One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world, except the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centre-piece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One solitary life.

James A. Francis, D.D.
INFORMATION FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

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

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

The information includes:

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

To find out more about the Department and its services please telephone 9366 8444 or country callers 1800 113304.
The Listening Post

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Deadlines for contributions to The Listening Post:
- 31 January for Autumn Edition
- 30 April for Winter Edition
- 31 July for Spring Edition
- 30 October for Summer Edition

If possible, contributions 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, PO Box 13923
  East St George Terrace
  Perth 6832

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The Listening Post - Summer 1998 - Page 1
1998 has proved to be a very successful year for the State Branch. Whilst there have been some controversial issues, these have been overshadowed by a great number of positive activities. The RSL continues to advance in the community by virtue of the recognition and support that it gives to veterans and community groups.

These positives have included a very successful year in membership, particularly those who have rejoined the League as well as initial memberships. It is important that the League continues to grow to ensure our future in providing for returned and ex-service personnel. Our role in supporting veterans and their families will increase substantially over the next five years and increased membership will assist our ability to meet these needs.

The State Branch has also undertaken a major review into its operations and administration and is continuing to develop a business plan to take us into the next millennium. Initial changes have been implemented by the State Executive to ensure our continued growth and viability as a League. The League, particularly at State level, must continue to assess the members' needs and review our operations to meet those needs. I am very confident that with the current positive attitude of the membership, the RSL will continue to thrive in WA. This is the "Big League".

I also take this opportunity to thank all members for their support, particularly Sub-Branch Executive Committees. The task as your State Secretary is a very busy one and from a personal view, very satisfying. I personally look forward to a very positive future with the League.

On behalf of all the staff at Anzac House and those who have worked so recently, I would like to wish all the membership a very happy Christmas and prosperous and joyous 1999.

SHANE M. SEARS, OAM

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
Let them know that you appreciate their support for the RSL, which is essential to the continued success of The Listening Post!
At the time of going to press it is 19 weeks since my election as your President, but it seems more like 19 years. By the time you read this report, it will only be a few weeks until Christmas, so I would like to highlight one or two of the more important aspects of the League and the progress made so far.

Financial details of an audited overview of the 1997 Tattoo losses were promulgated in the September 1998 Sub-Branch Circular to which every member has access. In the meantime, the WA Branch Restoration fund, started by Shenton Park Sub-Branch with $330, has now been established. Please bear in mind that various checks and balances are in place to ensure that your money will be secure, both now and in the future should you decide to contribute to this fund.

The PNG Appeal has raised more than $5,000 to date and money is still coming in. We’re not at a slower pace than before. More than $300,000 has been generated. Both ticket sales in the War Veterans’ Home Raffle and donations are activities that will be a resounding success. We are planning to hold a Statewide raffle of a caravan valued at more than $20,000 during the first three months of 1999. Display vans will be set up in Albany, Busselton, Bunbury, Mandurah and Geraldton as well as throughout the metropolitan area. Sub-Branches which help to sell tickets will be entitled to retain 25 per cent of the gross sales. Details will be promulgated to Sub-Branches separately.

In 1997 the ANZAC Club made a 12 month loss of some $25,000 ($2,000 per month). To some extent, this is being turned around, the loss during the first seven months of this year being only $750. In the bigger picture, at the War Veterans’ Home an expected overall projected loss for the first seven months of some $600,000 (deficit) was found to be a loss of approximately only $30,000.

League Membership

The WA position is encouraging and our membership presently stands at a little more than 12,000. The affiliate membership scheme is starting to move, and in September/October 160 new affiliates joined our ranks, including more than 160 new ordinary members. The indications are that the trend is positive, however there is no room for complacency. It is the duty of each of us in the League to recruit at least one new member. Even if only half our number successfully recruited one new member, State Membership would jump to 18,000. I recently returned from a very successful two-day visit to Kalgoorlie, the first visit by a State President since 1976, on which I was accompanied by Senior Vice-President Len Tuhler and State Secretary Shane Seers. We joined Deputy Commissioner Jim Dalton and other DVA staff members for fruitful group discussions with RSL members and their families from Kalgoorlie and surrounding areas. Country Regional Vice-President Ron Hatch was also present. In a similar vein, a future visit to Albany, with OVA representatives, will be considered shortly. An enlightening Sub-Branch Presidents’ and Secretaries’ day was held at the War Veterans’ Home, Mt Lawley, on 10 October 1998, where the focus was on welfare and membership. Under Membership Committee Chairman Alan Macdonald, a very successful Affiliate Membership Workshop was conducted with Sub-Branches on 9 September 1998 at ANZAC House.

Welfare

The 52-bed Howes Wing Aged Care centre at the War Veterans’ Home, Mt Lawley, was officially opened by Mr Wilson Tuckey on 5 September 1998. While the League contributed in excess of $500,000, the Federal Department of Health and Family Services, Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the Lottery Commission each contributed towards its total cost of some $3.5 million. Recently I have been asking Sub-Branches to try to establish an Alzheimer’s Unit in a similar manner, as well as setting aside funds for former members, widows and war widows. On the basis that the 52-bed refugee of our full-aged veterans will double in the next six years, it is essential to get established as soon as possible. Our younger members need to be encouraged to rally round and take on more of the load, which is another good reason why a strong and growing membership base is of vital importance to the League. At a strategy meeting, the Ex-Service Aged Care Roundtable project being chaired by president Maj Gen Peter Phillips, has been adopted by DVA Minister Scott to come up with a benchmark for the national strategy concerning our aged-veterans living scheme. In caring for the day-to-day veteran community, I commend our hard-working RSL Welfare Officer, Pat...
Rowland, and our very industrious Advocacy Officer, Margot Harness. I also commend our highly successful Vietnam Veterans' Joblink Program and volunteers Doug Rasmussen and Ross O'Connor. A very informative and useful Welfare Officers' Seminar, attended by Sub-Branch Welfare Officers, was conducted on 14 October 1998 at ANZAC House.

Commemorative Matters
The Nurses' Memorial will be dedicated in Canberra in October 1999 and the Korean Memorial in April 2000. The Sandakan Memorial in the 200th year since the islanders were killed in Japanese hands in British North Borneo during World War II is to be dedicated at Sandakan in April 1999. A visiting Australian mission will be selected from all States and our recent Press notices calling for West Australian applicants have resulted in considerable local interest. Subject to being gazetted, the National Day to commemorate the Battles for Australia is to be held on the last Wednesday in September of each year. The 2116 Infantry Battalion Association currently has a sub-committee based at the Kings Park Board with full support in tracing a Kokoda Track Memorial. The Prime Minister and project is to establish an eternal flame in the contemplation area of the State War Memorial is still being considered. It is envisaged that an completion this project may be dedicated near to ANZAC Day 1999.

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Sub-Branches
I am getting around visiting as many Sub-Branches as possible but it is all taken into. While some Sub-Branches have already adopted one or more cadet units, others are yet to bite the bullet so please don't give up on it. Assistance with Neighbourhood and Rural Watch is in reality in every Sub-Branch, while others are yet to announce the concept. An entity in the community is unlikely to develop unless it is encouraged. If you can, your local police officer as well as your community would be grateful for your support. Even more importantly, please give serious consideration to establishing an Operation Feature to maintain social contact with our older veterans who are confined at home, the Welfare Section.

I am still awaiting for many Sub-Branches to want to use the data requested in Annex C of the President's letter of mid-August 1998, containing 21 questions to be answered. These are required as soon as possible please. The idea is that every happy Sub-Branch will be a busy Sub-Branch. Please remember that none of them will be any younger than we are today, and that if we are only as old as we think we are. I add an additional: "Let us work while it is still day, for night cometh when no man can work."

Sub-Branch Circular
Passing of information. One of the things we always prided ourselves about in the Army was the passing of information. It was vital that this information be passed downwards and upwards as soon as possible. The staff at ANZAC House spend time each month compiling and promulgating the various bits and pieces of information which they consider you should know about for the benefit of the RSL membership as a whole. The document then is sent to Sub-Branch secretaries at considerable cost. The indications are that in some instances it is not getting out to the rank and file. Obviously, if your Sub-Branch members get together each month, the main points can be summarised verbally - it need not be read out word-for-word. The ideal situation might be for Sub-Branches to reproduce a similar newsletter in their own monthly news letters to those members who don't make monthly meetings can be kept informed in this way. Representatives of Sub-Branches should monthly receive the Sub-Branch bulletin and League information fairly quickly. I would appreciate it if all Sub-Branches would kindly ensure the system they use in the light of the Delong, Happenden and Blair Downing Poor goes to every member, run a lead time of seven or eight weeks results in a lot of information being outdated by the time our readers about it.
Congress 1999

Now is the time for Sub-Branches to start thinking about the future of the League, persons to stand for election to the state Executive, your own Sub-Branch election of Office Bearers and your Delegates to Congress. The future of your own Sub-Branch and the League are in your own hands. I urge you all to make an interest in these things as we approach 1999.

ANZAC Day Speakers

The State Executive would like to ensure that our country communities are properly catered for on ANZAC Day by having, where possible, the services of a suitable guest speaker. Accordingly, expressions of interest are sought from appropriate individuals who would be prepared to deliver an ANZAC Day Address in country towns and possibly remote areas of the State. Those interested should apply in writing to Ms Judy Almond at ANZAC House, Perth.

Harmony.

No matter how well your Sub-Branch is going, and the League as a whole, there will always be differences of opinion. The secret of success is to be able to progress harmoniously for the overall good of the organisation. Please try to be professional enough to sort out your personal problems outside the Sub-Branch. Let us all try to be happy and work together in harmony.

K.J. BLADEN

A Christmas message from the Governor of Western Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, MC

For most Western Australians, Christmas is a time of great joy as they remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, or gather to celebrate the pleasures of a happy family life in our great State of Western Australia. But, sadly, for some Christmas is a time when loneliness, poverty and homelessness do not bring any joy.

As veterans, we should be concerned that such things can occur in a country where lifestyle and freedoms we fought so hard to protect. But there are many wonderful organizations that provide services, such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, whose Christmas Appeal I launch each year. Of course, the RSL's own support services under Pat Howland's excellent guidance. Organizations such as these deserve our support so they may provide assistance and wellbeing when it is needed the most.

Our national well-being should also remain firmly in the minds of every RSL member. Since the end of the Cold War when, whatever we liked or not, the nuclear crisis had brought a sense of peace and regional stability, we have seen a degradation in the political, economic and social health of our region. The volatility and instability that we have witnessed in our nation in the last 18 months have demonstrated the need for a credible, well-resourced defence capability in Australia. We should not be complacent. We must have forces that can deal swiftly and surely with any consequences that may arise.

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Currently our Australian Defence Force is at its lowest level of manning, and our defence budget has been reduced to its lowest percentage of our Gross Domestic Product since 1935. Issues such as these are important to all Australians, and it is the RSL that has the significant role of keeping a non-military public informed on defence matters. The RSL, like many other organizations, is seeing the need for change to ensure that they remain a credible voice in Australia's defence planning. As age takes its toll on membership, the RSL is working to attract veterans and members of the Defence community into being a part of the RSL, a process which must include our Vietnam Veterans. I once again urge them to join the RSL and help keep it as a powerful voice into the next millennium.

I do not want to seem an agent of doom and gloom in what is a Christmas message. But I saw that the best Christmas gift for all our children is one that guarantees a happy and secure year for the next millennium.

I trust that all RSL members and their families will have a wonderful festive season, and Marketa joins me in wishing you all an Angry for your joyous Christmas and a fulfilling 1999.

Bethnal Jeffery
Chairman of Remembrance
Premier's Christmas Message

Our thoughts at Christmas time include precious recollections and memories of those who have brought happiness and kindness to our lives. All of us recall family members, friends and comrades, some of whom are not with us.

Our dear colleagues in the Parliament are very much aware of the sacrifice of those who lived and died for the peace and freedom we enjoy in Australia. Our history also brings to mind the amazing men and women who fought against tremendous odds in pioneering this State. In gratitude, therefore, it is our responsibility to continue to strive for peace, freedom and goodwill in every aspect of our lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your loved ones a special greeting for your peace and happiness at Christmas time and to say, coupled with this greeting, my personal thanks for the ongoing work and goodwill of the RSL and all its members.

RICHARD COURT MLA
Premier of Western Australia

And they called him Tommy Atkins

When the Battle of Waterloo had ended, the Duke of Wellington was riding over the battlefield where the British dead and wounded were lying. As he rode to the right of the line where the guards had fought, he came across a mortally wounded guardsman whose life was slowly ebbing away. He stopped, asked the guardsman his name, and enquired if there was anything he could do for him. The guardsman gave the Duke his name and then said, "Just leave me, it's all in a day's work for us."

Some years later the staff of the British Army were preparing a sample of the new form that recruits would be required to fill in when enlisting. They went to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, the Duke of Wellington, and asked if he would suggest a name they could use on the form as a sample enlistment form.

As the Duke considered their request, his mind went back to that day on the field of battle at Waterloo, and he thought of the dying guardsman he had spoken to. He picked up his quill and wrote "Thomas Atkins."

DAYE McCLELLAND
Note: Where SC and NC are noted they refer to State Congress and National Congress respectively.

ITEM NO.

CONSTITUTION: SUSPENSION OF SENIOR OFFICE BEARERS OF THE STATE BRANCH

1. That a motion of "No Confidence", be moved in the members of the state executive and trustees and that all positions on the State Executive be declared vacant.

WITHDRAWN at SC by Bullsbrook

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

2. INSERT NEW RULE 8.3 AS FOLLOWS:

8.3 The subscription for Affiliate Members shall be $10, of which $3 shall be remitted to the State Branch as capitation fee.

CARRIED at SC (Highgate/Nollamara-North Perth)

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

3. 11.9 Delete all text after first sentence. 11.9.9 to 11.9.14. Both numbers inclusive - delete in full.

INSERT A NEW RULE AS FOLLOWS:

Ethics Committee - Rules of Procedure

11a.1 When there is need to empanel an Ethics Committee, at the nearest meeting of the State Executive the State Secretary shall draw by lot five persons from the panel, none of whom may be from any Sub-branch of the aggrieved parties.

11a.2 The members of the last empanelled Ethics Committee are excluded from the next draw, should such be required.

11a.3 If an empanelled member advises the State Secretary that within the foreseeable future he is unavoidably prevented from regularly attending meetings of the committee, the State Secretary shall draw by lot a replacement.

11a.4 The committee shall meet within 14 days of being empanelled.

11a.5 Each empanelled committee requires a Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

11a.6 The place of sitting shall be determined by the committee, depending on the circumstances of the case.

11a.7 The quorum for a meeting shall be four persons, one of whom must be the Chairman or his Deputy.

11a.8 The committee shall study all written documentation and submit all information relevant to the grievance, from all parties involved.

11a.9 Any person being a party to the proceedings of the committee shall have the right of an audience with the committee, which shall, where possible, directly interview all persons being a party to the case, should such person wish to appeal, where a person refuses such request, the refusal and reasons for refusal shall be noted.

11a.10 A person appearing before the committee may be accompanied by another who need not be a member of the League, but may not be a practicing lawyer.

11a.11 The committee may request, but cannot compel, any person who believes he may be in possession of relevant information, and who need not be a member of the League, to either appear in person or present in writing answers to questions.

11a.12 The deliberations of the committee shall be confidential, only the decision and reasons for same shall be disclosed to the parties concerned and the State Executive.

11a.13 Within fourteen (14) days after the last sitting of the committee, the decision of the committee, and the advice of the right of appeal shall be conveyed to the parties concerned and the State Secretary be informed of the outcome, for immediate dissemination to the members of the State Executive.

CARRIED at SC (City of Perth/Dongan)

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

4. 13.7 To be amended by deleting the existing text and substituting the following: "the quorum for any State Executive meeting shall be twelve (12) members."

13.7.1 Where the quorum is not met due to casual vacancies exceeding eight (8), the State Secretary shall within 24 hours mail to all Sub-Branches nomination forms for candidates to fill the existing vacancies, said forms to be returned to the State Secretary within fourteen (14) days after being mailed from the head office. The returned envelopes shall be opened within three (3) working days from the closing date for return of the nomination forms, in the presence of a least two (2) State Branch Trustees.
13.7.1.1 Where the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies, all persons so nominated shall be deemed to have been appointed to the State Executive.

13.7.1.2 Where the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, the State Secretary shall, within three (3) working days after the closing date for return of the forms, mail to all Sub-Branches voting papers together with personal data supplied with their nominations. The voting papers, completed in the standard preferential manner, must be returned to the State Secretary within three (3) weeks of having been mailed from the head office. Within three (3) working days from the closing date for return of the voting papers at least two (2) State Branch Trustees acting as returning officers shall open the returned envelopes, count the votes and declare in writing the results.

13.7.2 Immediately after the appointment to the State Executive or declaration of results, whichever the case may be, the State Secretary shall call a special meeting of the State Executive, to take place within seven (7) days.

13.7.3 The names of new members and the results of elections, if held, are to be conveyed to the Sub-Branches in the next circular.

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

13.9.2 Be amended by deleting the present wording and substituting: "during his/her term of office is, or has been, convicted of an indictable offence".

14.8.6 Delete all words after the word "League" and insert new rule 14.11.9 as follows:

14.11.9 Provide safe custody of the common seal of the State Branch.

CARRIED at SC (Katanning/Applecross)

19.34 To be amended by deleting the present wording and substituting the following: "at all State Executive meetings and any other meetings under his Chairmanship the State President shall have a casting vote only.

19.37 To be amended by deleting the full stop in line two and adding: "however, the State President, when attending any meeting in an ex officio capacity, shall have a deliberative vote only, the Chairman of the meeting having the casting vote."

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It makes sense, doesn't it?

So, please remember to tell the person you are dealing with "I saw your advertisement in The Listening Post".
Congress delegates be permitted to question candidates for positions on the State Executive immediately prior to voting.

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

9. Rule 12.16 of the Rules and Standing Orders of the State Branch which now reads: "All candidates for election to positions on the State Executive be permitted to address State Congress for a period not longer than three (3) minutes, prior to contesting the election." Be amended by inserting after the words "the election" in line three, the words: "Each candidate for the positions of State President and State Vice Presidents may each without notice be subjected to questioning by congress delegates for a period of not longer than ten (10) minutes immediately prior to voting.

NEW RULE 12.16 TO NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

12.16 All candidates for election to positions on the State Executive be permitted to address State Congress for a period no longer than three (3) minutes prior to contesting the election. Each candidate for the positions of State President and State Vice Presidents may each without notice be subjected to questioning by congress delegates for a period of not longer than ten (10) minutes immediately prior to voting.

10. That the present system of electing the State President, Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President as prescribed in State Rule 12.17 and 12.18 be abolished, and that there be two panels of ten (10) members elected by State Congress to the State Executive in lieu of two panels of nine (9) as at present. At the first ordinary meeting of the State Executive after the Annual State Congress nominations for the position of State President, Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President shall be taken from the members of the State Executive and voted upon in accordance with new State Rule 12.3.

That the State Rules have the following additions and deletions:

Delete State Rule 12.17 and 12.18.
In State Rule 12.19, 12.20 and 12.21 alter "nine (9)" to read "ten (10).
In Rule 12.24 delete all the words in the second line between "one ..... Period of".
In State Rule 13.1, alter after "18" to read "17".
Delete State Rule 12.3 and 12.4.
Add new State Rule 12.22.1 to read:

12.22.1 If in the times of the elections there are casual vacancies on the alternate panel serving for another year, such vacancies shall be automatically filled after the declaration of elections by the returning officer from the reserve panel, in order of preference.

13.2. The firstordinary meeting of the State Executive after the Annual Congress shall be opened by the State Secretary who shall preside over the election of the State President and both Vice Presidents. The elections shall be held individually for each position, with nominations from between the members of the State Executive. In the result of them being more than one (1) nomination for any position, a written ballot shall be held, by preferential method, with the State Trustees acting as returning officers.

Add new State Rule 13.3 to read:

13.3.1 After the conclusion of the elections for State President and both Vice Presidents, the State Secretary shall hand over the chair to the newly elected President and the meeting shall proceed with the normal business of an ordinary monthly meeting.

13.8.1 Sub-Branch Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers or their representatives shall be entitled to attend meetings of the State Executive and/or its committees as observers, but shall not be entitled to speak or vote on any matter.

13.8.2 Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman may invite questions from the observers in attendance.

CARRIED at SC (City of Rockingham/Riverdale-Carlisle)

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

11. That rule 11 of the rules and Standing Orders of the WA Branch of the League be amended by the insertion of new Rules 11.8.1 and 11.8.2 which are to read as follows:

11.8.1 Sub-Branch Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers or their representatives shall be entitled to attend meetings of the State Executive and/or its committees as observers, but shall not be entitled to speak or vote on any matter.

11.8.2 Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman may invite questions from the observers in attendance.

CARRIED at SC (City of Rockingham/Warri)
CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

13.65 That rule 14.8.6 empowering the State Executive to appoint the three (3) Trustees be deleted in its entirety and that:

(b) Rule 12.12.6 which currently reads “elect all office bearers of the State Executive by preferential voting” be amended by inserting immediately after the words by preferential voting, the words “and three (3) Trustees”. Rule 12.12.6 to now read:

12.12.6 Elect all Office Bearers of the State Executive and three (3) Trustees by preferential voting.

WITHDRAWN at SC (City of Rockingham/Rivervale-Carlisle)

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO STATE RULES

14. That rule 14 of the rules and Standing Orders of the WA Branch be amended by inserting a new rule 14.11.9 which reads as follows:

14.11.9 Upon written request by a Sub-Branch to be placed on the mailing list of the confirms minutes of the meetings of the State Executive and/or committees forwarded without delay as soon as they are available.

CARRIED at SC (City of Rockingham/Wanneroo-Joondalup)

CONSTITUTION: AMELIORATION FUND

15. That consideration be given to re-establishing a fund to provide for an innoculation account with funds below $1000.

LOST at SC (Northampton/Tuesday)

CONSTITUTION: MEMBERSHIP

16. That final acceptance of application for membership be dependent upon a copy of the documented evidence accompanying the completed application form for ratification by the State Branch.

LOST at SC (Osborne Park/Tuesday)

CONSTITUTION: NATIONAL ARTICLES

17. That State Executive move at the National Congress that National Article 14a be rewritten, abolishing the Central Appeal Tribunal and establishing independent State Branch Appeal Tribunals.

CARRIED at SC (Nollamara-North Perth/Kwinana) WITHDRAWN at NC

RSL War Veterans' Homes Video Library

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

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

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

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

WITHDRAWN at SC (Eastern Hills/Northam)
CONSTITUTION: NATIONAL ARTICLES - RSL: ENVIRONMENT - CONTENTIOUS ISSUES
19. That in the event of a contentious issue arising that could affect the lives and beliefs of RSL Members, a plebiscite of all RSL Members be conducted, and the majority opinion expressed by members through the official stance of the League.
CARRIED at SC (City of Rockingham/Osborne Park) LOST at NC

REPATHRIATION - ADMINISTRATION: APPLICATION FOR PENSIONS, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (DVA)
20. That appropriate representation be made to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs that DVA be allocated the necessary resources enabling it to expedite and process applications within a more acceptable timeframe than the present two months.
CARRIED at SC (Osborne Park/Highgate) and as amended by NC

REPATHRIATION - ADMINISTRATION
7. That all 1939-45 Ex RAAF personnel who have the above preamble included in their service records held by the Department Veterans' Affairs and which department have in receipt of their British Medical Records and/or Hospitalisation Reports be entitled to a disability pension dated back to their 70th birthday and be issued with a gold health card.
CARRIED at SC as amended (Scarborough/Applecross) and NC

REPATHRIATION - COMPENSATION BENEFITS: TPI ELIGIBILITY
22. That the paid work stipulation for TPI pension eligibility be replaced by the following: "The veteran must be permanently incapable of undertaking paid work for more than a full working day per week."
CARRIED at SC (Rivervale-Carlisle/Murray) LOST at NC

REPATHRIATION - COMPENSATION BENEFITS: AMENDMENT TO VETERANS ENTITLEMENT ACT 1984 - BEREAVEMENT PAYMENTS
23. That the National Executive pursue amending the current payment of bereavement payments to include the next-of-kin of war widows, and single veterans.
CARRIED at SC (Port Kennedy/Mullaloo-North Perth) LOST at NC

REPATHRIATION - FUNERAL BENEFITS
24. That the exceptional increase in funeral and cremation costs, due to $2,500 now being to the $3,500 although proposed has never been introduced.
CARRIED at SC (Mandurah-City of Rockingham) Referred to Victoria Motion 4.1.1 which was Carried at NC

REPATHRIATION - OTHER COMMONWEALTH AND ALLIED FORCES: EXPATRIATE SERVICE Men'S CONCESSIONS
25. That British Ex-Service Personnel who have fought against a common enemy with the British Commonwealth of Nations and who have obtained Australian citizenship, and attained the age of 65 years, be entitled to the same concessions as Australian Ex-Service Personnel.
LOST at SC (Northampton/Busselton)

REPATHRIATION - OTHER COMMONWEALTH AND ALLIED FORCES: GOLD CARD
26. The State and National Executive to exercise their power to widen the ambit of the gold card to include all Australian Veterans and Naturalised Allied Veterans over 75 years of age.
CARRIED at SC (Scarborough/Mandurah) LOST at NC

SOCIAL SECURITY AND TAX: ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS FROM PENSIONS
27. That National Congress request that the Federal and State Governments enforce the laws relating to pensions, exempting them from FID and BAD tax, and that at least four withdrawals per fortnight be exempted from any Government or bank levy or fee.
CARRIED at SC as amended (Rivervale-Carlisle/Geraldton City) and as amended by NC

ANZAC, COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS: ANZAC COMMEMORATION
28. That throughout Australia, direct descendants of veterans be permitted and encouraged to parade with veterans on Anzac Day where possible.
CARRIED at SC (Applecross/Murray) and as amended by NC

ANZAC, COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS: CELEBRATION OF ANZAC DAY AT SCHOOLS
29. That the League write to the Minister for Education and the Premier and request the Education Department review the current school year and rearrange the terms holidays so that ANZAC Day, April 25th, falls during the first week of the second term that entering that each school can hold ANZAC Day service at their school, just prior to ANZAC Day.
CARRIED at SC (City of South Perth/Armadale)
ANZAC, COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS: ANZAC COMMEMORATION
30. "ANZAC Eve": That the pre-ANZAC Day Commemorative Service at the RSL War Veterans' Home in Mount Lawley be reinstated.
CARRIED at SC (Applecross/Rubgy)

ANZAC, COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS: STATE WAR MEMORIAL
31. That a permanent ramp, a portable ramp be provided for use on special occasions such as ANZAC Day and other significant ceremonies.
CARRIED at SC as amended (City of Rockingham/Murray)

ANZAC, COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS: REFURBISHING OF FREMANTLE WAR MEMORIAL
32. That the Federal Government be approached to provide funds to refurbish the Fremantle War Memorial.
CARRIED at SC (Batterville-Carlisle/Arcydale)

ANZAC, COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG
33. As a symbolic gesture of loyalty and support for the Australian National Flag, all members of the League are encouraged to pre-position, in as prominent a place as possible, three (3) hand held flags (approx. 10x5 inches, cost around $2) on the evening before ANZAC Day: One flag on each neighbour's side and one opposite the member's place of residence. Responsibility for the cost, if any, to be borne by individual members as a gift of love.
CARRIED at SC (Highgate/Applecross) and NC

DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS: RE-SUBMISSION OF 1995/96 HOVERCRAFT CONCEPT AND 1997 AUSTRALIAN WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAMME
34. Resubmit the 1995/6 Hovercraft Concept, together with the USS Essex Photograph and Operational Capacity and Summary together with the 1997 Weather Modification Programme.
CARRIED at SC (Northampton/Bongaree) LOST at NC

DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS: MEDICAL DISCHARGE
35. That all H.I.V. positive members of the Defence Forces be immediately discharged on medical and humanitarian grounds.
CARRIED at SC (Mandurah/Returned Ex Servicewomen) and NC

CIVIL DEFENCE: NATIONAL SERVICE
36. That a Universal National Service Scheme be introduced based on the Swiss Model, where all young men and women carry out military or civilian duties for a period of time in an emergency.
For Australia, this young men and at a later stage young women, on the completion of secondary education or reaching 18 years of age be enlisted and given the option of undertaking military or civilian tasks.
Exceptions: Mentally retarded and other specified disabilities.
Deferrals for those undertaking university, technical or trade courses to be only until the completion of their first course or dropping out of it. This group could be potential leaders for the 18 year old.
WITHDRAWN at SC

SECURITY/COMMUNISM/FASCISM: SECURITY AND NATIVE TITLE
37. That a balanced perspective of the early factual relationship between Europeans and Aborigines be tactfully introduced to the Australian school curriculum, defining some of the very real benefits derived from colonisation and simultaneously acknowledging some of the crimes, and especially well-developed faculties possessed by Aborigines.
CARRIED at SC as amended (Northampton/Rivervale-Carlisle) and NC

SECURITY/COMMUNISM/FASCISM: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
38. A. We urge the Commonwealth Government to increase land, sea and air surveillance along our coastlines, and an increase land forces in remote areas.
B. That the law be toughened to ensure that illegal immigrants from any country be quickly dealt with by being sent back immediately to their country of origin. That they not be given asylum and those already in the Australian country be deported to their original country of residence: Also that they not be allowed to receive legal aid and be left to remain in holiday camps at the taxpayers expense.
CARRIED at SC (Dongara/Donnybrook) and amended by NC

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS
39. That all illegal boat people be sent to their respective countries immediately and not detained in this country at such great expense plus legal aid costs. And that all costs be deducted by
this country from the aid given to their country of origin.

CARRIED at SC as amended (Mandurah/Geraldton City) and NC

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: YOUTH TASK FORCE
40. Given the enormity of the problems pertaining to our youth, the RSL to lobby all tiers of Government to provide ongoing support to the Committee, so as to identify, youth task force investigate and recommend solutions to some of the problems that beset the youth of Australia.

CARRIED at SC (Osborne Park/Gosnells) and as amended by NC

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: LAW AND ORDER
41. That the State Branch lobby the State Government to address the problem of an increasing crime rate by demanding that the State Government:
A. Allocate the necessary resources, both human and financial to address a deteriorating crime problem in Western Australia.
B. Legislate to enable the judiciary to exact punishment that is a viable deterrent to crime. The penalties to reflect the public’s abhorrence of the crimes committed.

CARRIED at SC (Osborne Park/Port Kennedy)

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: LAW AND ORDER
42. That Congress press for the maximum sentence to be administered against these offenders and that in the case of murder premeditated or not, the death sentence be brought back and that some form of physical punishment be administered where there has been some form of injury.

CARRIED at SC (Mandurah/Armadale)

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: POPULATION (NATURALISATION)
43. That returned ex-service personnel having served in the ADF wishing to become Australian citizens have the application fee waived in recognition of their contribution to the Australian nation when applying for citizenship by naturalisation.

CARRIED at SC (Albany/Armadale) and as amended by NC

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: TRAVELLING CONCESSIONS
44. A. Rail and bus travel concessions apply seven days a week, twenty four hours of the day, all the year round to citizens holding Travel Concession Cards.

H. Hotels and bus country travel to apply all year round and are not to be curtailed during school holidays.

CARRIED at SC (North Beach/Busselton)

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: FINANCING PERTH INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
45. That steps be taken under Rule 11.8 to recover monies lost as a result of the RSL and the War Veterans’ Homes finances being used to finance the Tattoo, from the person or persons who, despite the direction given to the State Executive by the governing body, i.e. the 81st State Congress of the WA Branch of the RSL, authorized the use of RSL and War Veterans’ Homes funds to be used for financing of the Perth International Tattoo.

WITHDRAWN at SC

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: CAVALCADE & INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
46. That the WA RSL State Branch shall never again attempt to, or be involved with any other party, financially in the production of a ‘Cavalcade’ or ‘International Tattoo’ or like type event.

LOST at SC (East Victoria Park & Vietnam Veterans/Claremont)

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GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS

47. That the Queensland Branch be acquainted with our full support and suggestion that they try again to have this award made.

CARRIED at SC (Mandurah/City of Rockingham) LOST at NC

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: USE OF DRUGS

48. That the para-medics establish overdosing prior to their moving to these schemes and should there be other calls for their services, these get preference. Considering being of course a 'self-inflicted injury'.

LOST at SC (Mandurah/Geraldton City)

GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS: UNIT ACCOMMODATION

49. That the request for $200 be substantiated, but any surplus after administration costs have been deducted, be refunded.

CARRIED at SC (Mandurah/North Beach)

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NOTICE OF MOTION

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA NATIONAL DAY

1. That the Returned and Services League of Australia support the concept of a commemorative day for the battle for Australia, the first Wednesday of September.

CARRIED at SC as amended (Returned women/Highgate) and as amended by NC

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RSL FUNDRAISER

The Royal Show Car Parking fundraisers organised car parking for the 1998 Royal Show and made $2,005 for RSL Welfare. A job very well done and very much appreciated. Special thanks to all Sub-Branch Members who assisted. JOHN BRIDGEN, Co-ordinator.
End of a Navy Era

By Vic Jeffery, OAM, Navy Public Affairs (WA)

It was the end of an era when the White Ensign was lowered on the RAN's last River-class destroyer, HMAS Torrens at HMAS Stirling on Friday, 11 September.

Decommissioned only 17 days short of the 30th anniversary of the ship's launching by Dame Zara Holt at the Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney on September 28, 1968, Torrens was the last of a class of six anti-submarine destroyers escort which served Australia so well between 1961-98.

First commissioned on 19 January, 1971 under the command of Commander (later Vice Admiral) Ian Knox, at the time of her decommissioning, she boasted 21 commanding officers - five of whom have gone on to Flag rank - Vice Admirals Ian Knox and Rod Taylor, and Rear Admirals Neil Ralph, the late David Martin, and today's Maritime Commander Australia, Rear Admiral Chris Ritchie.

They came from far and wide to farewell HMAS Torrens.

Among those present at her Decommissioning Ceremony were the Reviewing Officer, Sir James Killen, (former Minister for Navy 1969-71 and Minister for Defence 1975-82), Rear Admiral Chris Ritchie, Commodore Flotillas Commodore Russ Shalders, Commodore Fleet Bases Commodore Paul Kabbe, and former Commanding Officer Captain John McDermid, RAN Retd.

Three still-serving members of her Commissioning crew, Lieutenant Commander Ken Storey, Lieutenant Bill "Windy" Gale, ironically paying-off that same day after 35 years service, and Chief Petty Officer Steven Colvin present plus a few more of the commissioning crew in the crowd. Decommissioning crew member Chief Petty Officer Trevor Henderson holds the distinction of having served on the ship on five occasions during her career.

With the badges of the six ships of the class - Parramatta, Yarra, Stuart, Derwent, Swan and Torrens adorning the ship's bow, the first Commanding Officer, Commander Vic Jones, described the decommissioning as the "ending of a chapter in the history of the Australian Navy".

Presiding Clasps were Barrie Yeoburn RAN and Paul Cottier RAN, with the music for the occasion provided by the RAN Band (Melbourne) under the direction of Lieutenant Paul Cottier RAN.

During her 27 years in service, Torrens steamed 832,796 nautical miles (1,432,338 km) and spent 61,590 hours underway. On the day of her decommissioning she was only three days short of completing the last eight years of her naval life homeported in WA.

Some of the many highlights in Torrens' career were winning the coveted Duke of Gloucester Cup in 1981, escort duties to Vung Tau in support of Australian forces in Vietnam in 1972, and twice in 1974 and 1981 joining the Royal Yacht Squadron and escorting HMY Britannia whilst in the South Pacific.

In 1996, Torrens was the last RAN ship to visit Hong Kong before the handover by the British Government, and then in 1998 Torrens became the first RAN ship to re-enter the harbour after its handover to China.
Official Opening of the Howes Centre
Mt. Lawley War Veterans' Home

On 5 September 1998, a very moving ceremony was conducted in the chapel of the War Veterans' Home. This special occasion was to mark the opening of the Howes Centre in the newly-constructed wing of the Home.

The Howes Centre is a 52-bed facility specifically designed with the needs of frail aged veterans, war widows, the aged and disabled in mind. It provides quality nursing care and lifestyle support for residents with mobility restrictions and dementia. The wing was constructed through the partnership and support of the Department of Health and Family Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Lotteries Commission. Members of the League, Sub-Branches, Women's Auxiliary and Unit Associations also generously assisted. With all the combined effort, the project has been highly successful.

The unveiling was performed by Mr Wilson Tuckey MP, representing the Minister for Health and Family Services. Speakers included the State President of the RSL, Lt Col Ken Bladen (Rtd), Chairman of the Homes Board, Mr Len Turner, and other dignitaries who had been associated with the Homes over many years. Many aspects of the history of Mt Lawley and the achievements up to the present time were mentioned in the speeches.

Following the formalities, the gathering was invited to inspect the Centre and take the opportunity of speaking to some of the residents. The project is of a high standard and is a credit to the architects and those responsible for the building. Attendance at the Rolph Lounge concluded an excellent afternoon for all who attended.

R.D. MERCER

End of a Navy Era

HMAS Torrens boasted the last manned twin-5-inch Vickers gun turret in the RAN and carried out her final shoot during a families' day off the WA coast on 21 August. Once a familiar sight on Battle and Daring-class destroyers and the River-class destroyer escorts, they saw active service in bombardment roles during the Korean War, off Vietnam and during the Malaysia-Borneo Confrontation during their 48 years of RAN service.

Another distinction of which Torrens was very proud was being the last steam-powered naval greyhound in the west coast, and on her last open day at Fleet Base West, more than 1000 people—many of them old sailors—took to her final furlough.

Once a familiar sight around South East Asia, Torrens now lies silent alongside the Parkes Wharf at HMAS Stirling, where she has been stripped of useful fittings and equipment.

There have been expressions of interest from Albany and Rockingham to bids to obtain the old warhorse for use as a dive wreck off the WA coast. The Navy's preferred option was to turn the hull into further service as a submarine target ship off the West Australian coast in 1999.
War heroine honoured

Former nursing sister and war heroine Mrs Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkel) has been honoured with the naming of Hollywood Private Hospital's new wing as the Vivian Bullwinkel Wing.

The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, officially named the Bullwinkel Wing recently in a small ceremony at the 300-bed on-no-stay hospital in Nedlands, WA, attended by Colonel and Mrs Statham and their invited guests.

Mrs Statham served during World War II and narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Japanese before being imprisoned in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. Mrs Statham began her nursing career when she graduated from Broken Hill hospital in 1938 and since then has had a lifelong association with nursing—especially caring associated with veterans.

For her services to nursing, she has been honoured with an Order of Australia, been made a Member of the British Empire, been an Associate of the Australian Red Cross, received an Efficiency Decoration, and has been awarded the rare Florence Nightingale Medal by the Geneva headquarters of the International Red Cross and been made an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Red Cross.

Mrs Statham didn't nurse at Hollywood but she played an active role in its Red Cross Auxiliary Group being chairman from 1980 to 1988 and also in the early 90s. Hollywood's new wing was opened in August '97. All the wards in Hollywood have been named after Western Australia's Victoria Cross and George Cross winners.

His Excellency said that naming the wing after Mrs Statham was a fitting recognition of her many years of outstanding service to nursing. "As her Order of Australia citation reads: 'her heroism, courage and humanitarian achievements are unique.' His Excellency said.

Where will you be next Anzac Day??

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LEGACY

Christmas Greetings

to everyone from the Presidents of Perth and Fremantle Legacy Clubs and the Chairman of Torchbearers for Legacy in Western Australia.

Many thanks to those who supported our recent fundraising events, and a reminder that our famous West Australian Mills & Ware's Christmas Puddings are now available for collection and sale at $7.00 each or $84 per carton.

Each purchaser is eligible to enter a draw for a prize of a holiday for two, flying Qantas and enjoying five nights accommodation at Conrad Jupiters on the Gold Coast. (Meals are not included in this package.)

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

Legacy Militaria Auction

Our Seventh Militaria Auction will be held at Legacy House, 64 Mill Point Road, South Perth, on Sunday, March 14, 1999, commencing at 10.00am. Items of militaria such as badges, swords, uniforms, hats, medals, items, war souvenirs, documents, or any item you believe may be suitable, should be delivered to Legacy House by Friday, March 5, where a receipt will be issued.

Items sold at auction will directly benefit Legacy with 20% of the sale price going to Legacy and 80% to the vendor.

OUR AUCTION will attract many militaria collectors, so please check your cupboards, drawers and garage for any item you believe suitable and support this project. Who knows? You may have a fortune in that old trunk that you can turn into cash!!

INSPECTION TIMES: SATURDAY MARCH 13: 10.00AM - 4.00PM
 SUNDAY MARCH 14: 9.00AM-10.00AM

For further information contact Terry Healy, Manager, on (08) 9367 5799.
Hollywood Private Hospital is continuing its redevelopment progress to better meet the needs of the Veterans, War Widows and Widowers we serve.

**Specialist Centre move**

The Hollywood Specialist Centre was opened on November 26 by the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Richard Court. Specialists who see patients in the current Medical Centre will continue to do so in their new rooms.

The new Specialist Centre is located on the nurses' quarters site, facing Monash Avenue. Initially for the first two months, patients will be received at the current Medical Centre and will be escorted over to the new Specialist Centre.

To ensure a smooth changeover, John Davies, who currently works in Admissions as concierge, will perform a similar role in the new Specialist Centre for at least the first three months of the opening.

All staff working within the old centre have been guaranteed jobs at Hollywood while some will be working with the consultants - so many of the faces at the new centre will be familiar. The medical secretariat services will be available to consultants for the next six months and will then be reviewed.

**Cardiology facility - open 24 hours**

Meanwhile, the new cardiology facility will open on January 1, 1998. The acute chest pain unit will accept patients with chest pain requiring urgent treatment; and medical and nursing staff will be on the spot 24 hours a day, seven days per week, to provide immediate treatment.

Any entitled Veteran or privately insured patient can use this service. In emergencies, it will not be necessary to get a doctor's referral - you can come straight in for assistance, by ambulance, if necessary.

The cardiology facility will be accessible from the left of the main reception area and can be easily accessed through the hospital's main entrance.

The cardiology facility will include an angiography suite (for performing cardiac catheter laboratory procedures), a coronary care unit, cardiology consulting suites and facilities for cardiology investigation services.

**Gastroenterology/day procedure unit**

The new gastroenterology unit and day procedure unit will be completed in April 1999.

The new James Gordon Ward Hollywood will have another new ward in 1999. The current Staff Development area, former Ward 6, is soon to be redeveloped into more patient accommodation.

But rest assured, the new ward will be nothing like the old Ward 6! The new area is a perfect fit for the predicted increase in the number of patients following the changes to Gold Card entitlements in January 1999. About 3,700 extra veterans will be eligible for treatment at Hollywood with the new "Gold Card" issue.

With the expected demand, the Health Department has granted Hollywood 25 extra bed licences after the hospital made a formal application.

The redevelopment will consist of eight single rooms and eleven two-bed rooms, all with en suites. The accommodation will be of a similar standard to the accommodation in the Bullwinkel Wing (new wing of the hospital opened in August 1997), with televisions and telephones for each patient.

Clinical Nurse Manager Kathryn Powell will be responsible for both this ward and the current George Grove Ward and the new ward will be named the James Gordon Ward after another West Australian Victoria Cross winner.

Hollywood is currently seeking planning approval for the redevelopment, which is planned to start late this year.

*Any questions?*

If you have any queries on Hollywood's redevelopment or any other matters relating to the hospital - please contact Catherine Archer, our Community Relations Manager, on (08) 9346 6716, during office hours.
AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

BY-LAW NO 32 - SUB-ARTICLE 32.1

1. A Sub-Branch within the jurisdiction of the Branch, may apply to the State Executive for approval to institute a form of Affiliate Membership, within that Sub-Branch, in accordance with these rules.

2. The Constitution and Rules of Affiliate Membership shall not have effect until approved by the State Executive and no alteration shall be made thereto until the same has been approved by the State Executive.

3. The constitution and Rules of Affiliate Membership shall not be inconsistent with the National Constitution of the League or the National By-Laws or these Rules and any other Branch By-Laws.

4. Affiliate Members shall carry out and further the Objects of the League and be bound by its Standing Policy. In addition, they shall promote the Standing Policy within the Sub-Branch.

5. The purpose and Rules under which Affiliate Membership is to be conducted are as provided in these Rules and By-Laws or such other Rules as the Branch or the State Council may decide.

6. Affiliate Membership shall have a separate badge to the League and shall be in such form as the National Executive determines. Each Affiliate Member shall on payment of the first annual subscription, be issued with a badge as part of their annual subscription.

7. Supplies of badges shall be obtained by each Sub-Branch Secretary from the Membership Office of the Branch. There shall be financial year clips for Affiliate Membership badges.

8. Eligible persons who may be elected as Affiliate Members are those who do not qualify for Ordinary membership and may be any of the following to be accepted as Affiliate Members of the Sub-Branch:

   (a) Any relative of an Ordinary or Life Member of the Returned & Services League of Australia, or
   (b) Any relative of a deceased Ordinary or Life Member.

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John Burridge
91 Shenton Road, Swanbourne
(through the week please phone first)
Sat 9am - 1pm  Phil 9384 1210

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP (cont'd)

A person at the time of his or her death was eligible
to be a member of the League. The applicant must
be over 18 years of age.
(c) Persons awarded the Certificate of Merit or a
National or State Certificate of Appreciation, who
have given valuable service to the League.

9. Any person being eligible for Affiliate Membership
may apply for membership by lodging with the Sub-
Branch Secretary an application on a prescribed form
and must be nominated by an Ordinary or Life Member
of the Sub-Branch.

10. The name and address of the person applying for
Affiliate Membership must be displayed in a
conspicuous place in the Sub-Branch premises for at
least two (2) weeks before consideration of the
application at a meeting of the Committee of the Sub-
Branch:

11. Affiliate Members shall be liable for an annual
subscription to be determined by the State Branch.

K & J Pest Managers
An ex-serviceman serving the ex-services community
Termites, Cockroaches, Flies
Mosquitoes, Rodents
All work comes with
a free service period
Keith Walsh 9377 4720
FREE TERMITE RISK APPRAISALS
Mr. Mike Hall, Master of Ceremonies
for the Hollywood Tea Dance.

Veterans enjoy health week activities

Dances, educational seminars and morning teas — these were just some of the myriad of activities enjoyed by Veterans, War Widows and Widowers as part of Veterans' Health Week during October this year.

The popular Hollywood Tea Dance — organised by RSL Executive member Mike Hall and sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital — was a great success, with Hollywood's Red Cross Hall filled to capacity.

Meanwhile, Hollywood also was involved with two major free health seminars, in association with the RAAFA estates at Merriwa and Bull Creek. Hollywood also sponsored the launch of Veterans' Health Week, with more than 500 veterans attending.

Hollywood Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall said Hollywood was delighted to contribute to these worthwhile events as part of its dedication to serving the Veteran community.

Mr. and Mrs. Stone and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson at the dance.

Mr. and Mrs. Stone and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson at the dance.

Commemorative Activities City of Barth, former location of Stalag Luft 1

From July 1940 to May 1945, members of the British Commonwealth and United States Air Forces and their allies from the occupied countries and the Soviet Union were interned at this camp.

The highlight of the commemorative activities was the unveiling of a plaque in a small park at the former site of the POW camp. The plaque resulted from the town's determination to correct what during the period of the former GDR had been an inaccurate and inadequate commemoration of the camp's former inmates. The plaque was provided by the citizens of Barth and the Royal Air Force Ex-Prisoner of War Association to commemorate all those held prisoner (including a number of Australians who flew as members of the Commonwealth Air Forces).

The driving force behind the weekend's activities was Frau Radau, Archivist for the City of Barth, as a young child in the end of the war she felt her life was saved by the assistance given her by the POWs between the end of the war and their repatriation back home. Her dedication has resulted in her producing a book on the camp, which includes the experiences of many Ex-Stalag Luft 1 POWs she has had contact with over the years.

Frau Radau is keen to continue writing about the camp and its history. Through this letter I am hoping that any Australian Ex-POWs of Stalag Luft 1 will take the opportunity to write to her about their experiences at the camp.

FRAU RADAU
STADTVERWALTUNG BARTH
POSTFACH 45
18351 BARTH, GERMANY

Submitted by Lt. Col. K. ALEXANDER
The World War II Heritage Sites of the Northern Kimberley (part 2)

By Lindsay J. Peet, Research Officer of the Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust of Australia (WA)

Site 2: No. 317 Radar Station Site, Pago (1943-44)

Situated on the coast near Mission Rocks and about 1.5 km north-west of the Old Drysdale Mission at Pago, a RAAF light weight air (early) warning (LWAW) radar was operated from April 1943 to April 1944 to help defend No. 58 OBU established in March at the Drysdale airfield, some 20 km to the south-west. This radar was of the light weight air transportable type especially developed for the RAAF. It and its associated power generating equipment were flown in from New South Wales and set up at Pago, the whole process taking about 21 days. The radar personnel camped around the Old Mission buildings. This radar was the northernmost in WA, and when the north-eastern part of the Kimberley came under the control of the RAAF's North-Western Area, it reported to Fighter Control in Darwin.

Although the radar tracked Japanese aircraft travelling along the coast and also warned of the air raid on the Kalumburu Mission in September 1943, its detection range of up to 160 km was unsatisfactory because it was situated on a fairly low headland (air warning radar works roughly on the line of sight principle). So, in January 1944, a substantial wooden tower, looking like a large tank stand, was constructed out of local timber. The whole "doover" (the wartime colloquial name for this Top Secret radar equipment) was then placed on the top and the maximum range increased to about 210 km. There was apparently a control room inside the tower. This tower, which seems to have been one of only two such wartime LWAW towers on the Australian mainland, exists today. Nearby is a power house site and another revetted structure which may have been a subsequent powerhouse, and on the beach is a lookout built out of local stone, apparently to guard against a Japanese attack from sea. This site is easily accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicle. A permit is required which can be purchased from the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation.

Site 3: No. 317 Radar Station Site, Sir Graham Moore Island (1944-45)

As early as August 1943, the RAAF was looking for a better site than Pago. Following commencement of construction of Truscott Airfield in early 1944, No. 317 Radar was moved to the northern end of Sir Graham Moore Island (about 30 km to the north of Pago) where there was a high plateau which gave it a greater range. Due to flooding, its campsite was moved halfway up the hillside, where many remains can still be seen. The "doover" was hauled onto the plateau; portions of its light weight tubular structure are still there, a plate designating it "Serial No. 38 LWAW 21A". It included an (opening Japanese Army Determinate reconnaissance in July 1944, leading to it being shot down. It operated until November 1945, becoming of the need to track and assist if required incoming flights to Truscott from the NEI. This site can only be visited by boat.
Site 4: TRUSCOTT AIRBASE, ANJO PENINSULA (1944-48)

Because the runway at Drysdale (Kalumburu) were too short for fully-laden heavy bombers, the RAAF found a better site on the Anjo Peninsula, 25 km to the northwest. Preliminary work commenced in January 1944 using a RAAF mobile works squadron, with all materials being brought in by sea and landed on the east side of the Peninsula at West Bay. A single runway was to be constructed out of an unusual material, Pierced Steel Matting (PSP), or Marsden Matting, with unrevetted hardstands along curvilinear taxiways, an operational base camp, and rudimentary accommodation for transient aircrew. The name Truscott (after the late Squadron Leader "Bluey" Truscott), was soon adopted.

Laying of the PSP commenced in April and finished in July when the base, although incomplete, was declared operational and No. 58 OBU moved there from Drysdale. Following, two RAF Spitfires based at Truscott intercepted and shot down the Dinah over the base, this being the last Japanese aircraft downed over Australia.

Combat operations of various kinds by land planes commenced in July, involving air forces from Australia, Britain, the Melanesian Islands, and the USA, with staging in from their NT bases. Later in 1944, an advanced staging Catalina flying boat base was established at No. 36 GBU's Marine Section at West Bay (which continued to be the main landing place for land and sea forces for Truscott). The bomber operations continued until May 1945, and Catalina operations until July. The RAAF Liberators crashed there, killing 23 Australian airmen.

Allied Works Council equipment and personnel (Civil Construction Corps) arrived in May 1945, stretching off the base over the following six months.

Soon after Japanese surrender in mid-August 1945, Truscott saw the departure of many Relief of Prisoners-of-War and Internment forces which dropped desperately needed medical supplies to camps in the NEL. For the remainder of 1945 it received inbound flights from "the islands", transporting released prisoners-of-war and internees, and sick or wounded Australian service personnel.

In 1948 the RAAF decided not to retain Truscott as a strategic airfield, and over the next 10 to 20 years saw the gradual sale and removal of the buildings and the PSP runway. Although many vehicles were sold to a Darwin dealer, some of them still remain at Truscott. By 1953, Truscott had reverted to the WA Government, although over the following years scavengers unlawfully removed some of the more notable items, including the machine guns from one of the crashed Liberators.

In 1989, Santos Ltd. refurbished much of the airfield to establish a helicopter transfer base supporting its Timor Sea oil drilling, however, the land remained an Aboriginal Reserve under the control of the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation. Today, much of the land is used by the Kimberley Aboriginal Corporation for various purposes. The most interesting are the 30+ vehicles, and at least three aircraft wrecks, each with known histories. Because of its remoteness, the whole Truscott complex probably represents a higher degree of integrity compared with the large World War II airfields in the NT, especially in respect of its artefact fields. It is probably one of the most interesting World War II sites left in Australia. Because of the heritage value of the site, and the unacceptable condition of these artefacts, access is prohibited until a conservation and management plan is drawn up and implemented, in order that it becomes a cultural tourism attraction.

[To be continued in a March issue of The Listening Post]

About the author: Lindsay Peet is a professional historian and heritage consultant specializing in defence sites, and is undertaking a higher research degree with the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage at Curtin University of Technology.
Hollywood wins national accreditation

Hollywood Private Hospital has been awarded national accreditation in quality assurance work to the year 2001—after a survey by the Australian Council on Health Care Standards (ACHS).

Hollywood—one of the largest major private teaching hospitals in Australia—was presented with its accreditation certificate by Ms Pat Martin—the WA Co-ordinator of the ACHS.

Ms Martin said the surveyors—who spent four days surveying the hospital on all aspects of its care and procedures—had been extremely complimentary in their survey comments.

The surveyors had been impressed by the handling of the "change process" from repatriation to a private hospital and the staff's "can do attitude".

Hollywood—in its former guise as the Repatriation hospital—was the first hospital in WA to undergo an accreditation survey in 1979.

It has maintained accreditation status since then, undergoing and passing its first survey as a private hospital in 1995 only 15 months after the sale of the hospital by the Commonwealth's Government to Ramsey Health Care.

Ms Martin said the surveyors had made very flattering comments about the hospital "and ones that can be shared by all of you with great pride".

Hollywood Private Hospital Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall said that having the surveyors—"as external visitors—comment on how well the staff had embraced and demonstrated Hollywood's core values "was a great confirmation for all of us".

Meanwhile, the Hollywood Palliative Care Unit was recently presented with its own accreditation certificate from the ACHS. This was the first time the unit had been surveyed separately of the hospital.

Our appeal for proof readers answered!

Special thanks to the following members who offered their time and experience to The Listening Post Committee:

Mr Ron Bate  
Mrs Laurie Down  
Mr Keith Flanagan  
Mr Bill Tate  
Mr Norman Heath  
Mr Edward White  
Mr Peter Hummerston  
Mr Bruce Pengelly

The Committee also welcomes Mr Chris Brooks as the new Editor of The Listening Post, commencing with the Autumn issue for 1999.

BARBARA CLINTON, EDITOR

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LISTENING POST

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

Delivery can be arranged by writing to: The State Secretary  Returned Services League PO Box Y3023 St George's Terrace East Perth 6832

The Listening Post—SUMMER—Page 26
YOU NEED YOUR RSL

You need your RSL because your RSL works for your benefit.

I am urging all ex-service personnel in general and Western Australians in particular who are not members of the League to join, because whether we like it or not our benefits have been fought for and obtained by the hard work of our colleagues over many years. In WA your families are now eligible to join as Affiliate Members. This also applies to next of kin of former members, war widows and paramilitary forces such as police and emergency services.

Every so often I bump into old Army Comrades and the story is remarkably the same. "Join the League? I had never really thought seriously about it. Why should I?"

The tragedy is that these men don't really appreciate what the League has achieved for them and their families. The benefits we have now won by the RSL are now enjoyed by all ex-service personnel whether they are members of the League or not.

It's easy to get very involved in one's own day to day affairs but I now urge you to think seriously about joining the RSL. I sincerely hope that the League will always be here but with our World War II veterans in their late 70s and early 80s, our membership is likely to be adversely affected - and perhaps sooner than we think.

The bottom line is that if the level of RSL membership should drop too far it could affect our political clout; our influence as a national body would shrink and our ability to lobby politicians could be greatly reduced. In the worst case, say twenty years from now, could the proposition that the DVA is no longer necessary to administer ex-servicemen and women be seriously considered? We might end up being administered by the DSS lumped in with everyone else. "I couldn't happen," I hear you say. Don't kid yourself. It definitely could. At the moment anyone who has served in some capacity can obtain assistance or help in filling out their tax returns.

For many years Mr Bill Haskell has provided invaluable assistance at ANZAC House to the Veteran Community. Seniors and all others who are in need of advice or help in filling out their tax returns.

He has unselfishly given his time and expertise, without expecting anything in return. For this we thank you again.

Mr Bill Haskell being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by State President, Ken Bladen.
A Cross was erected at the Long Tan battle site by 6 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment on its second tour of South Vietnam in 1966. It was dedicated by a padre and commemorated the soldiers who died in the Battle of Long Tan, 18 August 1966. This day has since been proclaimed Vietnam Veterans' Day by the Australian Government. As the Cross is not a formal memorial the maintenance and care of The Cross have never been adequately catered for by the Australian Government.

Considering this is the only national war memorial in Vietnam it would be shameful if it was vandalised.

The Cross originally stood in a small secluded clearing in the middle of a rubber plantation. After the clearing of the area in 1991 it was left standing alone in what was to become a corn field. This field was farmed by a local co-operative which took no responsibility for the Cross.

Until recently the protection of the Cross had been in the hands of a local woman to whom I personally paid a small gratuity for such service. This did not prevent the gradual decay and vandalism of the Cross and its surroundings due to exposure.

Because of my concern for the Cross, I approached the previous government for assistance and was pleased to receive a grant of $2,000. But I do feel that most of the burden will fall on the Veteran community and other interested Australians to raise the funds. If you can help in any way it would be appreciated. Help can be a donation, informing your associates of the need or both.

I am now appealing to the current Australian Government for assistance and hope they will help to aid the previous Labor Government. I appeal to you to write to Bruce Scott, Minister for Veterans Affairs, Tim Fischer, Deputy Leader, and Vietnam veteran, your local member and any others you think may help.

If you know of a person/persons or organisation that would be willing to help please ask for this assistance cause it would be to everyone's benefit.

Each year there are more visitors to the Cross and it is obvious it needs a great deal of renovation. The rubber trees have been replanted and the young trees will eventually envelop the Cross. To reconstitute the perimeter a stand of mature trees from an annual fee will be necessary in the future. A new school classroom and toilets have been built. This included additional seating, blackboards and cupboards. A brick front fence has also been erected. The upgradation of the track from the road to the Cross will not take place, as it is too costly.

In addition to the above, a donation of US$2,100 was given for disaster relief when the worst cyclone for 100 years devastated the area in November 1997. 237 people died or missing, 699 boats sank or missing and 40% of public buildings, schools and houses destroyed. This contribution was indeed appreciated by people desperately in need.

Most of the work has been completed thanks to the previous government and concerned Australians. A further sum of US$50,000 as quoted, is needed to finalise this project.

• To restore the old original classroom to bring it up to the standard of the new classroom.
• Complete the fencing.
• Construct a water tower and install a water supply.
• Implement the old playground area.

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2nd Independent Company: the Australian-East Timor Connection

The men of the No 2 Australian Independent Company have always been conscious of the debt they owe to the people of East Timor in the campaign of 1942 and acknowledged that without their help they would not have made it back to Australia. There were other factors contributing to the success of this small but vital campaign, including the resourcefulness of the men themselves, the timely assistance of the gallant RAN, a determined RAAF, the mountainous terrain, ideal cover for guerrilla warfare and, finally, an element of luck. However, it was mainly due to the East Timorese people who enabled the company to keep going and survive. It would not have been the same in West Timor.

There were casualties among the Timorese during the 12-month period that the 2nd Company – and later the 4th Company – was on the island. A figure of 40,000 dead, as quoted, is false. Between 2000 to 2500 Timorese and a number of Portuguese citizens, lost their lives between February 1942 and January 1943. By which time both companies had left the island. Most of the Timorese deaths came about in a school bus in September and October 1942. At all times the men did what they could to see that the Timorese, including the young credos who moved with them, were not exposed to undue danger.

The Timorese were not armed and were never asked or expected to fight alongside us or even to render us support. As interpreters, along with their ability to provide reliable information on the whereabouts and movements of the enemy, their contribution was invaluable. The two main questions asked during the campaign were: the men moved around the countryside were “Japanese besik?” (close?) or “dook?” pronounced “doe” (some way off?). More often than not it was “dook”.

Many thousands of East Timorese and some Portuguese died between the years 1943 to 1945. The majority died from starvation and disease through lack of medical attention and the harsh treatment under the Japanese.

Early in 1943 the British, Australians and Australians were satisfied the Japanese had been driven from East Timor. As a result, a small force of Dutch and Javanese troops, along with the 100-strong 2nd Independent Company had landed at Dili on 17 December. Their involvement was to bring nothing but suffering and death to the people of East Timor who was, up until then, a benign little island. It was one of the tragedies of the Pacific War, considering that Portugal was a neutral country. Had the Allies landed in East Timor it may have the Japanese remained a constant threat.

With its withdrawal from East Timor in December 1942, the Company was re-formed as the 2/2nd Commando Squadron and was back in action in New Guinea six months later.

In a 16 month campaign the unit occupied a vast area of the Bismark Range and Ramu Valley over a 90 mile front, denying the Japanese entry to the Hagen Valley.

As interpreters, along with their untiring efforts of Mr Colin Doig (now deceased), and Mr Ray Allan and others, $8,000 was raised (of which $4,000 was contributed by the Federal Government under PM John Gorton). The memorial was built and officially opened on 13 April 1943. Thirty members and 30 of their ladies made up the Australian contingent. The Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr Roger Dean, represented the Government and there was a Naval Guard of Honour. Many old credos were present and tribal chiefs came from all over the island. A plaque dedicated to the people of East Timor also was unveiled. It was a very moving and colourful occasion.

By 1996, the memorial had fallen into disrepair and was rescued by the War Graves Commission at our request. For 50 years before this, a steady stream of tourists, mainly from Australia, had visited East Timor. This changed when a civil war broke out in 1975 between the UDT and Fretilin forces. Followed immediately by the invasion by Indonesia on 7 December that year.

Since the annexation of East Timor we have done all we can to help the cause of its unfortunate people. To
The donated goods included 3,500 used school textbooks, 400 nurse training books, 300 apprentice (various trades) books, 20 used Army tents, 25 knitting and Girl Guide movement plan leaders' instruction manuals.

The independent trust fund

The fund, supported by Jack Carey, commenced in June 1992. Its five-year term was envisaged and its objective was to collect funds from members donations and to apply them in areas considered most beneficial to the Timorese in appreciation of invaluable wartime support.

The last dispatch was by road - Perth to Darwin then via small ship from Darwin to Kupang, West Timor, and then Dili. The Salesian Don Bosco Training Centre in Dili had a woodwork training unit equipped with donated machinery which no one knew how to operate. An appeal via the ABC programme yielded volunteer Mr. Viv Paust of Craigie, a retired manual arts senior instructor, a proposal that his wife, Verna, should visit East Timor as a volunteer for six months. The proposal was accepted and the trip was funded by the Australian Expert Service Overseas Programme.

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The Cranfield's magnificent contribution (they are each $2,000) to fund an annual contribution was an enormous sum of money through the Red Cross to help support the Timorese what many Governments and agencies are trying to do. These two great ambassadors of Australia have done it well. They have worked hard for the people of East Timor and they have given what they could. Their work has been effective and it is a good example for others to follow.
Maj Gen Low Choy noted that "Generally, some employers stressed that to develop and maintain capability there is a need to optimise public spending and Reserves have proven to be very cost effective. Reservists come from all areas of industry and business, public and private sector organisations, employer associations, government agencies at all levels and the media to highlight the considerable benefits that Reserve service can provide to organisations and the community.

Maj Gen Low Choy noted that "Consequently, the Defence Force is developing enhanced training and how such training can relate to their organisations. For employers, Reserve service will improve the standard of our people, making them capable of both current and future skills; however, there is still a requirement to enhance our collective training at the broader unit level. This is resource intensive but essential in achieving the higher capabilities sought. The limitation is that of 'availability' — in other words, Reservists having problems getting time away from their civilian employment to undertake appropriate training," he said.

He reflected that today, the Reserve is facing a great challenge. "It is being asked to become an effective part of the Defence Force and have higher levels of capability whilst at the same time employers are not as willing to release their staff. I understand that employers who have had military service are the most supportive. Having had the experience they know the value and necessity. However, today there are fewer employers and community leaders who have had military experience and so support is no longer guaranteed — we have to fight for it.

He stressed that "Reservists contribute twice over, both on the civilian capacity and as members of a highly trained Defence Force. For employers, Reserve service will improve the worth of an employee. For the community, it improves the standard of our people, making them capable of both achieving and contributing much more to our society."

New Reserves Chief

Newly appointed Assistant Chief of the Defence Force Reserve, Major General Danny Low Choy, is calling for employers and community leaders today are not as understanding about the need for Reserves, as they are for the rest of the Defence Force. He noted that "Defence policy reflects the Reserve's capability. The Reserve is still largely seen as a part of the Defence Force. Consequently, the Defence Force is developing enhanced training and how such training can relate to their organisations. For employers, Reserve service will improve the standard of our people, making them capable of both current and future skills; however, there is still a requirement to enhance our collective training at the broader unit level. This is resource intensive but essential in achieving the higher capabilities sought. The limitation is that of 'availability' — in other words, Reservists having problems getting time away from their civilian employment to undertake appropriate training," he said.

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COURTESY AIR FORCE NEWS

A WILL TO FIGHT CANCER

Have you ever thought of making a small bequest in your Will to help the Cancer and Leukaemia Research Foundation of Western Australia Inc.?

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

WHAT THE FREE WILL SERVICE OFFERS:

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

CANCER FOUNDATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

321 Rokeby Road, Subiaco WA 6008 Tel: (09) 381 4515 or 008 199 222
Was I the first Australian to enter the desert war?

For years I have thought about it - could I really and honestly claim that I was the first Australian to enter the Desert War in North Africa in World War II? Perhaps even the last Australian to leave that war front. How did it come about? A third generation Australian in a "Pommy" regiment.

I was born in Melbourne in 1920.

My stepfather took me to the UK in 1935. I hated it. Restless away from my own country and seeking adventure, I put my age up a couple of years to 18 and joined the British Army three years before World War II broke out.

Foot-slogging was not for me so I looked for something more glamorous and chose the cavalry of the line - the 15th/19th, the King's Royal Hussars, a fully horse-mounted Regiment stationed at York. They had returned from India and the North West Frontier with their horses.

The next three months were hell or so we thought. Eighteen of us, the 'lowest of the low' we were 'knocked' into shape. Forever polishing, square-bashing, dismounted drill with sword and lance. All we saw of the horses were mounds of hot steaming manure every morning at six.

Then the first time in riding breeches. No spurs yet. We were marched down to the stables to meet the Rough Riding Sgt-Major. Sitting erect on his jet black stallion, looking down on us in silence, he suddenly announced:

"My name is Funnel, with two 'n's and two 'l's and 'L' is what it will be for you if you don't shape up. My rank is Rough Riding Sgt-Major so at 11 times of day you will address me as 'Sir'."

He had studied our files. "You would be the most sorriest, most useless and most 'orrible bunch I have ever seen, and I am expected to turn you into cavalrymen. Not only that, but somewhere hidden amongst you is an 'Australian' who no doubt thinks he can ride a horse. We shall see."

Then the first time in riding breeches, we spurred our horses, we were marched down to the stables to meet the Rough Riding Sgt-Major. Sitting erect on his jet black stallion, looking down on us in silence, he suddenly announced:

"My name is Funnel, with two 'n's and two 'l's and 'L' is what it will be for you if you don't shape up. My rank is Rough Riding Sgt-Major so at 11 times you will address me as 'Sir'."

"And who is (he looked at his board) Abner Rupen James Paine?"

I swallowed and yelled, "Sir, here Sir".

He glanced at me, then for the next 15 minutes informed us in no uncertain words what he expected, nay demanded of each and every one of us. His message was clear. "Shape up or get out."

Again he informed us that we were not in a Regiment but "The Regiment. The Eleventh Hussars. Prince Albert's Own."

Having finished, he marched up and faced me. Looking me over from toe to head, he said, "Australian in the Regiment, what next? God help us."

We soon learnt what he said about the Regiment was very true. This was not only one of the best but an efficient 'War Machine', trained to perfection and kept at the highest peak by continual training. As later years would prove. The training was ruthless for the men and women. We quickly adjusted and became a drop of oil in the machine.

1938: Trouble in Palestine. In 24 hours we were on the road to that country. Our Squadron was stationed at the hot spot south of Nablus. Those of us who had never seen action were soon bloodied.
1939- seen deaths in Europe. Back to Cairo Training on desert-dry undignity, unsatisfied training.
1940: moved up the border between Egypt and Libya which was an amphibious parting with desolation of the two countries. Walding, you were dead in Europe, not much. Italy declared war on 10 June 1940. That night the 11th Hussars were ready, and walking on the frontier.

We packed up and, after being hailed, just as a round. Tomorrow we would be anything. No one could watch. What were you looking at? Suddenly, I don’t know who thought I was 1 and 1, and the others did, and we made a simple prayer.

Stay with me, God, the night is dark. That night I had my little spark of courage die, the night is long, with me the God, under the sky.

That night who of my young men, next to our 21st birthdays, would have thought that those who would get through the forthcoming fight that moved the next morning would, as a few old men, be sitting together 60 years later in the Winchester Cathedral on 21 October, on the second year of 1940? Over the words of the Chaplain General, the Rev James Harkness, in his sermon to us and I quote: "That night we had our first glimpse of courage. The night is long, with me, the God, under the sky."

The Eleventh, who spent more time continuously than any other Regiment in the Western Desert and won more Battle Honours, and in addition were mentioned nine times in the official history of the Africa Corps – the only Regiment who can make this unique claim.

But who on this night of 10 June 1940, as a difference that we were facing three years of serving in the heat and bitter cold nights, said that they would get through the war and into the reunion? Perhaps I was among the only good. The night was dark, and the second year, the enemy? And as I was consumed the only good that came out of it was the special bond with the spirit of brotherhood and true comradeship, together with the will and determination to succeed.

I think the "Desert Rats" were born in the morning after that night. We were facing three years of serving in the heat and bitter cold nights, and the second year, the enemy? And as I was consumed the only good that came out of it was the special bond with the spirit of brotherhood and true comradeship, together with the will and determination to succeed.

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The design for the new Australian Service Nurses National Memorial has been chosen following a national competition and construction should be completed by October next year, in time to mark the centenary of military nursing in Australia.

The memorial, to be built on Anzac Parade in Canberra, was designed by Robin Moorehouse, a Sydney-based sculptor. Horizontal in form, it will feature a pair of curvilinear, low-sculpted glass walls, raised slightly on an elliptically shaped platform. The surfaces of the glass walls will display images representing important events in the history of Australian service nursing.

The memorial will honour the sacrifice and service of Australian service nurses who died and those who served and suffered in caring for casualties in conflict. The strong and caring spirit of the service nurses has in the past, and will continue to be in the future, been of great comfort to Australians and others who have been involved in war and conflict.

Most recently, Australian service nurses showed tremendous dedication and compassion following the devastation caused by the tidal wave in Papua New Guinea.

The Federal Government has committed $100,000 towards the construction of the memorial and a national fund-raising effort is underway.

Donations to the National Service Nurses Memorial can be made by phoning toll-free 1800 241 170, in person at any National Bank or by writing to National Nurses Memorial Trust, Royal College of Nursing, Anzac Ave, Po Box 715, Deakin West ACT 2600.

"The Eleventh, who spent more time continuously than any other British Regiment and they suffered more than the total of their units, which first let out to war.

I am truly glad that, as an Australian, I was able to regiment my country, and serve in the 11th Hussars R.A.O. Now as the tenth of my years I realize that I served with the finest the British Army produced.

The Regiment, at which I am a life member, and perhaps the only 'Anzac' to achieve this honour, after nearly 300 years of service, has been amalgamated with other Hussar Regiments into the present Kings Royal Hussars, of which Association I have been made a Life Member.

Was the first Australian to enter the Desert War and perhaps the last Australian to leave that war from that place?

A.R.J. Paine, SB STJ CD

Nurses’ memorial design chosen

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Establishment of New Defence Long Service Medal

A new Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM) has been formally approved by Her Majesty The Queen, which will replace the current family of Defence Force Service Awards (DFSA) used to recognise long service in the ADF.

The new DLSM is the result of a recommendation of the 1993/94 Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards (CIDA). The new award will not discriminate between rank, and neither will it discriminate between permanent or reserve service. Consequently, it will not carry post nominals.

The medal will be awarded for 15 years service and clasps will be issued for each subsequent five years service. The new award will also allow recognition for service which has otherwise gone unrecognised such as that lost by individuals who have changed between the Permanent and Reserve Forces. In the case of unrecognised service, however, an individual will need to exchange an existing DFSA for the DLSM, if held.

Like all other long service awards within the Australian System of Honours and Awards, the DLSM has a commencement date of 14 February 1975.

The DLSM will not be awarded to those who already hold a DFSA and service will not count towards eligibility for subsequent clasps. In addition, those who have completed their five years service by 30 April 1994 (the date of the public announcement that Government had accepted the CIDA recommendation) and whose service has not yet been recognised by an existing award may make a "once only" election as to whether they want their service to be recognised by the existing awards or the new DLSM.

Now that Her Majesty has approved the medal, production can commence. Unfortunately, it will still be some months before the medal is ready for award to individuals.

Regular serving members of the ADF who have not been awarded a medal in recognition of their service will be notified of their eligibility to choose either a DFSA or the DLSM. Reserve members, if eligible, will be required to make their choice on application for an award.

Should former ADF personnel consider they may be eligible for the DLSM, or current serving members consider they are eligible to trade-in their DFSA for the DLSM, it held.

Applications are available from all Service Medal Sections and branches of the Returned and Services League of Australia. Contact Pat Clarke on (08) 9373 0200.
Prime Minister opens RAAF's new top-end base

The Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard, MP, officially opened the Royal Australian Air Force's latest base - RAAF Base Scherger - on 5 August.

RAAF Scherger, which is located 56 kilometres east of Weipa, completes the chain of RAAF airfields along the northern perimeter of Australia and the opening of the base was combined with the launch of a major exercise in the region, Exercise Northern Awakening 98.

Exercise Northern Awakening involved 320 personnel with the Combat Support Group playing the major role in the exercise. A 395 Combat Support Wing Detachment and No.2 Airfield Defence Squadron spent two weeks at the base as part of the exercise ensuring air power could be effectively projected from the base under combat conditions.

More than 500 people attended the opening ceremony including Weipa locals, traditional Aboriginal land owners and RAAF personnel from around the country. Participating aircraft included F/A-18s, F-111s, B707s, P-3Cs and Falcon 900s.

In his speech at the official opening, Minister said Scherger was one of Australia's finest airmen and military officers. He also stated ACM Scherger was one of the earliest and strongest advocates for a chain of airfields to protect Australia's northern air and sea approaches.

Mr Howard agreed that we must be prepared for the real thing. "We are reminded of the exposure of this country and the need as always to remain and return a sense of vigilance," said Mr Howard.

One of the elders of Peppan, MS Thelma Coconut, said the base would be a major asset to RAAF Base Scherger and underlined the need for such an establishment. "Peppan is our traditional land where we, the Drungith clan, have always hunted and gathered food," she said.

"It is very special to us. But we have been waiting to give the land away for the Base. For the sake of our country we are glad to give the land away for the Scherger Base. We understand the needs for the Base from those World War II days. When our ancestors were growing up on the Mission they saw the enemy planes coming overhead and they were scared. That made us agree to have the Base built here."

MS Coconut said she and her community were "proud to see that everyone has been done properly. We hope that we can now look forward to a safe future and that the Base will not be used in war."

RAAF Base Scherger is on Aboriginal land which lies in the perceived territory of the descent group Ntran-ngit. Immediately to the south lies Alangayt country, north of the airfield is Thanakwithi country and to the south east, the country is associated with the Yirrkuna people.

The Department of Defence, which leases the airfield site from the Peppan Land Trust, has assured that it appreciates the significant Aboriginal attachment to the land and committed to minimising the impact of the airfield operations on the environment. Good community relations with the inhabitants of the Weipa region are recognised as a critical factor for the operational success of RAAF Base Scherger which was developed in accordance to the Defence White Paper, The Defence of Australia 1987.

The Base is named after Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger, Sir Frederick was born at Ararat, Victoria, in 1904 and was commissioned to the Royal Australian Air Force on 21 January 1925 as a trainee pilot.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger, KBE, C13 DSO, A17C, pilot of more than 60 aircraft types, Australia's first Australian born 'four star' airman, retired from the RAAF on 18 May 1966 after 45 years of distinguished military service.

The airfield is 1500 hectares and the Base was completed on time and under budget after a massive 150,000 construction man-days. Facilities have been built to accommodate up to 1500 military personnel and about 40 aircraft.

The recently appointed Air Commander Australia, Air Vice Marshal Alan Titheridge said the opening of RAAF Base Scherger further strengthened our capability to defend Australia and respond to emergencies in the region.

AVM Titheridge said it was particularly important to note the healthy relationship that the Australian Defence Force enjoys with the Aboriginal community in the Weipa and Scherger area.

"Solid community consultation has always been the ADF's long-term stance", said AVM Titheridge.

This was the case when we worked on Tindal and Curtin and has also been our objective in relation to Scherger. Caring for the environment in another area is seen as important.

The ADF will activate RAAF Scherger on a regular basis, with the first major exercise being Crocodile 99.
Mr. Ken Bladen presents Jock Geldart with his RSL Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of 50 years of distinguished service as a member of the League of Service Men.

Mr. Jock Geldart, past State Secretary, receives his RSL Certificate of Service from President Ken Bladen.

Mr. Ken Morrison receiving his RSL Certificate of Service from the President, Mr. Ken Bladen.
Help us to help you get a gold card

IF YOU
+ served in Australia's Defence Force or Australia's Merchant Navy in World War II; and
+ incurred danger from hostile enemy forces; and
+ are aged 70 or over
you may be eligible for a Gold Card with access to the full range of repatriation health care benefits.

Phone the Gold Card Hotline: 1300 555 125

Welfare Seminar at ANZAC House

The State Branch conducted its second and final Welfare Seminar for 1998 on 14 October at ANZAC House. Forty delegates from various Sub-Branches attended, including representatives from Donnybrook and Northam.

Mr Doug Rasmussen (Chairman of Veterans' Affairs Committee) opened the seminar with Mr Ken Bladen (State President) delivering the welcoming address. Mr Bladen reinforced the principles of the existence of the RSL. He spoke of the need to assist fellow veterans in assimilating into the community after life in the services and informed the forum that in five or six years a considerable number of veterans will be in the frail aged group. He said that, with this in mind, the need for a competent Welfare and Pension Affairs function was greater than ever.

The forum was addressed by Senior Officers from the Service Assistance Program: Mr Ross O'Connor, Mrs Margot Harness—Advocate for V.R.B., Mrs Paul Howland—Welfare and Overseas Pension Applications, Mr Kevin Pass—Financial Coordinator for Veterans, Mr Kevin Can-Ryall from Hollywood Private Hospital, updating on applications happening at Hollywood, and lastly Mr Jim Dallon and staff from DVA.

Mr Rasmussen was very pleased with the quality and delivery of topics and hoped that delegates would take the information gained at the Seminar back to their various Sub-Branches and Kindred Associations.

Mr Rasmussen reflected that numbers were decreasing from 150 delegates two years ago to today's attendances, noting that information must be much more readily available and accessible to the Veteran Community.

DENIS CONNELLY

Income stream changes

The Department of Veterans' Affairs and Centrelink are changing the way income streams are assessed under the pension income and assets test. Those on a pension, or planning their retirement, should seek advice on how the new rules will affect them.

The changes make the income stream rules simpler, fairer and easier to understand. They will also ensure all people with similar resources will be treated equally when claiming the pension.

The income stream assessment covers all types of superannuation and private pensions, annuities and allocated products. These may be regular payments from superannuation schemes or an income stream product purchased from either lump sum superannuation entitlements or other savings.

DVA and Centrelink pensions are income stream products.

The changes will divide all income products into three broad categories based on the product characteristics and the length over which the income is paid. Categories will have a clearer choice between products that meet the pension needs.

Generally, products that provide a defined level of income over a longer period, with no further access to...
The Retirement Bonus Scheme offers a financial reward to those who decide to work beyond pension age up to the age of 75. Choosing the right time to leave the workforce is one of the most important decisions to make when planning retirement.

Deferring the pension offers a bonus for veterans

Choosing the right time to leave the workforce is one of the most important decisions to make when planning retirement.

For many, reaching pension age does not necessarily mean they are ready to stop working and start claiming the pension. This is particularly relevant for members of the veteran community, who are eligible for the Department of Veterans' Affairs service pension or age-related income support at an earlier age than the general community.

The Federal Government's new Pension Bonus Scheme offers a financial reward to those who decide to continue working past the day that they qualify for age-related pension or income support. The bonus is paid upon claiming the pension and is calculated at 9.4% of the deferred entitlement for each year of work beyond pension age, up to the age of 70 for veterans and 65 for non-veterans.

The maximum bonus available for deferring retirement for the full five years would be $41,066 for a single pensioner and $81,699 for a married pensioner. If a couple chose to defer taking their pension for five years, the combined bonus at the end of the five years would be $82,506.

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In several forms, one of which is significantly more serious and debilitating. Validated data will provide a sounder basis for the government to develop an appropriate response to help Vietnam veterans and their families.

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The validation process has been endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVAA), the Australian Veterans' And Defence Services Council (AVADSC) and the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL). A report will be published after validation study is complete and distributed widely within the veteran community.

All veterans who are approached are urged to participate in the exercise and to return their form(s) as soon as possible.

The validation part of the study is conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The Institute is totally independent of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Participants consent that all data will be held at the institute and will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Contacts: Dr Paul Jelfs
Dr Paul Magnus

If you would like more information you are welcome to call the FREECALL HELP LINE ON 1800 236 188

COURTESY DEPT: OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

A Bequesting/Gifting program for the Welfare of Veterans

Returned and Services League Western Australia

Why a Bequesting/Gifting Program?

The WA Branch of the RSL has introduced a program to ensure the valuable and necessary welfare obligations of the League will continue to be funded, for as long as there are ex-service men and women in need. Most of us understand that as the years pass our welfare responsibilities grow, placing an increasing demand on those charged with the care of veterans. A successful bequesting/gifting program can make a significant contribution to the League's welfare commitments.

What happens to the Bequest/Gifts

A trust has been set up specifically for the purpose of receiving bequest/gifts. One of Australia’s oldest and most respected trustee companies, W. Trustees, was chosen to set up the trust in conjunction with the League’s solicitors.

What type of bequest could I make?

Specific Bequest
You can nominate a specific amount of money, a particular property, valuable item etc.

General Bequest
Usually made in the form of an element of your estate.

Residual Bequest
Allocating whatever remains of your estate after specific bequests have been made by your family, friends and other organisations.

Caution
Before making a bequest to any organisation, you should ensure family and local needs have been adequately and fairly provided for and ensure them of your wishes.

What should I do if I wish to make a bequest/gift?

If you wish to make a donation please contact the Bequesting/Gifting Officer:
Mrs P.A. Rowland OAM JP
28 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000

If you wish to make a bequest and do not have a will, or you need to revise a current one, the League will bear all associated costs when this is done through RSL Solicitors. Please contact RSL HQ on 9325 9799 and ask for the Bequest/Gifting Officer. Please complete the application form which is worded as below:

I ............... give devise and bequeath the residue of my estate to my executors to pay the residue to the Returned and Services League of Australia Ltd and I direct that if at my death the Returned and Services League of Australia Ltd has ceased to exist or has amalgamated with another charity or has changed its name, this gift shall not fail but my executors shall pay it to the charitable organisation which they consider most nearly fulfils the objects that I intend to benefit.

Form to be signed, witnessed and dated.

"Help the RSL in its work to aid distressed, frail and aged."
The Ode

The Ode is the fourth verse of Lawrence Binyon’s poem For the Fallen, written in 1914. It reads:

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.

The most common mistake when reciting The Ode is made by those who believe they can improve on Binyon by changing the first line to read “They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.”

Some people held the view that the last word of the second line is “contemn.” About 20 years ago, Bentleigh Sub-Branch claimed that the word “contemn” was correct. Others joined in the chorus. To settle the dispute we enquired of Binyon’s estate in England. These “keepers” of Binyon’s poems advised that “condemn” was correct. Apparently Binyon used the word “contemn” in 1914, probably an allusion to the Kaiser’s use of the term “England’s contemptible little army” to describe the small British Expeditionary Force that fought the Germans in the trenches through Belgium and Northern France in the early weeks of World War I. The poem For the Fallen was written about those men and Binyon was a medical orderly in the Force.

After the war Binyon, following considerable correspondence with fellow poets and in English newspapers, changed the poem to read “condemn” in 1921. The Royal British Legion adopted the fourth verse as The Ode and the RSL followed suit. It is included as part of the authorised format of the Commemoration ceremony in National By-Law No. 25.

As an aside I should perhaps comment on the use of The Ode in commemorative services directed at older people, e.g., the burial ritual when the deceased is a war veteran. In these circumstances some are a bit embarrassed by the inclusion of the first two lines of The Ode and limit it to “At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.”

About 20 years ago a World War I veteran, faced with the same problem that we World War II men face today, suggested that the problem be overcome by adding the third verse of For the Fallen to The Ode. It would then read:

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They fell with their faces to the foe.
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.

In Victoria the use of verses 3 and 4 is increasing. Perhaps the National Executive would consider the wider use of verse 3 in conjunction with verse 4 on particular occasions.

Brig. KEITH ROSS

VJ DAY CEREMONY

Once again the AVADS WA Council and the State Branch of the RSL conducted the annual commemorative Wreath Laying Ceremony at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on Saturday 15 August 1998 at 1100 hrs. The Governor, Maj-Gen Michael Jeffrey AC MC, led the wreath laying party. The weather was kind and the ceremony went without a hitch. We were pleased to have an RAAF Flypast and we were grateful for the support from Navy and Army who contributed with the Bugler and Catafalque Party respectively. We indeed thank the three services for their assistance.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, The Governor addressed the gathering from the Memorial. His Excellency highlighted the importance of ceremonies such as these in the legacies of war and the suffering may be forgotten, but never, never forgotten. We now enjoy peace in our region and pray that it will continue for many years to come.

B F COOPER OAM JP AIMM

Secretary/Treasurer

AVADS WA Council.
Memory building

How people remember things, why some things are more memorable than others, and how memory might be improved, are slowly being cleared up.

In Medieval times, scholars often erected 'memory palaces' to assist their recollection of facts and figures. The palaces were constructed out of bricks and mortar, but of imagination and although the builders could not possibly have been there - since the building was the brain. Whenever something came along that a practitioner of the art of memory palace wanted to remember forever, he would create an image of it and place that image in a room in the palace. By running around the building of an evening, he could refresh his memory of what he had put things, so that if he ever needed something in a hurry perhaps years after he had first squirrelled it away, he could rush to the image of it from a memory palace.

Such tricks to improve the memory are old to anyone can remember. Understanding the mind, the molecular bricks and mortar of memory, however, is still an infinity. But progress is being made. And with increasing evidence that memory may soon be able to rebuild the architect of memory palaces by designing drugs that make a better memory available not merely to those who practice, but to those who are willing to pay a pill.

Repeat after me

Memory is not designed to be perfect. After all, there is little point cluttering the mind with trivial details. And since, just as building and remodelling a real palace is expensive, and diverts from other activities, the building and remodelling of memories is costly in materials and energy - So if one wants to think about enhancing the brain, it is useful to start by learning how an unenhanced memory is built and maintained.

In intermediate memory, the cells make more proteins than in short-term memory, and in long-term memory, the cells make new connections between nerve cells.

People, particularly in societies with well-developed systems of formal education, are used to the idea of knowing in advance what is important for them to remember. Human culture is largely based on this. But throughout most of evolutionary history, animals have not had that luxury. Instead, individual experience would have been the only teacher, and experience is unpredictable.

So, though it is reasonable to assume that evolution will have helped the ability to learn quickly such basic things as where is safe and where it may be found, or what sort of an animal is dangerous, it is equally reasonable to assume that people are not specifically adapted to learn the details of calculus, how to read music, or even how to make a stone axe. To be regarded as someone, these cultural adaptations are what may be the key facts that are most memorable. When dealing with the truly trivial, the brain does not appear, even better to learn anything, in the first place.

Recently, Todd Horowitz of the Harvard Medical School and Jonnie Wolfe of researchers at the Harvard Medical School showed that memory is employed during certain types of visual searches. In their experiments, they found it necessary to say a pill.

The results have not the common but familiar notion that everything remembered is still stored somewhere in the brain, which implies that the real problem in memory enhancement is to find out where the connections of these memories are stored in the first place. To be more, it is not important. But its chemistry is almost unknown - and retrieval is impossible if there is nothing to recall in the first place.

Memory is conventionally divided into three types: short-term, intermediate and long-term. These are more than just markers of the length of time that a memory lingers. At the molecular level, they are distinguished by different biochemical activities within nerve cells.

In short-term memory, nerve cells simply modify existing proteins. Such changes are permanent. When a word for a particular memory has passed, the cells return to their previous state, and you forget what was once registered.

In intermediate memory, the cells make more proteins of the types that they were already manufacturing, but no new genes are switched on to allow the production of different proteins. In long-term memory, however, new genes are switched on and entirely new groups of proteins are produced. Through mechanisms that are not yet understood, these create permanent changes to the physical structure of the brain by stimulating the formation of new connections between nerve cells.

The neural library

In mammals, such long-term changes seem to be mediated by a structure known as the hippocampus, which is found near the middle of the brain. The first signs come from people who had suffered hippocampal damage, often as a result of brain surgery. These individuals are unable to form new long-term memories, although they are able to form memories that were formed before the hippocampal damage occurred.

This suggests that memories which the brain does not store long-term are tricked into a long-term storage site, How or when this happens.
and where the archive is located, and only now becoming clear. The archive is in the sense of the most recently evolved part of the brain, and the brain's molecular architecture represents different things that it needs to remember.

Matthew Wilson at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Bruce McNaughton, at the University of Arizona, have shown that when a mouse enters a new environment, groups of nerve cells in the hippocampus start firing off chemical signals together in particular ways, depending on the mouse's exact whereabouts in the new environment. It is not the brain's ability to construct a map of its surroundings, with the different groups of cells representing different things that it needs to remember.

Then, during the night after the exploration has taken place, the whole process recapitulates itself while the mouse is asleep. The same groups of hippocampal cells fire in the same way. (This is not associated with dreaming. It takes place during so-called slow-wave sleep, rather than in periods of "rapid-eye-movement" sleep which is when dreams mostly happen.)

Dr Wilson's latest research suggests that this nightly firing is part of the process by which the day's experiences are translated into the hippocampus and then translated into long-term memories. He has found that not only do the hippocampal cells fire together while the mouse is asleep, but that cells in the neocortex then fire away in a similar pattern. It is, he says, as if the cells of the hippocampus and the neocortex are listening.

A picture of the biochemistry of long-term learning is also emerging. According to Thomas Carew, a neuroscientist at Yale University, the common experience that the most reliable way to build a long-term memory is through repeated exposure to the thing to be remembered, rather than by short-term "cramming", is reflected at the molecular level. Dr Carew and his colleagues have discovered how the effect of exposing nerve cells in a molecule called serotonin.

Serotonin belongs to a class of chemicals called transmitters. These are responsible for carrying signals from one nerve cell to another across special junctions known as synapses. The researchers have found that if a nerve cell is exposed to serotonin, a molecule called serotonin from the hippocampus, the cell's synapses then fire together in a particular way. In particular, they discovered that after such a pulse, the level of a molecule called protein kinase A (PKA) rises for a few minutes, and then drops again a day later. The presence of PKA remains high for around three hours before subsiding—and then rises again a day later. But this time, if the cell does not fire any further stimulation, the level of PKA remains high for three days, and even longer if the cell is exposed to serotonin. This suggests that the cell has in fact made a series of chemical reactions within the cell that are sufficiently sophisticated to give it a memory span of 24 hours.

It appears, therefore, that one of the methods which the brain uses to filter information is to see whether (and when) a stimulus is encountered again. After all, if the stimulus is simply a one-off, then remembering it—here in more and more circumstances—is probably a waste of space.

This may provide an evolutionary explanation for one of memory's quirks. But it is not good news for hurried humans who have neither the time nor the inclination to spend hours on repetition. Hence the current enthusiasm for a molecule called cyclic AMP, which is the brain's molecular equivalent of thinking patterns, more easily remembered as CREB. CREB appears to hold the balance between remembering and forgetting.

CREB is a "transcription factor". That means it is responsible for switching on particular genes, thus allowing the manufacture of the proteins for which those genes are responsible. It turns up in the brains of everything from yeast to people, and is involved in the laying down of long-term memories. CREB molecules do this by twinning up and binding to the DNA near a gene that needs activating. This switch on the genes that seem to be important for forming long-term memories. CREB molecules do this by twinning up and binding to the DNA near a gene that needs activating. This switch on CREB is a slightly different form of the molecule. It interferes with the codes of activated CREB, and thereby prevents the formation of memories. It does this by trapping the biosynthesis of activator CREB. That removes them from circulation. In addition, blocked CREB molecules containing a blocker will bind to DNA without activating any gene, or at the same time preventing any future activator CREB from switching to those critical genes.

In one of the experiments that demonstrated the function of CREB, Jeffrey Kogan and Alcino Silva, two biologists at the University of California, Los Angeles, exposed a demonstrator to a new kind of food. The demonstrator was then dropped into a cage with "observer" mice. The observers were genetically identical to each other, except that half were CREB "knockout" mice, they were deficient in the gene responsible for activating CREB.
Activator-CREB-deficient mice soon forgot which of the foods they had learnt about from the demonstrator, and after a couple of hours started eating either food at random. Normal mice, by contrast, stuck to eating the one about which they knew.

A refinement of knockout technology, too-called "targeted knockouts", in which a particular gene is not eliminated completely from the animal, but is switched off selectively in particular parts of the body, has enabled Dr Wilson to confirm the involvement of a second molecular system in the formation of long-term memory. This is a molecular system in the formation of long-term memory. The gene in question is for a receptor protein known as NMOA, whose role is to detect a neurotransmitter called glutamate. These two molecules play a part in a process known as long-term potentiation, which results in changes in the pattern of synapses, and has therefore been suspected of being critical to the formation of long-term memories.

As predicted, a mouse that lacks NMOA - the nerve cells of its hippocampus behave as if the hippocampus had been destroyed and it is unable to learn its way around a new environment. As predicted, a mouse that lacks NMOA - the nerve cells of its hippocampus behave as if the hippocampus had been destroyed. It is unable to learn its way around a new environment and its nerve cells never start to fire together, either within the new environment, or, as the following shows.

Meanwhile, Jerry Yin, a biologist at Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory on Long Island, has built on the CREB observations using fruit flies. In these animals, which although they do not have hippocampuses, also seem to rely on CREB to form long-term memories. Dr Yin has been able to do the reverse of Dr Kogan's and Dr Silva's experiment, by increasing the amount of CREB protein, rather than reducing it.

When the amount of activator CREB is increased, the brain's resistance to erase long-term memory from training is reduced. This is thought by Dr Yin to be the reason why coffee is such an effective memory enhancer. As Eric Uttening Potter, a neuroscientist at New York University, put it: "Coffee is a blunt instrument and, as every addict knows, it is not without side effects." Dr Kandel hopes to be able to find a more precise combination to affect the decline of CREB in middle age, and thereby help to prevent forgetfulness. He and his colleagues are currently testing this approach on aged mice. The results are preliminary but encouraging. In simple tests of spatial memory, the mice are able to retain information as well as if they were fresh-faced youngsters.

Whether such a drug would also have a memory-enhancing effect on young animals with normal memories is not clear, though there seems no obvious reason why it should not. Whether it would be desirable for young animals to take it is a different question. For if, as Dr Kandel and his colleagues have suggested, one of the functions of blocker CREB is to prevent the over-proliferation of memory - then it may be risky to interfere with CREB in the young.

That is because if memories were made too vivid and persistent, it might become harder to learn new things. Since the strength of a memory seems to depend on the strength of connections between groups of nerve cells, the diminishing vividness of memory may be a necessary consequence of retaining the ability to overwrite what you know. When you discover that it is no longer correct, then you may come to think of CREB in the young.

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least, they will for a while. If, after the conditioning, the bell rings but the electric shock fails to follow, the rats will gradually learn that the connection no longer obtains. They will then cease to react fearfully when they hear the bell but, even as they feel relaxed. Apply stress, such as another alarming situation, and they will revert to their previous response, even if they have not felt a shock for months.

Dr. LeDoux suggests that the difficulty in erasing conditioned neural circuits is one reason why phobias are so difficult to cure. Even after apparently successful treatment, fearful memories lurk deep within the brain. When the victim of a phobia comes under stress, that stress somehow reactivates the old pathway, and the terrifying memories return like a wave. Perhaps finding a key that opens every room in the memory palace might not be such a good idea after all.

O boats can still get the job done

Oberon Class submarines might be 30 years old but they still get the job done. Such was the case in recent weeks in the rough and chilly waters off Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A Swissair MD 11 jet with more than 200 occupants reported an onboard fire before the Switzerland bound aircraft plunged into the sea.

The plane broke into thousands of pieces with many sinking to 35 metres. Among the items were the black box and flight deck recorders. Knowing the recorders might well tell why the jet crashed, search co-ordinators called in the Canadian Navy.

HMSC Okanagan, an Oberon class patrol submarine, and sister ship to those still in service with the RAN and Chilean Navy, was dispatched to the scene. With seven officers and 58 sailors, the submarine worked in comparatively shallow water, making seven passes of the crash site.

"Her equipment picked up signals from both the black box and the flight data recorder," Captain Bear Brown, the Defence Attaché for the Canadian High Commission in Canberra, told Navy News.

"They pinpointed them to within a metre of where they were," he said. The landing by Okanagan then allowed divers to go to the debris.

The submarine, of 2030 tonnes, was commissioned in June of 1967 and was one of three built at the time. She is about to be decommissioned.

New sting for the Hornet

The RAAF AA-18 is to undergo a substantial avionics upgrade under Project Air 5786, the Hornet Upgrade (HUG) Project. The upgrade aims to ensure the HA-18 remains effective, in both its air-to-air and air-to-surface roles, through the next decade.

The project, which initially started as a radar upgrade project, was developed within Force Development (Air), now Aerospace Development Branch. In considering the likely environment of the future, it was clear that the Hornet needed improvements to enable it to operate in a hostile electronic warfare environment. Thus became the focus of this upgrade. Further, during 1996, a comprehensive Departmental study examined the possibility of replacement of the Hornet in lieu of upgrade. A number of options were considered, however the upgrade option was selected as being the most appropriate for our current circumstances. Phases 1 and 2 of the project, detailed below, have now been approved and have been handed across to the Defence Acquisition Organisation for implementation. Aerospace Development Branch retains sponsorship of the project and is currently addressing Phase 3, which aims to identify any further improvements to the Hornet that might be appropriate.

A limited avionics upgrade was incorporated between late 1991 and late 1992 under ECP-287, which included upgraded mission computers, an additional multiplexed avionics data-bus, and upgraded Digital Display Indicators. However, Project Air 5786 will be the first significant upgrade since the aircraft entered service.

The two endorsed Phases comprise several Sub-Phases. HUG Phase 1A/2A was endorsed by the then Force Structure and Policy Planning Committee in November 1994 (Phase 1A) and September 1995 (Phase 2A). HUG Phase 1A/2C involved replacement of the XN-6 mission computers with XN-8+ mission computers, the incorporation of a sixth multiplexed avionics data bus, replacement of the ARC-181 WH/NHM radios with secure, jam-resistant ARC-210 UHF/VHF radios, replacement of the Inertial Navigation System (INS) with an Embedded Global Position and Inertial Navigation System (EGI), and replacement of the existing Identification Friend or Foe system with a Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIT). Phase 1A also involves upgrades to the Hornet support infrastructure, including the Operational Flight Trainers, the Integrated Avionics System Support Facility, the Simulated Aircraft Maintenance System, the Computer Based Training System and selected support equipment.
The HUG Project Office (HUGPO) has grown to 26 personnel and is located across three widely dispersed geographic locations: Canberra, Williamtown, and St Louis, Missouri, USA. The HUG PO is part of the Directorate of Tactical Fighter Systems Project Offices (DTFSPO), headed by GPCAPT Chantel Foss, and DT17SPO, which is part of Aerospace Combat Systems Branch, which is headed by ADF ACS Gry Bass.

The Project Office in Canberra comprises five sub-sections under the Project Manager WCDR Ewan Ward: an Engineering Section (headed by SQNLDR Mark French), an Integration Section (headed by WCDR Ewan Ward), an Acquisition Section (headed by SQNLDR Andrew Doyle), an Integrated Logistics Support Section (headed by SQNLDR Chris Whyte), a Business and Finance Section (headed by Mrs Claire Little), and a Contracts Office (Mrs Dale Liepins).

The HUG team works closely together to ensure that project objectives and milestones are achieved. From early November 1998, the HUGPO will move out of C-Block offices to the more luxurious offices of the first floor of the new Russell Building 2012.

The Project Office has a Project Logistics Team (currently headed by MLT5 Chris Smith at TFLMSQN at RAAF Williamtown) and a Resident Liaison Officer (SQNLDR Paul Regan) located at Boeing St Louis, Missouri, USA. The liaison sections provide the indispensable interfaces between major stakeholders for the HUG Project.

Using the Integrated Product Team (IPT) concept, the HUGPO also coordinates with other projects: including Project Air 5400 for AMRAAM/ASRAAM integration and the Hanger Project Office for Air Combat Manoeuvring Environment and MOD Integration.

The HUGPO also works closely with 81 Wing and TFLMSQN on continuous integration of project and running system activities.

The Minister for Defence, Ian McLachlan said recently that the upgrade is a vital step for Australia's fighter force in maintaining its leading edge and that is a high priority for Defence.

The upgrade also aims to ensure the FA-18 maintains the capability for air superiority. The HUG Project is a complex activity that will require significant coordination over the next seven years.

However, with the cooperation of all stakeholders, the HUG will progressively deliver significantly improved capability to the Tactical Fighter Group to maintain the RAAF FA-18 Hornet as Australia's primary air defence asset.

COURTESY AIR FORCE NEWS
In gratitude

Sir,- It has been 48 years since the outbreak of the Korean War. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and respect to all soldiers and people of our allied countries who participated in battles for the cause of peace and freedom against brutal invasion by the communist North Korea.

Moreover, I would like to reflect upon the noble sacrifices made by the participants and extend my deepest condolences to their families.

The Land of the Morning Calm, a name synonymous with Korea, has accomplished an economic miracle out of the ruins of the Korean War through refusal to give up and through concerted efforts by the people of Korea. Although Korea is currently experiencing economic difficulties, our fully-fledged democracy and economic prosperity was made possible through noble dedication and sacrifices, as well as unwavering support and assistance from our allied countries. The people and the Armed Forces of Korea will forever cherish the sacrifices made by the participants from our allied countries for travelling great distances to risk their lives.

The Republic of Korea Armed Forces, which celebrate the 50th anniversary of their foundation this year, have developed into strong forces with formidable combat capabilities. Furthermore, in addition to deterring war on the Korean peninsula, we are actively contributing our efforts to maintaining peace and stability throughout the world as a member of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea will do their best to maintain peace and stability on the Korean peninsula in order to guarantee that the dedication and sacrifices rendered by men and women from our allied countries were not in vain.

I would like to close by conveying my sincere appreciation and best wishes to all participants and their families. With warmest regards.

Chun, Yong Tack
Minister of National Defense, Republic of Korea.

KOREA WAR VETERANS CONVENTION-REUNION
ALBURY WODONGA

The first national convention/reunion of Korea War veterans will take place in the Albury-Wodonga SSA Club over the weekend of 19-21 March 1999. It is expected to attract veterans from each State and Territory as well as representatives of international Korean Veterans.

The convention is designed to permit the input of veterans regardless of allegiance to the various Australia-wide Korea War Veterans' Associations and will be the opportunity for many to renew old friendships. It is open to Korea Veterans who served with the UN Forces in Korea 1950-56.

This is an opportunity for Korean veterans to present a consolidated proposition to the Local, State and Federal governments to ensure that the Korean Veterans throughout Australia are given their just recognition and equal rights within the framework of the 50th anniversary of Australia's first historic involvement with the United Nations in repelling armed invaders. It will provide a national forum for the vocalisation of perceived wishes of veterans, and the announcement, introduction and progress of the already achieved aims and wishes of those that are still in the Ripe-line.

The Convention will also provide the Government with an opportunity to address the grievances and feelings of veterans of "The Forgotten War" that persist to this day. Proof of service will be required either in the form of photocopy of Discharge Papers, validation from local RSLs that the Executive has seen the original United Nations medal with the name of the recipient on the rim, or a member of the Korean Veterans' Association of Australia (Inc.) or other Declaration of Korean War Service.

Korean Veterans are urged to contact the National Secretary, Korean Veterans' Association of Australia (Inc.), 35 Greenbank Cres, Pascoe Vale South, Victoria 3044, including a stamped self-addressed business size envelope, for copies of application forms and further information which will include costs, accommodation and program information. Booking is essential.

TEAR OFF AND POST

Please forward the details and application form for the Korea Veterans National Convention/reunion at Albury-Wodonga on 19-21 March 1999.

[Application form details follow]
The 1998-99 RSL bowling season began with a narrow loss to the Past Presidents and a win over the Australian Postal Institute.

Playing at Osborne Park Bowling Club, the Past Presidents won the Doe Parton Trophy by one shot, 97-96, the second time they have won it. Winning teams were PP: Graham Martin, Harold Slater, Lyle Muirson and Malcolm Halleen; RSL team: Ian Gardner, Bill Clark, Tony Snelling and Noel Laird.

Yokine Bowling Club was the venue for the annual RSL-API challenge when the RSL won 156-119. Tom Cresswell skipped the winning RSL team with Tony Snelling, Jim Middleton and Dick Hardy. Best team for the API was Charlie Chapman, Noel Clark, Dick Sloan and Arthur Pascoe.

Twenty-six bowlers have been selected to represent WA in the 32nd RSL National Bowls Carnival at Adelaide in December.

Trials were held at the Osborne Park Bowling Club in September, as 40 bowlers had made themselves available for selection. The selectors had the usual difficulty of whom to leave out.

Bowlers selected for the Jack Hamilton VC Trophy Team: Joss Bartlett (Doubleview), Herb Bayley (Northam), Gerry Boyd (Yokine), Arnold Bryant (Osborne Park), Kevin Fisher (Osborne Park), Ron Gamble (Morley), Merv Hughes (Northam), Sue Landscape (Bayswater), Jim Lamont (Kardinya), Doug Lidd (Osborne Park), Alastair Mull dall (Doubleview), Don Reynolds (Doubleview), Les Ridley (Osborne Park), Ross Shaw (Yokine), Tony Snelling (Bayswater), Ian Symington (Northam), Gill Warner (Dudley Park), Les Webb (Osborne Park).

The team for the Dr Sydney Krantz Trophy, RSL Officials, is: Reg Axford (Manning Memorial), John Crabb (Yokine), Dudley Docking (Doubleview), Les Fynmore (Mt Pleasant), Jim McCall (Bayswater), Bruce Rogers, Max O'Leary (Yokine).

Congratulations to the successful and commiserations to the unsuccessful.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING

The WARSL Bowls Section will hold its half-yearly meeting at the Osborne Park Bowling Club on Monday, December 31 at 10:30AM. Full refreshments to follow.

MAX PLESTER
Publicity Officer, Ph: 9305 5219

O boats can still get the job done

December 27 article in the story was 75 years old but they still get the job done. Such was the case in recent weeks in the rough and chilly waters off Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A Swissair MD 11 jet with more than 200 occupants reported an onboard fire before the Swiss-led bound aircraft plunged into the sea. It broke into thousands of pieces with many sinking to 35 metres. Among the items were the black box and flight deck recorders. Knowing the recorders might well tell why the jet crashed, search co-ordinators called in the Canadian Navy.

HMCS Okanagan, an Oberon class patrol submarine, and another ship to the vessel in service with the RAN and Chilean Navy, was dispatched to the scene. With its seven officers and 58 sailors, the submarine, working in comparatively shallow water, made several passes of the crash site.

"Her equipment picked up signals from both the black box and the flight deck recorders," Captain Beat Brown, the Defence Attaché for the Canadian High Commission in Canberra, told Navy News. "They pinpointed them to within a metre of where they were." He said. The locating by Okanagan was then allowed divers to go to the debris.

The submarine, of 2030 tonnes, was commissioned in June of 1967 and was one of three bought at the time. She is about to be decommissioned.

COURTESY NAVY NEWS

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The Broken Eighth
A History of the 5/14th Australian Field Regiment
by Ron Jackson

This is not a "military" history in the accepted sense. It does not deal with the wide sweep of events in the Pacific War, evaluate the actions or contributions of commanders or examine strategy and tactics. But it does tell in a plain, straightforward fashion, the story of a gunner regiment from formation in 1940 until disbandment at war's end. The author has drawn freely on the official war diaries lodged in the Australian War Memorial, the memories of the commanders, their photographs and sketches, together with material from various news-sheets of the Regiment. The story started in 1938 by the premier regimental association, was also a valuable source.

Some 700 ordinary Australian men came together in 1940 at Puckapunyal to form one of the major units of the 8th Australian Division. They proved their talent, skill and intelligence to build a regiment fit in all respects for operational service. They also demonstrated—although many would not have recognised it at the time—a daunting force of regimental spirit which was to stand them in good stead in adventures which lay ahead.

From their long and uneasy service in Darwin under a perceived threat of Japanese invasion, enduring some 50 air raids, the loss of their companion unit in the 8th Division in 1941 and the entry of the Japanese into the war on 17 December 1941, the Regiment were faced with the gaps in the coastal defence of many of our important ports. Before this story has been told, I am sure that it will prove of much interest to the families of those who served and will bring back memories to those remaining still with us. It should also find a deserved place with the histories of other distinguished units of the Australian Army on the shelves of any military library.

Copies are available from the author at 3/105 Surrey Road, Blackburn North, Vic. 3130. Price - $45 plus $5 p & p.

JOHN WHITELAW

The Letter Batteries
The History of the 'letter' batteries in World War II by Reg Kidd and Ray Neal

The authors of this book were kind enough to write me to say it is with the utmost pleasure, declaring my interest, to tell you of this marvellous work. No six years of history have been more written about than 1939-1945. There are the final words of John Keegan's book, "The Price of Boys". While the views of this eminent military historian are always worth attention, we must be thankful that people like Reg Kidd and Ray Neal have seen fit to add to the quantum of our available knowledge. Their work will give pleasure to their surviving comrades and serve as a comprehensive guide for future reference.

The book is not about the broad sweep of grand strategy; it is about the establishment of a wonderful lot of young Australians thrown together by the chances of war into 19 heavy batteries and three fire commands of the Royal Australian Artillery.

The entry of the Japanese into the war on 7 December 1941 gave sharp focus to the gaps in the arrangements for the coastal defence of many of our important ports. It was also appreciated that coastal defences would be needed to protect our forward bases as the Allied forces moved forward. The solution was seen in acquiring guns, searchlights and associated equipment from the United States of America and forming mobile coast batteries which could be deployed to meet changing circumstances. Reg Kidd and Ray Neal have delved assiduously into the records of the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Archives. They have compiled a book and guide to that detail of each of these units in the years 1942-45. The result of their work reveals fascinating insights into the difficulties encountered and surmounted, the memories of both the
The Thunder of the Guns
A History of the 2/3 Australian Field Regiment
by Les Bishop

This book has been many years in the making, yet it deals with only six years in the lives of its many characters, both as individuals and collectively as part of one of the most notable regiments of the 2nd AIF.

It tells the story of how ordinary Australian young men from around the Commonwealth came together in their various groups and batteries for their "great adventure" during World War II. Their adventures in North Africa, Greece, Crete and New Guinea are described in vivid colour in large part from personal reminiscence, supplemented from War Diary and Official History sources, and enlivened by many personal photographs.

It will surely please the survivors of this Regiment while serving as a memorial to those who have left us.

The difficulties, the mark of units, the heat and the hardship in the loss or incarceration of their mates is told with sensitivity. The periods of training in various countries, some short and specifically objective, others long drawn out, the boredom, the rumours, bring out the wry humour of the Australian soldier and give a good idea as to why he was respected by friends and enemies for his soldierly qualities.

Les Bishop has produced a history which will prove of lifelong interest to those who served as members of the 2/3rd Australian Field Regiment. They are fortunate to have a comrade with the imagination, skill and knowledge to carry it to a successful outcome. Through it they will relive their years of war and their families will understand.

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It tells the story of how ordinary Australian young men from around the Commonwealth came together in their various groups and batteries for their "great adventure" during World War II. Their adventures in North Africa, Greece, Crete and New Guinea are described in vivid colour in large part from personal reminiscence, supplemented from War Diary and Official History sources, and enlivened by many personal photographs.

It will surely please the survivors of this Regiment while serving as a memorial to those who have left us.

The difficulties, the mark of units, the heat and the hardship in the loss or incarceration of their mates is told with sensitivity. The periods of training in various countries, some short and specifically objective, others long drawn out, the boredom, the rumours, bring out the wry humour of the Australian soldier and give a good idea as to why he was respected by friends and enemies for his soldierly qualities.

Les Bishop has produced a history which will prove of lifelong interest to those who served as members of the 2/3rd Australian Field Regiment. They are fortunate to have a comrade with the imagination, skill and knowledge to carry it to a successful outcome. Through it they will relive their years of war and their families will understand.
In the wider field of military history, this book does not contribute to our knowledge of the clash of nations, nor does it pretend to do so. But it does tell the story of how a diverse group of young Australians came together in 1939 and formed a strong and successful weapon of war.

It will be rich in information for future research, and in some regard it becomes a valuable weapon of war. A history of the 8th Australian Divison AIF

John Whitelaw

Ghosts in Khaki

The history of the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion. a proud history of young West Australian men who, against overwhelming odds, displayed courage beyond their years, and beyond our comprehension. We, as Australians, owe them our eternal gratitude and always we say...

Take these men for example, like them - remember that prosperity can only be for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it.

The battle of Singapore created the history of the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion. a proud history of young West Australian men who, against overwhelming odds, displayed courage beyond their years, and beyond our comprehension. We, as Australians, owe them our eternal gratitude and always we say...

Take these men for example, like them - remember that prosperity can only be for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it.

Ghosts in Khaki is thoroughly recommended to the members and families of the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion and to those interested in Australian wartime history. The book is available from publishers Hesperian Press, PO Box 317, Victoria Park, 6100, or enquire through your local large bookdealer.

Geoff Tanner
Wewak Mission
Coastwatchers at War in New Guinea
by Lionel Veale

Coastwatchers, under the control of the Australian Allied Intelligence Bureau, played a significant role in World War II, observing Japanese military activities in many areas of the Pacific war zone and reporting their sightings to Allied Headquarters.

Wewak Mission is a true story of one group of four Australian Coastwatchers from the "M" Special Unit; the four included the book's author. It is an amazing story of survival and courage, at times seemingly unbelievable to the extent the reader has to be reminded it is a true story and not fiction.

The book also destroys the belief held by many Australians that the New Guineans were all "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels", so often portrayed by the media in the "good samaritan role". The truth was that they could be friend or foe, or headhunters and some tribes had not even seen a white man.

Some of the "friendly" natives with their simplistic sense of logic could, and indeed did, lead the Coastwatchers on Wewak Mission into dangerous situations.

This book is an exciting read and thoroughly recommended to those who like to examine some of the lesser known stories from World War II. It is available hardcover direct from the author, L.P. Veale, PO Box 468, Ashmore City, Qld 4214. Priced at $35.00 (including postage) it is great value. When ordering, indicate if you would like your copy personally autographed.

Menzies in War and Peace

Robert Gordon Menzies will long be remembered as one of the most prominent and authoritative figures in Australian politics. The book, edited by Frank Callejo, with well-researched contributions from leading Australian historians, is the first attempt to keep Menzies out of World War II to his last decision to send a battalion to Vietnam. The contributions by these eminent historians interpret the history of the Menzies' government's foreign and defense policies and in doing so, provide a new perspective on Menzies' understanding of the Australian role in world political affairs.

Historians, regardless of their personal politics, have a responsibility to relate as accurately as they can the effects upon Australia through the Menzies era of government. I believe that this has been achieved in this challenging book into a very significant period of Australian political history. The book is recommended to students of Australian political history and to those who are keen to learn the intrigue and the "heat of the battle" of politics behind the headlines.

All Men Back - All One Big Mistake

by W.A. (Bill) Bee

The sinking of the HMAS Perth in the Java Sea, and the resultant treatment of the survivors as prisoners of war by the Japanese, is told in this book, All Men Back - All One Big Mistake. The book's unusual title comes from the Japanese habit of "pulling it wrong" in the first attempt invariably, when prisoners were to be moved to another location, they would be lined up outside their barrack doors, sometimes standing and waiting for hours only to have the course reversed, the guards yelling "all men back - all one big mistake!"

The survivors of HMAS Perth, along with other prisoners of war endured harsh treatment in the NCOO camps from Serang and Batavia in Indonesia, through to Changi and on to the infamous Burma-Thaid railway project, ending with "The Japan Party" in the coal mines on the Japanese mainland island of Kyusha. All through these times on the "Rumik" (work parties), they were humiliated, beaten and mistreated in every way possible, yet still they had to "speedo-speedo" (work faster/harder).

Unfortunately, many did not survive and of those who did, the author of this book summed it up as the Catalina flying boat that brought them home touched down in Matilda Bay on the Swan River: "Yes, I suppose the feeling could be likened to waking up in bed after a bad dream, only this was on a much grander scale; my nightmare lasted for neatly four years".

The book is recommended to all those interested in Australian military history, particularly naval history, and to the members and friends of the navy. It is available from Hesprian Press, PO Box 117, Vermont Park, 4079, or through leading bookshops.

The RAAF in Russia
448 RAAF Squadron - 1942
by Geoffrey W. Rachel

Many stories have been written about the battles and hardships endured by aircrew flying bomber squadrons to Russia during World War II. It is always a difficult task, building not only a book on this topic, but also the German Navy U-Boats and air strikes. The Admiralty was reluctant to commit any information at all the way without aircraft cover against the German
GEOFF TANNER is about his early training period and the people he met. The book tells the story of No. 485 RAAF Squadron and how well-trained the squadron could operate and perform under such extreme conditions. The fact of which they had never experienced before was the dislocation of the ground staff, coping with the stress of flying conditions while under constant bombing attacks.

The RAAF in Russia is recommended in choral tradition in RAAF history and, in particular, the little-known history of stories like this one. It is available for mail from Australian Military History Publications, 17 Vernon Place, Loftus, 2232, NSW. Priced at $30.00 including postage.

Sailor and Commando
A Royal Australian Navy Special Service Beach Commando 1942-1946
by A.E. (Ted) Jones
Sailor and Commando relates the story of 120 RAN personnel who underwent extraordinary, lengthy, varied and intense training at the Amphibious Naval Training Base, HMAS Assault, at Fly Point, Nelsons Bay, north of Newcastle, NSW.

This group of men formed a Unit that was almost unknown. As Naval Commandos they were a highly disciplined force. It is only recently that this highly trained force has been recognized. It appears the problem of recognition was brought about by them, as they being recruited by the "Army" and also their spending time attached to the United States Navy. Hence a lot of people did not know just "who and what they were". Given the one aim of training the force received, it appears they were not fully involved. They eventually did see action when they played a significant role in the landings at Brunei Bay, North Borneo. This is an interesting book about a group of the "unknown" and "unsung" sailors.

The book is available from Hesperian Press, PO Box 317, Victoria Park, 1674, or through Eddie Collins. GEOFF TANNER

As It Was
The Life of a Raw Recruit
by Allan Edgar
Allan Edgar completed his RAAF training as an Art Observer with the Empire Air Training Scheme. His book is about his early training period and the people he met during that time. He relates many humorous stories of people and events, many of which the reader may have heard before, but are never diminished as they are re-told over time.

In all this humans, the undertakings of the war are present, and the light-hearted stories thrown in can escape from the reality of what is before them, the unknown, and the "will we make it back?" The book also gives an insight into basic training in the Services and will bring back many memories to those who have served in the Forces, both in wartime and peacetime.

This book is also available as a script for play. Copies of the play and the book are available by mail from Australian Military History Publications, 17 Vernon Place, Loftus, 2232, NSW. Price $19.99 including postage.

The Rest of My Life with 50 Squadron
Letters and Diaries of F/O Paddy Rowling
Compiled by Noella Lang
After initial training in Australia and then in the UK, F/O Paddy Rowling was posted to 50 Squadron RAAF in May 1942. This book is a compilation of his letters to his parents and fiancée back home in Australia and his own personal diary of events during the short five and a half months of active service.

While reading this book one has the feeling of intruding into the private lives of Paddy Rowling and his family. Then on the other hand, it shows almost unintentionally the horrors and fears of war and what may be the inevitable outcome. For that reason it is not an intrusion on his family but an historical record of that part of World War II which needs to be told and remembered.

This publication is dedicated to the memory of thousands of Australians who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II for freedom, democracy and the Australian way of life. It is to be a record of both pride and sentiment and a link with loved ones gone, but who are forever in our thoughts and memories.

The Rest of My Life is available from Access Press, PO Box 732, Northbridge, 6805, or from leading bookshops. Recommended retail price is $25.00.

GEOFF TANNER

To the Last Ridge
The World War II Memoirs of W.H. Downing
Compiled by Allan Edgar
This book recalls the graphic detail of the ordinary soldier's experience of one of the most horrific scenes of battles ever fought in the World, through to repulse...
and Lagincourt. Weighed down by mud-soaked clothing and equipment, the men dragged their feet, blackened and swollen with "trench feet", through the mud-filled shell holes. Worse was to come. At Bullecourt in April and May 1917, the 4th Division suffered more than 3000 casualties, while the 2nd Division repulsed 18 attacks in 24 hours. If this was not bad enough, the three battles of Ypres are reported to have been the worst of the war.

The Western front has not had the same role that Gallipoli portrays in Australian history, but it involved more Australian troops and they played a vital role in breaking the German line in 1918.

This is one of the most descriptive books written of the battles on the Western Front in World War I. Published by Duffy and Snellgrove, PO Box 177, Potts Point, NSW and distributed by Tower Books, it is available from leading bookshops at the recommended price of $16.95.

GEOFFTANNER

One Man's War

Private Frank McGillivray was born in the gold-mining town of Day Dawn, WA, in January 1917. After two unsuccessful attempts to join up in World War II (farmers were exempt), he left the farm and declared himself an 'unemployed farm labourer'. He enlisted in the Army on 19 July 1940 at Claremont.

Following overseas service, including Tobruk, with the 2/28th Battalion, he was transferred to the 6th Australian Division Intelligence Section and returned to Australia, where he served on intelligence duties in the Northern Territory and had many interesting experiences with the local Aborigines. He was discharged with the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 in October 1945.

Frank kept a diary from 1 January 1941 and maintained it continuously until 9 March 1943. The book gives a refreshing and realistic view of a soldier's experiences in war - written daily and, therefore, in great detail than an account written long afterwards.

It is set out in diary form rather than being set out in chapters.

The book has been produced by Frank's niece, Mrs Dorothy Gibbs (ex-AWAS). Frank passed away in Esperance on 20 July 1998 and, thanks to the efforts of Dorothy and, in particular, the publisher and staff, Frank saw the first copy, before he died.

It is available from Mrs Dorothy Gibbs, 138 Quoetel Road, South Guildford WA 6055; telephone 08 9279 3270. Cost is $12.00 including postage and handling.

KEN MORRISON

RSL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In a short time, Christmas and the new year will be with us. State Executive members have been busy packing parcels and visiting Hollywood Private Hospital and nursing homes with Christmas cheer for service men and women. The residents in the War Veterans' Home at Mt Lawley also received a gift. All this is made possible by Auxiliary donations. Many thanks to you all.

During August, September and October I was invited to fundraising functions at Armadale and Bellevue and birthdays were celebrated at Murray Districts and Belmont. I presented life memberships and badges to Mrs J. Levyre of Armadale and Madame J. Smith and F. Berry of Belmont, and Certificates of Service to Mrs D. Hollow and Mrs C. Rogers, also of Belmont. Congratulations to these members. Mrs Taylor and I were guests at the Armadale Sub-Branch annual dinner and Mrs Taylor represented the Auxiliary, on my behalf, at the opening of Veteran's Week.

Executive members once again were able to help with renewal notices for the League. Thank you!

To all auxiliary members - have a happy Christmas with your family and friends and a bright and healthy 1999. God Bless you all.

MARGARET FISHER

Members of the Women's Auxiliary spent three to four days labeling the RSL 1999 membership renewals and preparing them for mailing. This took a lot of pressure off the office staff at ANZAC House.
Letters to the Editor

Spirit of the railway

Having had time to play again the TV documentary Spirit of the Railway to fellow survivors of the Burma-Thailand Railroad, I have to endorse this film as the best we have seen yet. The very name and narrations of the survivors, together with archival footage, all help us to see that those who did not return still have a presence, one that is felt by those of us blessed to return and know our youth stolen from us.

It is riveting viewing and long studied emotions come flooding back throughout. It for the endorsement of our Association that this receive ideal viewing and be placed on the curriculum of schools as a reminder of those dark days in World War II to be remembered in Australia's documented history.

RAYMOND W. WHEELER
President, Ex-Prisoners of War and Relatives Assoc

Beaufort articles

Having read the 'Beaufort' articles and subsequent letters I offer my own experience. I was an Aircraft Artificer in 14 Squadron Pearce at the time of W/C Learmonth's fatal dive into the ocean off Rottnest Island.

In response to OE Watson's letter, I must point out that the cabin heater generating the heat from the exhaust manifold is achieved by fitting a muff around the manifold, and this completely isolates the exhaust gas passing through the muff to the cabin.

W/C Learmonth, leading a section of three A9 Beauforts, could be seen with his feet on the instrument panel, pulling back on the control column. As a result, all Beauforts were grounded and when the fault was identified, modified units were prepared and dispatched.

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

Editor
The Listening Post
RSL PO Box YX1200
East St George Terrace Perth 6002
We reserve the right to abridge.

to Beaufort Squadron.

JACK SINCLAIR 15404
22 Tribun Place, Balnky WA 6012

Forgotten Few
in the British Army

I read in the winter edition F P Turrel's letter that there were no "Forgotten Few" in the British Army. He was wrong as I was one of them. I volunteered after Dunkirk in 1940 and joined the RAC. In 1943 I volunteered for a unit which had asked for Radio Operators to jump behind enemy lines and I was accepted. After training in the Middle East, I did ops in Greece and Malaya. When I received my discharge papers there was no record of my overseas service. As I don't know if I'm allowed to write about this please don't print my name and number.

Could you please let me know when the Secrecy Act finishes. It is now 55 years since it was signed.

AN OLD SOLDIER

Name and address supplied

(Answer to your question as it relates to U.K. service, you are advised to contact the British Consulate General, 77 St George's Terrace, Perth. EDITOR)

Secondhand book

Looking through old books in a secondhand shop. I came across a war book and was shocked when I read it through, as it vividly described how to kill people. I'm relieved that it is in my possession rather than in the hands of some young or old thugs. It could be an antique by now but all...

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.
is of no value I will burn it rather than let anyone use it.


Myrick
1 Haven Place, Sussex Green, Bacchus Marsh, WA 3274

Royal Guard of Honour

I would like to locate ex-soldiers who took part in a Guard of Honour for the Queen on Saturday 27 March 1954 in the presence of WX's Governor; His Excellency the Governor-General. The Guard Commander was Don Piper.

Wally Beckett
Unit 3, 61 Connelly Way, Booragoon. Tel: 9364 9955

Empire Air Training Scheme

In a letter by Jack Benari in the Winter 1998 issue he wrote of RAAF No. 5 Initial Training School (for aircrew recruits) having formed at Clontarf in early 1942. Actually this was merely a re-location of 5 ITS from RAAF Station, Pearce, where the training began in October 1940.

The CO was S/Ldr M. Braithwaite and the Adjutant PO Peter Miller (the latter left to take up a position in the Middle East). The GIC Training Wing was F/Lt K. M. Beggs and the Sen. Ed. Office was F/Lt G. Newman. Sgt V. Roberts was Air Observer and later assumed the role of Weapons & Gunnery Instructor. WOW, Cross was Chief Drill Instructor and Mr V. James was Chief Drill Instructor from the PMG Dept was Chief Drill Instructor.

Our first intake of trainees was for No. 8 EATS course. I have a copy of the official group photograph of the trainees with the original unit staff. At the midpoint of No. 8 Course's training six weeks we had our next intake for No. 9 course.

During 1941 there were a number of unit changes: the CO was replaced by S/Ldr A. Brown (like his predecessor a decorated World War I pilot), a PO James replaced PO Miller as Adjutant. F/Lt H. A. White took over from F/Lt Beggs and PO S. Bovell took the place of PO L. P. Brannigan as training wing administration officer.

In retrospect, the locating of 5 ITS at Pearce would seem strange, but in 1940-41, it was a necessary decision for RAAF planners because Pearce was the RAAF's only established base in WA. No. 4 Recruit Depot for non-flying recruits also was here.

Both training units were an embarrassment to the Station's role as a wartime defence establishment. There were other Station groups with auxiliary functions such as large equipment storage facilities and stores and maintenance workshops. These were later moved elsewhere — stores depot at Maylands and Merredin and an aircraft depot (engineering) to Kalgoorlie.

The Commanding Officer of Pearce was W/Cmdr Fleming. He quickly set about developing Pearce to full wartime preparedness by ordering practice air raid warnings, aircraft crashes, fire outbreaks etc. As soon as arrangements were made for new locations, the training units were relocated — 5 ITS to Clontarf and 4RD to Busselton.

After the above moves, Pearce took on its true wartime function as a major airfield, especially as a home operational base for Nos 14 and 25 Squadrons.

R.McCafferty
ex-RAAF 4169
39 Lowena Road, Attadale WA 6156 Ph: (08) 9339 2623

 Appeal for the Fuzzy Wuzzies

When I turned on the news at 5.00 am Friday, 25 July 1998, instead of the usual fare I was confronted with a story about help for our Fuzzy Wuzzy friends in PNG after the tidal wave disaster. This took me back to July 1944 when I was a cadet at Fort Nelson, some 1000 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta. We were fortunate to enjoy motion pictures from the US Air Force on base with us. At one showing, a newsreel showed the Fuzzy Wuzzies in action. The sight of them having a badly wounded Digger astride through the mud of Kokoda is ingrained in my mind forever.

"They need money," pleaded the announcer. "Please Help!" So I searched my tidy bank for a good cause. I decided to contribute to help our Fuzzy Wuzzy friends in PNG after the tidal wave disaster. This took me back to July 1944 when I was a cadet at Fort Nelson, some 1000 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta. We were fortunate to enjoy motion pictures from the US Air Force on base with us. At one showing, a newsreel showed the Fuzzy Wuzzies in action. The sight of them having a badly wounded Digger astride through the mud of Kokoda is ingrained in my mind forever.

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help the Fuzzy Wuzzy and his wife and clan. In went a $10 note from our Mayor and others followed. We next took a trip to Club 133 Air Force where two volunteers checked the takings—an amazing $321.60.

It was one of the most satisfying jobs I have done and will do again. God willing. "Lest we forget."

GEORGE CALEVEN
Mandurah

Active Service World War II

It will be of interest to many to know that from 15 April 1942 all persons in the Commonwealth of Australia and its Territories serving in the defence forces were declared to be on active service.

This belated information can be found in the Commonwealth Gazette No. 114 issued in Canberra on 15 April 1942 whereby the Governor General, Lord Gowrie, declared that: "In respect of areas comprising the Commonwealth and each of its Territories of the Commonwealth, that persons subject to Military Law serving in those areas are "On Active Service".

BRIAN COUBE
McLaren Vale SA 5171
Ph: (08) 8323 8044

REunions

80 Squadron Association

The Association is planning a reunion and the dedication of a memorial plaque at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra at 10:30 am Wednesday, 24 February 1999. Further information please contact:

JIM HARDING, Honorary Secretary
317 Saint Georges Road, Oakleigh VIC 3166
Ph: (03) 9578 1583

86 Transport Platoon RAASC

Calling all those (505 of us) who served in 86 Tpt Pln in South Vietnam between 1967 and 1972. A reunion and dinner is planned to be held in Adelaide from 23-26 April 1999. The response to date has been tremendous. Further details are available from Barry Field (08 8276 2579), Ted Henry (08 8364 2450), Rod Longman (08 8264 4210), Bill Moore (08 8370 8624), Graham Butler (08 8367 5209), Ken Denny (08 8367 5209), Graham Butler (08 8367 5209), Ken Denny (08 8367 5209), Graham Butler (08 8367 5209).

W.T. DENNY
15 Galway Grove, Tranmere SA 5073

131 Div Loo Bty

A reunion will be held in Coffs Harbour from 23 to 25 April 1999, commencing with a BBQ at Coffs Harbour Bowling Club. A dinner will be held on Saturday. For further information contact Dave Auld on (02) 6652 3500 or write to 31 Sandra Close, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

DAVE AULD

LOST TRAILS

Korean and Vietnam Veterans from Collie

The Collie-Cardiff RSL is interested to find the names and service numbers of persons who served in either the Korean or Vietnam Wars and enlisted from Collie.

We hope to have a kit to establish Honour Rolls for those wars and now require the names of the males and females who served and were born or lived in the Collie district and served in the conflicts of Korea and Vietnam.

Would anyone with any information please contact Christine Robinson, Phone (08) 9732 2559 or Fax (08) 9734 3308 with the name and service number of the veteran, so the lists can be compiled accurately.

Doug P. Frost

Doug flew in Wellington bombers with 498 Squadron RAAF from Malta. The crew was either forced or shot down into the Mediterranean and taken POW by the Italians in 1943 or 1944. Anyone having any information about Doug is asked to contact Jim Palmer, RMB 473, Kojonup WA 6395.

Norman Winning MBE

2/5, 2/8 CDO COY.

Information sought concerning the location of the grave of Maj. N. Winning MBE, buried in the vicinity of Subang in West Java in 1950. At that time, and prior to World War II, he was employed as a tea plantation manager of a large Anglo-Dutch tea company. His funeral was attended by Australian, British and possibly Dutch nationals living in the area at that time. In 1997 I visited Subang and searched the Christian cemetery there without success. Any information would be appreciated.

KEVIN BOWIE
2/84 Zenobia Street, Palmyra WA 6157
Ph: (08) 9339 2623
Belmont

Belmont Sub-Branch and Women’s Auxiliary have received praise from the Appeal organisers for our contribution of $2202.15 to the Princess Margaret Children’s Hospital Appeal. Phyllis Rothery, State Co-Ordinator of the Appeal, was with us during our Fun Day and was delighted with the response and the efforts of our volunteers. It was a great team effort and you all deserve a pat on the back for assisting the children of WA.

It is impossible to name all who volunteered their time to make this day so successful. However, there are some principal organisers whom I will mention. Brian Wake followed his successful 70th Anniversary Pony venture with a tremendous amount on this project. President Bill Sharpe, Secretary Harold Haimes and our Committee members gave their unswerving support; we thank the Sub Branch for the use of the premises and a donation of $500.00 which was the anchor for the appeal’s success. Belmont City Council gave a $100.00 donation and we were supported by many Councillors who attended on the day. They included Mike Cookell, City Deputy, George Godfrey, and Marie Hay and husband Jonathan. Other VIPs attending were Sue Handell (our local Federal Member) and Hon. Jilliane Renwick, our local Legislative Council member who donated a $100.00 lunch. Eric Ripper, our local MLA, and Andrew Martin, also sons Amanda and Bill and Margaret Chetwynd and daughter Rockelle. Maxine Britten organised many prizes, then allocated, sorted and, with her two granddaughters Cara and Sue Babb, wrapped them.

An usual Lockie Britten supplied our quiz questions which helped make the day so successful. Fay Caveill, Secretary of the Women’s Auxiliary typed the letters seeking donations and support. Women’s Auxiliary President Joan Fitzgerald and her great band of volunteers are heavily congratulated for the excellent lunch. It was a huge task to provide for 140 attendees. Our regular cooks for the day were Fred Byles and Ted Wonh.

Brian Carvell, our Treasurer, not only collected and counted all the money, but also coordinated the bar staff - Marie Ridoff, Norm Fairhall and Brian Fowells. What would we do without Jim Barry who collected $700.00 (140 x $5) at the door and husband Peter, who, with Babs Leggett, ran the老虎机 pokie machine competition. Those who helped self-catering ventures included Joy Smith, Neville Parker and Fred Worth, who donated $100.00. Bill Sharman did an excellent job in organising the game. His helpers were Neville Parker, Bill Sharpe, Geoff Worth, Bob Leggett and Peter Barry. Liz Allen and Peter Connors, our very popular contributors who canvassed and received donations for the prize pool, and Shelley West and her young talent group provided the entertainment without charge.

A special thank you to our Sub-Branch’s major sponsor, Stefan Dee of Busselton in the Village Shopping Centre Busselton.

In addition to the $2202.15, Joan Fitzgerald, President of the Women’s Auxiliary, and the girls raffled a rug and Phyllis Rothery, the Appeal’s State Co-ordinator was presented with its proceeds. Another $100.

FRED MCKENZIE
Patron

Busselton

The Sub-Branch continues to grow and we now have 200 members with only 13 of them being listed as non-financial. It is pleasing to note that a large proportion of new members are from the ‘younger generation’ which augers well for the Sub-Branch and the RSL as a whole. The Sub-Branch now has a membership officer, Ron Peach, who is one of our newer, younger members. Ron is also a TIP-qualified welfare officer and joins our strong team looking after veterans’ and widows’ affairs.

At last I have found a PR officer, Neville Jones, who is also one of our new members.

The welfare team continues to do good work with some prizes being reported as ‘The stump’. The changing of the DVA Rural and Remoter Visits Program activity to a Friday-noon was decided with our welfare team, has proved to be very successful.

The Sub-Branch is gearing up for its major fundraising activity – Footy Day the Bunbury Show, Pajga Day (December 20th), Petticoat Lane and the Busselton Festival Queen (January) are being planned.

In addition to sponsoring the Bunbury-based 511 Regional Cadet Unit, the Sub-Branch has agreed to sponsor the newly-formed Naval Reserve Cadet Unit, Busselton.

Fellowship on the fourth Friday of the month is firmly entrenched and continues to attract large numbers of members, wives and friends and our annual dinner is expected to be very successful.

GARRY LEA
Secretary
**Canning Districts and Victoria Park**

Special thanks go to all the volunteers who helped out on the Poppy Day Appeal. In the new year we hope more people will come along to support their clubs which is also available for hire.

Members would like to welcome to their Sub-Branch the Korea and South East Asia Veterans' Association, who has announced that "Effective from 8 August 1998, our Association moved its permanent place of meetings and social events to the Canning Districts and Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch. After 19 years at our previous meeting place, due to circumstances beyond our control we had to move."

The President, Committee and Members of the Canning Districts and Victoria Park RSL invited us to move to Wharf Street. We now call it Hope and thank them for their assistance and made us feel welcome. The meetings and social activities have been a great success thanks to the committee, fellowships and connection of Bill Day and his great team. A number of our members have also transferred their RSL membership to the Sub-Branch.

"We have been able to establish a nice area within the Club for our memorabilia. We hope that they wish to display, please contact the Secretary. Members of the Korea and South East Asia Veterans' Association (98 Branch) and other interested parties are invited to attend that in the National Conference of the Association in Adelaide on 25 October 1998, the National Congress accepted unanimously our recommendation that the 98 Branch change its title from 'Forces' to 'Veterans' Association."

"We look forward to seeing our old and new members at any of our functions in the future."

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

**WENDY SCHWAB, PhD**

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**City of Perth**

What a great year it has been for the City of Perth members. Our meetings held in the Catholic Boys on the second Thursday of each month February to December at 12 noon. Conclude with a light lunch. There is an annual function and you will be assured of a warm welcome. Our meetings are always well attended and you are sure to find a kindred spirit.

The Sub-Branch Officer Bearers for 1998 are:

President - Jack Edwards; Vice-President - C. Habers-Clothe; Vice-President - F. Taylor; Secretary/ Treasurer - D. McClelland; Ass. Secretary - G. Bagstock; Warden - M. Hall and S. Spinks; and Point Peron Chairman - B. Brown.

Profits from the sales will assist the Sub-Branch meet its annual function. In the New Year we hope to have the Sub-Branch members have participated in a number of social events during 1998. In late June, a bus trip enabled us to visit Ashbury and a Christmas in June! On 14th August we saw Phantom of the Opera and at the end of October, S0 members enjoyed a lunch while sailing up the Swan before trying their luck at the Casino. Only those members who attended Sub-Branch meetings can participate in these very enjoyable outings to buildings and events.

Our social calendar will conclude this year with an annual dinner to be held at ANZAC House on 14 December.

Once again in keeping with Christmas and food. The delightful shortbread biscuits that have become a feature of this time of the year will be available at $5.00 per box from the Sub-Branch. If you are able to sell some to your friends and neighbours, it would be a tremendous help. Profits from the sales will assist the Sub-Branch meet the needs of the members.

1. On the members' behalf, thank the ladies of our Auxiliary for all the hard work and support they have given during the past year. Our meetings would be dull indeed without the fun raffles and you really are much appreciated.

2. The AGM on 9th February 1999, will be the first meeting in the New Year.

3. The Sub-Branch Executive and your Committee wish you a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

**MARY KELLY, PhD**

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**East Victoria Park**

What a great year it has been for the East Victoria Park members. Our meetings will be held in the Catholic Boys on the second Thursday of each month. Conclude with a light lunch. There is an annual function, and you will be assured of a warm welcome. Our meetings are always well attended and you are sure to find a kindred spirit.

The Sub-Branch Officer Bearers for 1998 are:

President - Jack Edwards; Vice-President - C. Habers-Clothe; Vice-President - T. Taylor; Secretary/ Treasurer - D. McClelland; Ass. Secretary - G. Bagstock; Warden - M. Hall and S. Spinks; and Point Peron Chairman - B. Brown.

Probably the most important event of 1998 has been the introduction of Affairs Membership. The support of affiliated members in the coming years will ensure that the RSL will be in a position of strength at a time when the welfare of our veterans and their families become paramount. We are privileged to welcome as an Affiliate Member Ms Hilda Edwards, who is 90 years young this year.

Sub-Branch members have participated in a number of social events during 1998. In late June, a bus trip enabled us to visit Ashbury and a Christmas in June! By August, we saw Phantom of the Opera at the end of October, 50 members enjoyed a lunch while sailing up the Swan before trying their luck at the Casino. Only those members who attended Sub-Branch meetings can participate in these very enjoyable outings to buildings and events.

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The AGM on 9th February 1999, will be the first meeting in the New Year.

The Sub-Branch Executive and your Committee wish you a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

**MARY KELLY, PhD**
On 17 October the Open Day and Fete at the Sub-Branch hall was a great success. If you missed it, make sure you don't miss the next one. The day provided non-stop first-class entertainment, plenty of food and drink and stalls full of bargains. The result was a very profitable gain for the Sub-Branch. A big thank you to all who contributed.

I wish all our members and their families a very bright and safe Christmas and a hope for a good new year.

GEOFF TANNER
President

Esperance

The Sub-Branch has been on a membership drive for most of this year and, in spite of some deaths and transfers, we have reached the magic 100 which is ahead of our planned program. This will not mark the end of the drive, though, as we acknowledge the great necessity to keep the RSL strong.

Members catered for people attending the Festival of the Winds and also during Seniors' Week when the local Munkipal Museum entertained the Home Care clients. In this way the Sub-Branch is kept in the minds of the public while providing a service for the less fortunate at the same time.

During late winter some of our members gathered up four large trailer loads of mallee roots which were raffled to rebuild our general funds. The popularity of the raffle and its success were outstanding and we raised a total of $2337.00. No doubt when next winter approaches, many more mallee root raffles will be held.

M. LANDRE, JP
PRO

Geraldton

We were delighted to be host at Birdwood House to new State President, Lieutenant Colonel Ken Bladen (Rtd), Senior Vice President and WVH Chairman Len Turner, and WVH Chief Executive Officer, Robert Mitchell, on 15 September. Ken made quite clear that Remembrance and Welfare would be the dominating features of his Presidency. And we went on to give him a warm welcome to Newcastle and the Sub-Branch.

During the visit, Kevin and Pam Davis of Drysdale, Victoria, were taken to the grave of Murray Clapham by Assistant Secretary Pam Burgess. This was an extremely emotional visit because Murray was killed in action during the Vietnam War in 1967.

Our Executive Officers gave strong support to the
National Police Day Service conducted by Dean Ken Rogers at the Holy Cross Cathedral, when homage to deceased officers was paid by Inspector Bob Cotton. They included Peter McManus of Northampton, who was shot in 1955, and Malcolm Stanaway of Geraldton, who was killed in 1979.

Before leaving to become Peppermint Grove Shire Councillor, Grahame Simpson was presented with an RSL State Executive Certificate of Service by 93-year-old Wally Cleaver of the War Veterans' Homes Hostel. It was in appreciation of his advice and assistance to the Geraldton complex as City Chief Executive Officer.

**Mandurah**

The President is back in the driving seat after his time up north, and Treasurer Gordon Lenney has returned from a trip to the USA. We have exchanged visits with the Bunbury Sub-Branch — these visits are good for sharing different points of view.

On our trip to Boyup Brook for the Sandakan Memorial Service were four students from two of our senior schools. Next year we hope to take students from the other two schools. The Sub-Branch is presenting the four schools with the book *Sandakan the Last March*.

A very pleasant luncheon was held for "Dads Army", the Tuesday morning group who do all the jobs around the hall. Over the years they have saved us thousands of dollars. This year instead of a dinner, we held a luncheon in November.

The Sub-Branch has been handed a Defence Medal inscribed "R.J. Southwell 137378". OVA states that the

service man passed away 12 years ago. Members of his family are asked to contact Wally Holding on 9535 4952 or write to Mandurah RSL, 22 Third Avenue, Mandurah, WA 6210.

**WYN HOLDING, PRO**

**Mandurah Ex-Service Women's Group**

A plaque, commemorating the role of women in all Australian Services during World War II, was unveiled at the old War Memorial site Mandurah on 2 September 1998. It was presented by the Ex-Service Women's Group of Mandurah with financial assistance by the Veterans' Affairs Department.

Ex-Service women were employed during the war to release men for active service. In those unsophisticated days, a big miracle took place, with women leaving the security of their homes to become nurses, wireless and radar operators, clerks, radio workers, transport drivers, drill instructors, searchlight operators, cooks, stewardesses and canteen assistants. They served in the Navy, Army and Air Force establishments throughout Australia and overseas.

The Ex-Service Women's Group meets monthly in Mandurah for fellowship and a shared lunch. For more information please contact:

HELEN FRESTON 9535 2388
NANCY TAYLOR 9535 2700

**Nollamara — North Perth**

A lone piper's lament echoed around the wreath-laying area at the Sub-Branch as wreaths were placed on the memorial commemorating Vietnam Veterans' Day on 18 August 1998. Participants were the Sub-Branch Patron, Graham Armstrong, RAO; Battalion's Btian Rees, Peter Heeney, John Lewis, Stacey Robertson, Peter de Masson.
Peter Northwood, Jeff Wilkie, Keith Bradshaw, Ken Rowsome, SAS John 0’Keefe, Engineers Richard Mansfield, Anthony Kevin Worrall, Associated Field Corps Paul Pesado, RAAFB Maj Clyde, RAN David Green, St Recruit Cadet Unit John Dochard, Fremantle Navy Club Jack Dunbar, and RSL State Executive Dave McLelland.

Many thanks again to Mrs Carol Randall for her professional skills in organizing the day and also to the Piper1anice Millard and Bugler Graham Worth.

Sporting Division: Congratulations to Mark Bartlett, our Division 5 Sub-Branch Darts Captain, on winning the Minor Premiers and then taking the team through to victory in the Grand Final.

ROSCO JONES, PRO

REMINDER FOR THE DIARY: North Beach Sub-Branch AGM Thursday February 2 1999 at 7PM. Don’t forget!!!!

MAX PLESTER
PRO (Ph 9305 5219)

Port Kennedy

The new year should see us settling feet on our own land, as negotiations are well under way for a block at Port Kennedy Business Park.

Our best努力 is nearing completion and members have been busy selling tickets. Christmas is nearly here and the children’s and the member’s party have been organized.

We have moved the Members’ Draw to the monthly meeting at the Port Kennedy Tavern on the last Sunday of every month, except December, in the Function Room, starting at 1900hrs. All are welcome and remember we still hold our parties at the Tavern each Friday night between 1900hrs and 1930hrs. Come along and join in the fun.

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

S.A. MONCRIEFF, PRO

RETURNED SISTERS

NURSES MEMORIAL SERVICE ALBANY

On Sunday afternoon, 31 October, more than 100 people gathered at the RSL Memorial Gardens overlooking Princess Royal Harbour in Albany to commemorate service nurses. The IC, former Mayor Mrs Annette Knight, welcomed special guests, including Albany MLA Mr Kevin Prince, Mrs Thomas, representing Mr Bob Thomas MLC, Mrs Muriel Patterson MLC, City Commissioner Mr Will McGovern and City of Albany Freeman. Mr Bill Home. The President and Secretary of the Albany Sub-Branch of the RSL, many Returned Servicemen and ex-Service personnel were also present with members of the Albany community and visitors from various parts of the State. Members of the Army and Navy Cadets unit on guard and raised the flag for the Last Post and Reveille.

At the flag raising of the service, wreaths were laid at the memorial which bears the inscription “These gardens were planned in thankful remembrance of the service of nurses who served in the Great War 1914-1918. And also those who served in subsequent conflicts.”

Lt-Col Edith Harler (Retd) ARRC, FNM ED, a World War II Nursing Sister, spoke in her address about the work of the Australian Sisters in nursing the Diggers under the appalling conditions produced by campaigns of World War I, from Gallipoli to the Western Front and later in the pen-war conditions when many sisters fell their lives. Since World War II Army, Navy and Air Force Nurses have served in all operations, more recently in the Hallen hospital established to care for the victims of the tsunami in Bajung, New Guinea. Referring to the Service Nurses’ Memorial now under construction in Canberra, Miss Harler concluded “…the memorial (is) to the women who were truly the founders of a profession which for many years served with little recognition or remuneration and are still serving their country now, with tenacity of purpose and true consideration for humanity.” Every year since 1937 a service to remember nurses has been held in Albany’s Memorial Gardens. The Secretary of the Albany RSL Mr Cliff Wittingstall is to be congratulated for the increased interest and attendance in this year’s service.

H. BIRCH

PRO

RIVERTON

Children’s Christmas parties have been held for many years and the Sub-Branch adopted Naval Trainees from Leeuwin on Father’s Day and Christmas.

In 1985 we decided we needed a new club. After one year to convince the State Executive that we could do it and another year to build, our first meeting was held in the new club. It was similar to the one in 1948, with everyone standing, sitting on the floor or on paint tins and milk crates.

This is but part of the story of our Sub-Branch. Pages could be filled even though very few written records are now available.

The Sub-Branch has been forming over the years with its core of enthusiastic and supportive members. We have a magnificent club room and office of which we are all very proud and which will meet our needs for years to come.
There are about 40 members who have not paid their subs for 1998. If you are one of them, please see our secretary as soon as possible.

HARRY LOWE
President

Rivervale – Carlisle

It was of great interest to attend the Presidents' and Secretaries' recent meeting in Mt Lawley – the first in that venue. Our State President promised future meetings will also be held there and more frequently. As well, there is to be a transfer of different spheres of administration which, for most, will be more convenient from the point of view of parking facilities. But there is another aspect. At our age, many of us make more use of public transport. For important meetings, perhaps these members could be transported out from ANZAC House and back into town on the day?

In his address, Mr Bladen covered a variety of matters of vital interest to all League members. It would be of interest to all, I feel sure, if the Listening Post were to publish the crux of the material covered.

Our generous member, the ex-baker and pastrycook I spoke about in the last report, has created several puddings and a Christmas cake for the Sub-Branch. Wow! They are delicious! The cake is the biggest I have ever seen.

It seems that with the interest being displayed in our fourth Sunday of the month functions, many are hearing of and deciding to sample, the excellent food prepared by our Women's Auxiliary. At our Melbourne Cup Champagne Brunch, bacon, scrambled egg, and BBQ'd sausages were followed by delicious muffins, cheese board and fresh fruit — all for the princely amount of $6.00.

Again we remind members that our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 1400 hours. You will be made very welcome.

Seasons greetings to all — and take care of yourselves.

GORDON HARVEY
Vice President

Scarborough

This year is nearly at an end and there is still a lot to be done. Our Christmas dinner should be a success with a number of new members attending, among them are Bob Baxter, Herbert Jones, and Alan Bishop.

Our annual holiday-makers are returning to enjoy the better weather. Bob White, back from his trip around Australia, left our Scarborough Club Pennants at all his stop-overs and brought others flags back for our wall. Peter Stubbs, back from the Nordic countries, has a smile on his face, which shows how much he enjoyed these countries and meeting the local people.

VOLUNTARY DONATION

We refer to your letter dated 17 August 1998 in which you informed us of the losses sustained by the League relative to the International Tattoo held in Perth in November last year.

The situation was discussed at our last Sub-Branch meeting on 1 September when it was agreed that we make a special contribution to the League equating to $10 per member. We will endeavour to recoup this payment by requesting our members to individually subscribe to a $10 “voluntary contribution.”

Although we are only a small Sub-Branch, we believe that it is most important that we should support the League in time of need, and we recommend that other Sub-Branches consider a similar course of action. On the basis of some 11,000 members in WA, this would go a long way towards correcting this unfortunate situation. Our cheque for $330 is enclosed.

RON CONDON
President, Shenton Park Sub-Branch
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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- **Fletcher B.**Army
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- **Slater R.**Army
- **Taylor M.**Army

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- **Tranney R.**Air Force
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- **Martin D.**Army
- **Thornton N.**Army

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- **Dyson B.**Navy
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- **Harris L.**Navy
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**Nollamara-North Perth**

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- **Boating R.**Army
- **Dunford B.**Army
- **Exelby R.**Navy
- **Flinton R.**Navy
- **Goold-Throp C.**Army
- **Hannay M.**Air Force
- **Piper T.**Air Force
- **Taylor W.**Air Force

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- **McKerrow W.**Navy
- **Morgan R.**Army

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Listening Post reminds all Unit Associations that it is the responsibility of each to keep information in their Head-quarters up to date. Changes to the office holders must be in writing.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
President: Lionel Hutchings Ph 9309 9675. Correspondence to Secretary: Yera Hutchings. 17 St. Johns Crt. Kinglsey 6026.

AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSOC (WA) INC
President: Neil Chaplin: Ph: 9302 1388 (w) 9307 8460 (h).

Australia's Army Training Team Vietnam (WA Branch)

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (WA Branch)
Secretary: Mary Wyse. 1116 Rambutilfl PI. South Lake 6164: Ph: 9528 4697. Secretary: Harvey Hodgekiss. 66 Cawston Road, Canning Bridge 6153. Meetings: 10.45am 2nd Thurs in March. ENquiries phone 9446 4540.

Australian Ex-Service Atomic Survivors' Assoc (WA Branch)

Australian Ex-Services Assoc (WA Branch)

Australian Ex-Services Assoc (WA Branch)
President: vacant; Correspondence to: Joy Tate. 84 West Rd. Bassendean: Ph: 9361 3483. Meetings: contact Chairman. Ex-Services Assoc. Monthly (AGM Sept). AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOC WA (INC)
President: Mrs HW Waters. Retirement Village, 3rd Ave. Mandurah; Ph: 9561 1741. Meetings: 2nd Mon monthly. ANZAC House.

Australian Special Air Service Assoc (WA Branch)

Australian Women's Army Service Assoc (WA Branch)

Australian Women's Army Service Assoc (WA Branch)
President: Miss HK Henderson; Correspondence to Secretary: D Evans. 2 Taylor St. Eaton 6232; Ph: 9275 1144. Meetings: 10am 4th Thurs monthly. ANZAC House.

Australian Women's Army Service Assoc (WA Branch)

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RAEME ASSOCIATION OF WA

RAEME OFFICERS' ASSOC 5MD (WESTERN REGION) INC.

THREE ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN ANZAC HOUSE - ALL SIGNALLERS

RAEME ASSOCIATION OF WA BRANCH

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORPS ASSOC (WA)
President: Bernie Edmondson. 3 Moness PI. Shelley 6148: Ph: 9457-5620. Correspondence to Secretary: Jack Shepheard. Unit 45/60 Kalinda Dve. City Beach 6156: Ph: 9294-1798. Secretary: Mrs B Philp. address as above. Meetings/ luncheon: 11.30am 2nd Fri' bi-monthly (from Feb). ANZAC House - all Signallers.

THREE ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN ANZAC HOUSE - ALL SIGNALLERS

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVERS ASSOCIATION

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY - ALLIED SHIPS ASSOCIATION

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY NAVY CLEARANCE DIVISIONS ASSOCIATION (WA)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY LETTER-NUMBERS ASSOCIATION (WA)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY NAVY CLEARANCE DIVISIONS ASSOCIATION (WA)

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY NAVY CLEARANCE DIVISIONS ASSOCIATION (WA)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY NAVY CLEARANCE DIVISIONS ASSOCIATION (WA)
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOC
President: Ray Sargeant, 35 Berwick Wy, Gosnells; Ph: 9431 6782. Correspondence to Secretary, Philip Bray, 59 Welney Wy, Gosnells 6109. Meetings: 2nd Tues bi-monthly at Gosnells RSL Club.

SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND
Chairman: John Maris, 41 Glencoe St, St. James 6102; Ph: 9361 3392. Airforce and Associated Units e.g. Chindits serving in 14th Army Theatre 1944-1945.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION
President: Alan Breakey, Blackwall P. Shelley, Ph: 9351 1319. Correspondence to Secretary, Mike Pillman, 13 19 60 Kulin Rd, Roleystone 6110, Ph: 9277 2141. Meetings: 17th day of 1st month at Metropolitan Winter Gardens of the City of Perth.

SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION FREMANTLE (WA) BRANCH, THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOC (WA BRANCH), THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOC (WA BRANCH), THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC (ROCKINGHAM BRANCH), THE ROYAL NAVY ASSOC (MARMION BRANCH), THE ROYAL NAVY ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, NORTHERN SUBURBS
Chairman: Len De Grussa, 43 Pitt St, Dianella; Ph: 9276 7253. Secretary: Mrs Ronnie Roach, 90 Herdsman Pde, Wembley; Ph: 9450 1921. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Tues monthly (except Jan). Navy Club, Fremantle.

THE ROYAL NAVY ASSOC PERTH (WA) BRANCH
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC (ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS BRANCH)
Chairman: John Barton, 7/5 Sepia Ct, Rockingham; Ph: 9527 2211. Secretary: Mrs FE Johnson, 38 Renwick St, Rossmoyne; Ph: 9592 1197. Meetings: 2nd Tues every 2nd month, Victoria Gross Room, ANZAC House.

THE SERVICES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
President: Doug Rasmussen, Ph: 9221 7010. Secretary: Jack Le Cras, 301B Toorak Rd, Nedlands; Ph: 9386 1495. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Tues monthly (except Jan). ANZAC Club, Paddington.

THE SERVICE GROUP
Organiser: Eric Carpenter, Ph: 9455 2775. Correspondence to: 21 Komoro Dr, Dingley 6166. Meetings: 12pm b-monthly 4th Thurs from March 1999. VC Room, ANZAC House; all ex Spitfire Squadron members are welcome.

THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Michael D. Bell, 712 Diggers Dr, Narrowsdale; Ph: 9454 2020. Secretary: Malcolm Clarke, Ph: 9221 7010. Meetings: 11am b-monthly 4th Thurs from March. ANZAC House.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, PERON DISTRICT
Chairman: Ted Haines, Richard Close, Waikiki; Ph: 9592 9506. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC OF AUST (INC.)
President: Bryan Bremner, 62 Teranaca Gardens, Mandurah; Ph: 9592 6608. Secretary: Ena McGinn, 9 Castile St, Wembley; Ph: 9341 3323. Meetings: 10am 4th Wed bi-monthly from March, ANZAC House.

THE ROYAL NAVY ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, PAROW DISTRICT
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, SMITHS DISTRICT
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, TURKEY DISTRICT
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, WESTERN DISTRICT
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, WOODROFFE DISTRICT
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, WOODROFFE DISTRICT
Chairman: Ivan Hunter, 28 Bandol Cres, Secret Harbour; Ph: 9534 2489. Correspondence to Secretary, D V. Ross, 628 Frederieks St, Shenton Park 6022; Ph: 9334 2489. Meetings: 1st Tues in June-Aug; 7.30pm 1st Tues Sep-May (except Jan), TS ANZAC, Paint Fem, Robindale.

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VIETNAM VETERANS AND DEFENCE FORCE JUBILEE
PO Box 1442 Wangara 6065.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)

VIETNAM VETERANS MOTOR CYCLE CLUB (WA) INC.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: R Finkelstein. 3/7/130 Cresswell Rd. Dianella; Ph: 9275 4293. Correspondence to Secretary: JW Carey. 13 Stoddard St. Dianella; Ph: 9275 4293. Secretary: Lou Pola. Ph: 9449 2784. Correspondence: PO Box 7. Innaloo City 6918.

VIETNAM VETERANS MOTOR CYCLE CLUB (WA) INC.
President: Rob Cox; Ph: 0418 928 621. Correspondence to Secretary: JW Carey. 13 Stoddard St. Dianella; Ph: 9275 4293. Secretary: Ted Philp, Sa Henning Cres, Manning 6152; Ph: 9450 9276. Fax: 9332 4964. Meetings: quarterly.

VIETNAM VETERANS MOTOR CYCLE CLUB (WA) INC.
President: Jack Sue; Ph: 9257 1260. Secretary: Lou Pola; Ph: 9449 2784. Correspondence: PO Box 7. Innaloo City 6918.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Chairman: Jack Sue; Ph: 9257 1260. Secretary: Lou Pola; Ph: 9449 2784. Correspondence: PO Box 7. Innaloo City 6918.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Chairman: Jack Sue; Ph: 9257 1260. Secretary: Lou Pola; Ph: 9449 2784. Correspondence: PO Box 7. Innaloo City 6918.
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.

Barbara Clinton (Editor)

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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. YEARS WE FORGET
How a Desperate 63 Year Old New South Wales Housewife Finally Discovers The Secret to Safe, Gentle Arthritis Pain Relief

My name is Sue Fraser. I'm 63 years old. I live in Sydney. I have osteo-arthritis in both knees and my lower back. My pain is brutal. I try many expensive, strong prescription medications in search of relief. I'm tired of feeling miserable every day, but what my dogged determination to find a product that will relieve arthritis pain.

Anyway, recently I decided to try an all-natural herbal remedy called Arthritis-Calm™. I'm extremely skeptical, but because I'm so desperate I figure, "What have I got to lose?" Two weeks later, within several weeks I began to feel and look different. My energy levels improved, I was sleeping well, and I could even walk to the local shopping centre. I finally felt like my old self again. I couldn't walk up a single flight of stairs. Not because of the pain.

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Sincerely,

Sue Fraser

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Fax: 02-9607-3529

Mail Order from: Premium Block Ltd., Box 774, Maroubra NSW 2035, Australia.

A.C.N. 115 611 109

P.S. If this desperate 63 year old New South Wales housewife can get safe, gentle arthritis pain relief, then you can, too!

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Merry Christmas from someone famous in Hollywood.