERS ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA
President: JF Hall, A/3 Hellam Grv, Booragoo; Ph: 9364 7776. Correspondence to: Mrs FE Johnson, 38 Renwick St, South Perth 6151; Ph: 9367 5949. Meetings: 12pm 4th Wed bi-monthly from March, Anzac House.

TOTTALLY AND PARTIALLY DISABLED VETERANS OF WA
President: Peter Douglas; Ph: 9592 6608. Secretary: Malcolm Goss; Ph: 9592 5443. Correspondence to: PO Box 352, Rockingham 6968. Meetings: 10.30am 1st Tues monthly, Naval Assoc Building, Point Peron.

UNITED KINGDOM-COMBINED EX-SERVICES FEDERATION

VA & AAMWS (ASSOC)
President: Glyn Cody, 138A Karrinyup Rd, Karrinyup; Ph: 9341 3323. Correspondence to secretary: Ena McGinn, 9 Castile St, Wembley Downs 6019; Ph: 9446 3742. Meetings: 10am 2nd Tues monthly (AGM March), Girl Guide Hall, Monash Ave, Nedlands.

VIETNAM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUST (INC.)
President: Vic Boreham, 8 Hollis St, Samson; Ph: 9337 8885 (h), 9334 2489 (w). Correspondence to secretary: Brian Long, 38 MacArthur Ave, Padbury 6025; Ph: 9402 0241. Meetings: 3rd Tues every 2nd month, Victoria Cross Room, Anzac House.

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

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Rob Cox; Ph: 0418 928 621. Correspondence to secretary: Les Crowe, PO Box 21, Maylands 6051; Ph: 9455 5310. Office: 219 Railway Pde, Maylands; Ph: 9370 3011. Fax: 9332 4964. Meetings: quarterly.

VIETNAM VETERANS M.C. AUSTRALIA
President: John Lewis, 4 Butterworth Ave, Koondoola. Secretary: P Heeney, 64 Duke St, Scarborough; Ph: 9341 8263. Correspondence to: PO Box 1442, Wangara 6065. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Mon monthly, VVMC Clubhouse, Nollamara; AGM: October.

WA RSL BOWLS SECTION
President: Les Fynmore; Ph: 9364 1476. Correspondence to secretary: Ted Philp, 8a Henning Cres, Manning 6152; Ph: 9450 4033. Meetings: 10am 3rd Mon monthly, Royal Park Bowling Club, North Perth.

WAAAF ASSOCIATION (NOR-WAAAF GROUP)
Meetings: last Thurs each month (except December and January) at 1200 hrs, Anzac House. Enquiries to Lillian Walde on 9349 1829.

WAAAF BRANCH AFA (WA DIVISION)
President: Kathleen Adamson, 27 The Promenade, Mt Pleasant; Ph: 9364 402. Correspondence to secretary: Kathleen Quan, 65 Burnett Ave, Leeming; Ph: 9332 1798. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Mon monthly (except Jan), Memorial House, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bullcreek.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA)
President/Secretary: May Tomich, 2 Ludlans St, Morley; Ph: 9276 8616. Correspondence to: PO Box 6149, East Perth 6892. Meetings: 8pm 20 Mar, 19 June (AGM), 18 Sept, 20 Nov, Anzac House.

WRAAF BRANCH - RAAF ASSOCIATION
President: Judy Bland, 2 Graphic Ct, Beldon; Ph: 9401 8296. Secretary: T Little; Ph: 9417 7415. Correspondence to: c/- RAAF, Bullcreek Dr, Bullcreek 6149. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Tues monthly, Meg Olive Room, RAAF Association, Bullcreek.

Z SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.
President: Capt. Lou Reid MBE RL, 40 Halvorson Rd, Morley; Ph: 9226 1535. Correspondence to secretary: Lt Col Ted Dubeberlin ED RL JP, 28A Houston Ave, Dianella 6062; Ph: 9275 1348. Meetings as arranged.
UNIT ASSOCIATION DETAILS

Please note:
Unit Association details for inclusion in this column are limited to the President and Secretary’s name, address (or relevant postal address) and telephone numbers, plus brief meeting details.
In order for more articles of general interest to be included, it is important that these entries are restricted to five pages only in this magazine.

G. TANNER (EDITOR)
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS CONT.

61 Anglesey Dr, Kardinya 6163; Ph: 9314 1447. Meetings: 8pm 2nd Tues monthly, Meg Olive Room, Airforce Memorial Estate, Bull Creek.

28TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (AIF) 1939-45 ASSOC
Committee: Phil Wilkerson, 51 Pt Walter Rd., Bicton; Ph: 9319 3009; Clif Tamblyn; Ph: 9384 5008; Harold Nicholson; Ph: 9447 5204. Annual reunion early Jan.

44TH BATTALION (AIF) ASSOC
Pres/Sec: R. Collins, 134 Roseberry St, Bedford 6052; Ph: 9271 4448. Meetings: Anzac Day; AGM: 1st & 2nd Fri Nov.

48TH & 2/48TH BATTALION ASSOC
President: Don Spencer, 6 Killara Wy, Craige; Ph: 9401 5744. Correspondence to secretary: Brian Corboy, 11A Ventnor Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 7829. Meetings: 11.30am 3rd Mon monthly, Carlton Hotel.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOC
President: Gerry Bateman DFC, 30 Norton Ridge, Winthrop; Ph: 9332 5051. Correspondence to secretary: NB Johnson, 63 Kirwin St, Floreat Park 6014; Ph: 9387 4229. Meetings: quarterly.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS' ASSOC
President: RH Duncaflie, 6b Taree St, Glen Forest; Ph: 9298 8574. Correspondence to secretary: Peter Hessel, 24 Myinrree Wy, Nollama 6061; Ph: 9344 1756. Meetings: 1.30pm 1st Tues monthly, Anzac House; AGM 1st Tues in May.

Last Post

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

MARCH 1998


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