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
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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
31 October for Summer Edition

If possible submissions should be typed, double spaced.
Photographs can be black and white or colour glossy.
This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
They should be addressed to:
The Editor
The Listening Post
RSL, PO Box Y3023

East St Georges Terrace, Perth 6832

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
15th of February, May, August and November respectively

Cover pic: A Leopard tank from 1st Armoured Regt.
Photo by L.Cpl Scott Lambert
The first half of the year has been very busy for the League and by all accounts the remainder of the year will be just as busy.

The most significant occurrence since the last edition would be the commemoration of ANZAC Day with one of the biggest attendances by marchers and spectators in many years. This year several Associations marched for the first time and there were three reunions. The figures have been put at 4,000 ex-service members, 1,000 defence members and more than 15,000 members of the public viewing the parade. It would be reasonable to say that the Dawn Service, Parade and Service were very successful with a couple of things that need reviewing for the Year 2000; the most common complaint was the sound system. There are many individuals and organisations that volunteer their time to ensure that the day is successful and we acknowledge their support.

ANZAC Day Tokens were sold for the first time in WA and whilst this year’s return won’t be overwhelming, it has provided us with a good grounding for future years. Quite a number of Sub-Branches and Unit and Kindred Associations participated in the collection and received mixed results; several Sub-Branches did quite well with ANZAC Day proving successful. There are a number of administrative requirements still to be sorted out to ensure we have a successful collection in 2000.

As you receive this edition, the State Branch and Sub-Branches will be concentrating on State Congress, which will be held in ANZAC House from 11 to 13 June 1999. Congress is the time when members will direct the future of the RSL in WA. All information pertaining to Congress has been disseminated to Sub-Branches over the past months to ensure that those items resolved at Congress represent the membership.

In conclusion, the period of January to June has been very positive for the League, particularly in WA. With the continued support of members and the steady, continued increase in membership, the remainder of 1999 will be as positive.

SHANE M. SEERS, OAM
ANZAC DAY ADDRESS 1999
by Lieutenant Colonel Ken Bladen (RL),
State President RSL (WA Branch)

This day marks the 84th anniversary since our magnificent ANZACS stormed the beaches at Gallipoli in 1915. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the South African Boer War when over 15,000 young Australians participated, including 1,200 Western Australians. On our national day of commemoration, we recall across the nation the spirit of ANZAC and the qualities of comradeship, selflessness and service that made Australia great and which were epitomised by not only the original ANZACS but by all the 102,000 young Australian men and women who died in all the wars in which Australia and New Zealand have been involved. They gave the most precious thing they had to give – their own lives – to help bring peace to a troubled world. With grateful hearts we are thankful for their sacrifices and hallow their memory.

We honour those on parade who are still able to march, thereby demonstrating in a practical way their on-going service above self as well as their dedication to the ANZAC spirit. We remember those who are sick or are in hospital and those who in peacetime have lost their lives or have become disabled while training to defend our nation. We also remember the late Mr. Len Hall and Mr. Francis Isaacs, WA’s last Gallipoli veterans who passed away recently.

Last year nine Western Australian World War I veterans were awarded the French Legion of Honour in recognition of the Australian contribution to France in World War I. I am delighted that one of those recipients, Mr. Vivian Folland of Kojonup is our special guest today and led the ex-servicemen in the parade. We thank you for your service to the nation Vivian, as well as all the other World War I veterans; we wish you continued good health.

Young Australians
I congratulate the young people here today as spectators, or those marching, the choir, and the various cadets represented, such as Police Rangers, St. John Ambulance, SES, the Red Cross, the Scouts, those playing in the bands, the Naval Cadet Reserve, Army Cadets, and the ATC as well as those in the armed services. I have every confidence that if put to the test in an emergency you would meet the challenge with the same spirit of service and determination as the original ANZACS we commemorate today. Be proud of your heritage and be proud of yourselves because, rest assured, Australia will always be proud of you.

Defence
"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance". That is the motto of the Returned and Services League. Australia was not prepared in 1939 and we are even less prepared in 1999. The current spending on defence is only 1.8% of GNP - the lowest since 1938. This is because, since 1972 (the end of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War), successive Federal Governments have allowed our defences to run down to dangerously low levels. In August last year US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and US Defence Secretary William Cohen warned Australia that we were in danger of falling so far behind American military technology that our ability to participate in joint combined operations could be severely restricted.

While the Federal Government may argue, to cut defence spending even further, that our main priority is U.N. peace keeping commitments overseas, its first responsibility should be the security and defence of Australia.

UNIT AND KINDRED ASSOCIATION
The Unit and Kindred Association meets in the Board Room at ANZAC House on the third Thursday of every second month at 2.00pm; i.e. during the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. Your Association Representative is most welcome to attend.

Please direct your enquiries to Anne Scully on 9325 9799.
History proves two things: that disasters often strike with little warning and that the seeds of victory or defeat are sown years before an actual event.

Currently, Australia is weak and unprepared. An adequate defence must be properly funded as well as allowing time for preparation. Moreover, the nation’s security is of such transcending importance to the future of every Australian man, woman and child that in the national interest it should always be handled in a bipartisan fashion.

If successive governments fail to properly provide for Australia’s defence and security in the face of growing instability in our geographical region and many other parts of the world, they do so at our national peril. History demonstrates that it is only those who are ready to defend their freedom that deserve it.

Cadets
I congratulate those League Sub-Branches, Unit Associations and individual members who are actively working with cadets, the schools and the schoolchildren in their areas. Our young people need all the support and encouragement they can get and I believe it is the best practical way to make sure that the spirit and story of ANZAC are properly embraced and passed on.

The Referendum
As a constitutional monarchy Australia is unique, being one of the six oldest democracies in the world while having one of the most stable systems of government. While there appears to be much ignorance about the advantages of a constitutional monarchy, it is a matter for regret that the republic debate continues to focus not on the possible advantages of a republic over what we already have but rather, simply, on whether the President of a republic should be elected by the people or elected by Parliament! It is vital for our future that Australians understand what, in fact, they will be voting for in November!

GST
There is no doubt that tax reform in Australia is long overdue. Despite so called “low income” compensations the indications are, that a GST, once introduced, could be disadvantageous to those on pensions and/or fixed incomes, and may grow progressively worse. It is incumbent on the Federal Government to ensure that tax reform will be fair and compassionate especially to those less well off in the community.

Crime
The League abhors the continuing upsurge of crime in the community, especially cowardly attacks on the aged and the weak. We call for the reintroduction of corporal punishment for offenders guilty of crimes of violence either solely or in conjunction with other punishments. Corporal punishment has been successful in a number of countries and would be successful here once again. In fact, the indications are that overwhelming support already exists in the community for reintroduction of corporal punishment in Western Australia.

Drugs
In 10 years in Vietnam 504 young Australians were killed. But in the last two years in Australia over 1,100 young men and women died of heroin overdoses. The drug scourge in Australia has reached a stage where a national emergency should be declared. Indeed that it has reached this far is a national disgrace.
Because the problem is thought to be almost out of control, many in the community want to legalise it. The question of whether drug trials should be conducted or not; misses the point. While young addicts require help the bottom line is that if the drug problem continues to grow at the current rate the very fabric of Australia’s society is likely to be so adversely affected that eventually, as a people, we may be in danger of losing our national will. We would then be incapable of defending ourselves in the event of a future national emergency.

So what should be done about it?
In the national interest, the WA branch of the RSL advocates a centrally directed, bipartisan war on drugs, now, coordinated at the highest level and extending right across Australia into every state, district and city.

- Uniform drug laws and emergency powers and penalties need to be enacted, coordinated and implemented on a national basis.
- Pushers and dealers need to be dobbed in at all levels and locked away indefinitely.
- More resources need to be allotted to Customs, Federal Police and the Police Drug Squads in each State for them to become highly effective.
- The use of national assets such as the Armed Forces should become mandatory in the ongoing fight against drugs.
- Each State should provide spaces for very young addicts seeking treatment.

In order to succeed, strong leadership and control would need to be mandatory at all levels and have the active support of the Australian population. The whole matter is urgent and above all the kids need to be told that it’s not cool to do drugs.

League Memberships
In the final analysis the League can only be as good as its members make it. Your own future and that of the League are in your own hands! It’s not up to former comrades-in-arms to achieve on your behalf what you yourself should be achieving. The RSL “family” of nearly 40,000 in this State is a lobby group but only by the combined strength of all its members as well as their families will it continue to be an effective voice to the Government and in the community.

To the younger serving and ex-service men and women – you owe it to your families, your mates and those who come after you to leave to them a strong and vital organisation.

I urge you to seize the torch of opportunity being thrown to you and hold it high. Your League needs your personal support.

To the older members of the RSL, I suggest that you try to live in your own homes as long as possible while remaining financial members. I commend Sub-Branches who are establishing an outreach to maintain social contact with those members no longer able to attend meetings.

Please try to stick together as long as you can.

In conclusion let us remember the ANZAC creed and pass on its meaning:

See that you hold fast the heritage that we leave you. Yea and teach your children its value so that never in coming centuries may their hearts fail them - nor their hands grow weak.

Thank you for attending today, thank you for listening and God bless you all.

KEN BLADEN

Win lunch for two at THE ANZAC CLUB

Most ex-service personnel can recall at least one memorable (or exceedingly forgettable!) meal they experienced during their military careers. Send us your recollection. The entry judged most interesting, humorous etc., will win a meal for two with a bottle of wine – compliments of The ANZAC Club.

Send entries to reach the Club Manager by July 16. Remember to include your name, address and phone number.

Paul McGranaghan
ANZAC Club Manager
PO Box Y3023
East St Georges Terrace
PERTH 6832

The winner will be notified by Paul and the story will be printed in our Spring edition.

Remember, your club at ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth has:
• Drinks at special prices
• Meals and snacks available
• Catering for all types of functions

To contact the Club Manager, phone 9325 9079
Life membership award

Dr Peter Anderson RFD (RL) was awarded life membership of the RSL at the March Presidents/Secretaries’ meeting. Peter joined the CMF as a medical officer with the Field Ambulance and subsequently served with the 3rd Field Regiment Combat Surgical Team and 1st Australian Field Hospital as a surgeon. Peter, who retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, has never ceased in his efforts to assist veterans with disabilities due to war service.

EDITOR

Peter Anderson (left) receiving his Life Membership Certificate from Ken Bladen

Disaster Fund donation

Mrs M Fisher
State President
Women’s Auxiliary
ANZAC HOUSE
PO Box Y3023, Perth 6832

Dear Mrs Fisher

I was delighted to receive on behalf of the RSL your very kind cheque for $1,000 for our Disaster Fund from your members. On behalf of the WA Branch and State Executive, I thank you all most sincerely; your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

K.J. BLADEN Lt Col (RTD)
State President
Western Australia's newest Naval Cadet Unit TS Challenger was commissioned on 27 March at Governor Stirling High School, Midland. TS Challenger is commanded by Lt Ray Evans who, with help from Bellevue Sub-Branch, was the driving force in the formation of the unit. Commodore Paul Kable AM RAN, Commodore of Fleet Bases Australia, welcomed the new cadets to the Navy family.

Commodore Kable spoke of the current expansion and upgrading underway in the RAN and expressed a wish that many of the cadets on parade be part of that process by choosing the Navy as a career.

CHRISS BROOKS

Cadets receive boost

The government is set to enhance and enlarge the services' cadet corps program with a $3-million boost to funding. Senator Eric Abetz said Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland were taking part in the program and other states were encouraged to add weight to the initiative to strengthen the cadet scheme.

"There are approximately 28,000 cadets serving in 400 units throughout Australia, providing young Australians with the opportunity to take part in activities that are challenging and rewarding," Senator Abetz said.

The Army Museum of Western Australia

The Army Museum of Western Australia is located in the historic Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle. It is the longest continually occupied military establishment in WA and is currently shared with the West Australia University Regiment. The Museum consists of a series of galleries encompassing the entire colonial and post-Federation periods to the end of World War II. World War I is very well covered with a major Gallery and a Trench Gallery. There are many significant military heritage items on display including a substantial collection of tanks and other armoured vehicles.

Soon to be opened is a gallery covering the period from 1946 to the present day. BCOF, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, Somalia and more recent military service will be featured. Later in the year a Boer War display will commemorate WA's military involvement in South Africa. Also featured will be a display of medals from this conflict, courtesy the Royal United Services Institute, along with a philatelic display, which includes letters written by WA troops.

The Museum's popular weapons display is currently secured in an armoury awaiting the rewriting of Department of Defence regulations on such displays.

Museum curator Wayne Gardiner is confident that most weapons will again be on display after it is ascertained that they are rendered inoperable.

Planned improvements to the displays include a European POW gallery to complement the S.E. Asian POW Gallery.

The Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays 12.30 to 4.30 pm. For details ph 9319 3087 or 9335 2077.
Dear Lt Col Bladen

Thank you for your correspondence requesting that the State assume responsibility for the annual maintenance costs of the State War Memorial at Kings Park.

The people of Western Australia are very much aware and appreciative of the valiant efforts of our service-men in times of war and conflicts such as World War I. Consequently it is my pleasure to advise that the Government is prepared to reimburse all routine maintenance costs for the State War Memorial.

Please contact the Director General of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Mal Wauchope, to confirm the administrative arrangements necessary for this annual reimbursement.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely
RICHARD COURT, MLA
Premier

Simpson Prize winner

Eight secondary school students – one from each State and Territory – were advised early this year that they were the inaugural winners of the Simpson Prize. The student selected as the recipient of this prestigious prize in Western Australia is Ruth McKenzie, a student at Narrogin Senior High School.

The Simpson Prize, for Year 9 Students, honours John Simpson Kirkpatrick, the man with the donkey, whose bravery and compassion epitomises the ANZAC spirit. Students entering the competition were required to submit essays focusing on the significance of ANZAC Day and the tradition and spirit which have developed from it. All Year 9 students across Australia were given the opportunity of entering the competition.

Dr. David Kemp, Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, said of the competition: "These students, and nearly 2000 others, have traced the bravery, mateship, courage and determination of the ANZACs. They have examined how the ANZAC spirit shone through at Gallipoli and how and why it still endures today".

As part of their prize, each winner and runner-up went to Canberra in February to attend a two-day forum based at significant national institutions such as the Australian War Memorial and Parliament House. Ruth, along with the other State and Territory winners, then travelled to Turkey from 19-27 April to attend the dawn service and other ANZAC Day ceremonies.

A small part of Ruth’s entry is printed below:

“The ANZAC spirit is celebrated not only on ANZAC day, but in many different forms in our community. Many groups such as the State Emergency Service, Volunteer Bushfires Association and Fire and Rescue are devoted to helping those in physical trouble, while the Country Women’s Association offers support to those in isolated areas. Simple things such as Neighborhood Watch and farmers helping each other in times of natural disaster are all examples of the existence of the ANZAC spirit in our society.

“Despite the effort of Australians to celebrate occasions such as Australia’s foundation on Australia Day each year, it is ANZAC Day which remains our strongest national tradition. Not only do the capital cities of each State have their ANZAC Day services, but unlike Australia Day, nearly every country town throughout the nation has some sort of memorial service, ensuring that the ANZAC spirit remains alive for many years to come.”

Courtesy Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs and the Simpson Prize Secretariat

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

When purchasing goods and services from firms and individuals who advertise in The Listening Post, please let them know that you appreciate their support for the RSL.

Their support is essential to ensure your magazine continues to arrive regularly each quarter.

RSL WAR VETERANS’ HOMES WA Residential Aged Care Access

Members should note that access to aged care hostels is governed by the Aged Care Act 1997. Entry is based on personal care needs as determined by an aged care assessment.

For an information sheet and application form, please phone (08) 9370 0200.
Seniors dance up storm for Red Cross

Two hundred Perth Seniors recently enjoyed a happy afternoon of old time dancing at Government House Ballroom at an afternoon tea dance organised by Red Cross. Held on April 22, the dance was co-ordinated by a committee of Red Cross members at the invitation of His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery to commemorate the centenary of Government House Ballroom. Committee members worked for several months to organise ticket sales, a delicious home-made afternoon tea and live entertainment.

The popular Senior Musicians’ Dance Band played a selection of dances, which included the Pride of Erin, the Fascination and the Waltz. The band was led by Mr Mike Hall who also fulfilled the role of Master of Ceremonies. While dancers rested their feet during a band break, exhibition dancers from the Dorney Studios gave an excellent display of formation dancing.

The afternoon was sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital which also holds annual afternoon tea dances in the Red Cross Hall on its grounds. Around $2000 was raised for Red Cross.

How planning ahead can help you ease the pain of a family’s loss

In the confusion and emotional numbness that follows for their loved ones after a person dies, it is sometimes difficult for the grieving relatives to make decisions about funeral arrangements.

An increasing number of people are using Fixed Price Funeral Plans to take responsibility for themselves, in advance, and relieve their family from the difficult decisions like:
• Is it what he or she wanted?
• Is there anything I’ve forgotten?
• Did I spend enough, or too much?

Bowra & O’Dea Funeral Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia by the O’Dea family for more than 100 years, is now offering a special service to RSL members interested in Fixed Price Funeral Plans.

They will arrange an obligation-free appointment with a trained consultant to work out arrangements and fee structures. Members can pay off the plan over 12 to 24 months with no credit fees or charges and there are special extras for RSL members:
• Free out of hours transfers
• Free extra Limousine, and
• The administration and trust account setting up fees will be waived.

The total saving by going through the RSL is about $600.

Bowra & O’Dea Funeral Directors

For more information, call John Ranger at Bowra & O’Dea on (08) 9231 5100.
Post Traumatic Stress Programme wins praise

The Hollywood Clinic’s Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Programme has received excellent feedback following an annual review in April by a team from the National Centre for War-related PTSD in Melbourne.

The review team’s report said the team was most impressed with the quality of the programme, in particular the strong clinical skills of the staff, their stability and good working relationships.

“It is clear the Hollywood programme is developing new and innovative approaches to treatment and the National Centre supports these initiatives,” the report said.

Dr Tony Williams, Senior Psychiatric Advisor at the Centre, Associate Professor Mark Creamer, the Centre’s Acting Deputy Director, and Mr David Forbes, the Centre’s Director, visited the Clinic and spoke with ex-patients, staff and key veteran groups to ensure the programme meets a national standard.

The Hollywood Clinic - Hollywood’s psychiatric unit - is currently running its 14th Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Programme for Veterans. The programme was launched in August 1995. For more details, please contact programme co-ordinator Suzanne Hicks, on (08) 9346 6201.

Hollywood tour

The Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch visited Hollywood for a “grand tour” recently - that’s Hollywood Private Hospital, Nedlands, not Hollywood, California!

Seen on the tour were Colin Brown, Millie Beard, Bill Bright, Peggy Bright and Cath McGrath, pictured above with Hollywood’s Executive Director, Kevin Cass-Ryall. Also at Hollywood recently were the Perth and Belmont Sub-Branches.

Hollywood offers tours (with a free morning or afternoon tea!) for interested Sub-Branches, Units and Kindred Associations. So come and see for yourself the changes at the hospital. For more information, contact Hollywood’s Community Relations Manager, Catherine Archer, on 9346 6716, during office hours.

New Day Procedure Unit opens

Hollywood Private Hospital’s new gastroenterology department and day-procedure unit were officially opened by Curtin MP Julie Bishop on May 20, 1999.

The new Hollywood redevelopment is first class and replaces the hospital’s older facilities. It includes:

* 18 day procedure unit recovery beds
* 14 gastroenterology recovery beds
* for step down, prior to discharge, 12 recliner chairs
* a 16-bed, first-stage recovery area.

In the unit, patients can have surgery or undergo a procedure and return home on the same day, allowing minimal disruption to their lifestyle. Unit staff phone patients the following day to check on them.
Hollywood also will commission a new ward in July to be named after WA Victoria Cross recipient, Jimmy Gordon. It will contain single and two-bed rooms, all with en suites, television and telephones.

This initiative is to cater for the extra workload resulting from changes to the Gold Card entitlements in January 1999. About 3,700 additional veterans became eligible for treatment at Hollywood with the new Gold Card issue.

With the expected demand, the Health Department of WA has granted Hollywood 50 extra bed licences.

For more information on “matters Hollywood” contact Catherine Archer, community relations manager, on (08) 9346 6716, during office hours.

RAAF Nurses honoured

World War II Royal Australian Air Force nurses were honoured in a special ceremony at Hollywood Private Hospital in April.

Hollywood hosted an official unveiling of a plaque to honour those who served in the RAAF Nursing Service. The plaque completed the existing memorial to ex-service women who served during World War II.

Special guest, Mr Jim Dalton, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in WA, unveiled the plaque, with former RAAF nurses Mrs Audrey Ingram and Mrs Florence Smith.

Mrs Margaret Campbell, the President of the Royal Australian Airforce Nursing Service Association, laid a wreath in honour of the women.

The RAAF Nursing Service was established on July 26 1940 in Melbourne. The RAAF had its own wards at Hollywood - old wards four and seven.

Pictured below are Mrs Audrey Ingram, Mrs Florence Smith and Mrs Margaret Campbell with Hollywood’s Anglican Chaplain, Reverend Graeme Manolas, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs WA Deputy Commissioner, Mr Jim Dalton, and Hollywood’s Executive Director, Kevin Cass-Ryall.

Thank you to our ANZAC Day march sponsors

The State President and members of the RSL wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of this year’s ANZAC Day march:

Australian Broadcasting Commission
Ansett Australia
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Clayton Utz, Lawyers
City of Perth
Home Building Society
Hollywood Private Hospital
MG Kailis Group
Kott Gunning, Lawyers

Lowndes Lambert, International Insurance Brokers and Consultants
RAAF Association
RSL War Veterans’ Home
The Swan Brewery
John Hughes, Titan Ford
Tyndall Life Assurance Company Ltd
WA Turf Club
West Australian Newspapers Ltd
Wesfarmers Ltd
Fact is always better than fiction, this being evidenced by one of the most amazing stories to emerge from the Indian Ocean during World War II – the incredible saga of the Royal Shell oil tanker MV Ondina.

It began when the 6350 tonne MV Ondina sailed from Fremantle escorted by the Australian-built, Bathurst-class Royal Indian Navy corvette HMIS Bengal on her maiden escort duty on 5 November, 1942. Bound for Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, Ondina was in ballast except for the 390 tonnes of fuel oil – as fate would decree, this later being a major factor in saving the ship.

HMIS Bengal’s Royal Australian Navy sister-ship HMAS Maryborough had sailed the previous day acting, as it turned out, as an unsuccessful decoy for Japanese surface merchant raiders – a worrying prospect with her solitary 4-inch gun.

Six days out and 1400 nautical miles from Fremantle, Bengal sighted two merchant ships which turned out to be the well-armed and disguised Japanese merchant raiders Hokoku Maru and Aikoku Maru, both displacing 10,440 tonnes. Between them, the Japanese raiders boasted an impressive sixteen 5.5-inch guns, plus torpedo tubes and floatplanes.

That afternoon, November 11, the Naval Officer In Charge Fremantle reported to the Naval Board that a signal had been received from Bengal at 11.45 am stating: “We are being shelled, my position 19 degrees 38 minutes South, 93 degrees 05 minutes East.” The armed merchant cruiser HMS Kanimbla was crash-sailed from Fremantle still trailing a pontoon when she got underway, heading for the scene in a futile attempt to intervene.

The commanding officer of the diminutive Bengal, Lieutenant Commander W.J. Wilson, RNIR, realising he was hopelessly out-gunned, gave the order for the Ondina to turn away and proceed independently as he engaged the enemy with his sole 4-inch gun. Ignoring the order to turn away, Ondina’s master, Captain W. Horseman, maintained a course that kept his ship in close proximity to the engagement.

Armed with a 4-inch gun mounted on her stern and carrying only 40 rounds of ammunition, Ondina joined the engagement, with young South Australian Able Seaman Bert Hammond one of nine DEMS (Defensively Armed Merchant Ship) gunners aboard.

The well-trained Ondina gun crew commenced firing, the first couple of rounds ranging shots, then the third scoring a direct hit on Hokoku Maru’s stern which resulted in a deafening explosion. The detonation effectively crippled the Hokoku Maru, blowing away the stern and causing it to lose way, then sustaining more hits from HMIS Bengal and MV Ondina before slowly sinking. Able Seaman Hammond of the Ondina was later awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Netherlands Bronze Cross for his part in the action.
The stricken Japanese raider had proven a worthy foe, scoring direct hits on Bengal’s foredeck and stern before she finally slipped beneath the waves.

Ondina, which had also sustained several hits, limped away from the action, heading north-east. When it looked as though Ondina was getting away, the gallant Bengal, with her ammunition almost exhausted, broke off the engagement and retired behind a smoke screen.

The remaining Japanese Raider, Aikoku Maru, set off after Ondina, opening fire at the fleeing tanker at a range of 4000 metres. Ondina expended her last 12 rounds of ammunition without success and sustained repeated hits from the Japanese raider’s guns. Shortly before being killed by a direct hit on the bridge, Captain Horseman ordered Ondina’s crew to “abandon ship” and 56 crew members got away in lifeboats and rafts.

Soon after, Aikoku Maru hit Ondina in the number three and four tanks on the starboard side with two torpedoes before machine-gunning survivors in the lifeboats and rafts killing the chief engineer and three Chinese seaman.

Aikoku Maru turned about to pick up survivors from the Hokoku Maru and then returned and fired a third torpedo, which missed, at the port side of the stationary Ondina. MV Ondina’s survivors, assuming the tanker was sinking, set about plugging the bullet holes in their lifeboats and rafts. The defiant Ondina did not sink and eventually a group of volunteers, including Bert Hammond, rejoined the abandoned tanker and, as the machinery was still intact, decided to try to save her. Other crew members came aboard and extinguished the blazing fires and around 9.30pm managed to get the ship underway and head south-west towards Fremantle.

At 7.45 am on November 17 (the day the battered Bengal arrived at Diego Garcia) a patrolling RAAF Catalina aircraft on a reconnaissance flight reported sighting MV Ondina 220 nautical miles north-west of Rottnest Island. The following day the badly damaged tanker – with gaping holes in her starboard side and proudly flying a skull and crossbones flag from her 4-inch gun, which was elevated to a 45 degree angle – slowly limped into Fremantle. A plush celebratory dinner was held at the Adelphi Hotel in Perth for the ship’s officers and gun crew on their return.

After being surveyed, Ondina was considered of little value as a seagoing tanker and was extended temporary repairs before being sent north to Exmouth Gulf.

With eight Australian gunners posted to her to man anti-aircraft guns, Ondina acted as stationary fuel storage for US Navy submarines heading north from Fremantle on patrol in South East Asian waters. On 1 September 1943, Ondina provided fuel and water for the Z-Force vessel Krait as she set off on her successful attack against Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour.

By late 1943 oil tankers were in short supply and the decision was made to send Ondina to the USA for permanent repairs. After full repairs the gutsy MV Ondina survived the war and went on to serve postwar in the Shell tanker fleet until the 1960s.

Floreat Scouts, Guides and Rover Scouts assist at War Memorial

Among the Scouts, Guides and Rover Scouts who ably assisted with ANZAC ceremonies at the State War Memorial were these young men from the 1st Floreat Scout Troop. Their links to WA’s military history are strong. Jacob and Matthew Aitken’s great-grandfather served in both World Wars and Joseph Leith’s great-grandfather was a noted WA soldier and architect, General Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs CB KCB KCMG, who designed the state War Memorial.

EDITOR

Back row (L to R): Leon Beaver, Keith Hauch, Michael Bausor; Front row: Jacob and Matthew Aitken-and Joe Leith.
An outline history of the Armed Forces in WA during World War II: Part 1 – the Air Forces

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

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this outline is to give a broad chronological coverage of the involvement of the Allied operational armed forces in WA and its surrounding oceans and also to give some idea of enemy activities. It shows that WA had an active operational war for over five years, particularly involving naval and air forces, right up until the last few days of hostilities. The importance of WA's strategic position in relation to the eastern Indian Ocean, to the shipping focal point of Cape Leeuwin, and to the Netherlands East Indies is also demonstrated. The little known operations in the northern half of WA, particularly in the Kimberley region, which was frontline from 1942 to 1945, are highlighted. A select bibliography of further readings has been compiled.

AIR FORCES

Apart from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), other Allied air forces involved with WA during 1942-45 were the US Army Air Forces (USAAF), the Royal Air Force (RAF), and the two Netherlands East Indies (NEI) squadrons within the RAAF.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939, the RAAF had two operational squadrons at its newly constructed airbase at Pearce. It started limited anti-submarine patrols along the WA coast with assistance from aircraft from the eastern States.

For shipping protection, the construction or upgrading of 10 advanced operational air bases along the WA coast from Drysdale Mission (in the Kimberley) down to Esperance was commenced in 1940. Two very important air bases were Albany and Busselton because of their proximity to the shipping focal point of Cape Leeuwin. During the year the Empire Air Training Scheme was introduced; elementary flying training was carried out at Cunderdin and, in 1941, advanced twin-engined training at Geraldton.

In 1941, the whole of WA was designated by the RAAF as ‘Western Area’ with its HQ in Perth. The clash between HMAS Sydney and HKS Kormoran in November involved the RAAF in a major search effort for survivors from both ships. When the Pacific war broke out in December, the RAAF had 30 operational aircraft at Pearce with the 54 twin-engined trainers at Geraldton forming a reserve. Most of the latter were diverted to coastal patrolling during 1942.
War really came near to WA during late February 1942 when a number of events occurred over a short period. The Japanese landed in Timor, only 500km off the WA coast, where they were to stay for the rest of the war. The Stateship Koolama was bombed three times by Japanese aircraft along the north Kimberley coast. A bombing sortie over Timor was flown by the RAAF from the strategically situated Drysdale airstrip - this was the first of some of some 2000 separate aircraft sorties to be flown out of northern WA bases by Allied aircraft against the Japanese in the Netherlands East Indies over the next three and a half years.

The air evacuation of Java began late in February and continued into March, mostly through Broome, where an estimated 8000 people transited over a 14 day period. In March, IJN Zeros from Timor launched a strafing attack on Broome, destroying 23 Allied aircraft and killing about 100 people for the loss of two Zeros. They made a simultaneous strafing attack on Wyndham, during which time the Koolama (which had just arrived after temporary repairs along the coast) sank at the Wyndham jetty.

These air raids, together with the earlier heavy raids on Darwin, lead to grave fears of an invasion of northern WA and of possible carrier raids on Perth-Fremantle. By April the first air defences of Perth were set up: an RAAF Kittyhawk fighter squadron at Dunreath golf course (later Perth Airport) and the US Army’s air (early) warning radars at Kalamunda and Gingin.

In March, Patrol Wing 10 from the USN’s Asiatic Fleet in the Philippines evacuated its few surviving Catalina flying boats to WA from Java and established a new main base at Crawley. Using its three flying boat tenders, advanced bases were set up at Geraldton, Exmouth Gulf and in the Dampier Archipelago. This enabled long range ocean patrols of WA from Albany to Broome to be flown over the next two and a half years; in the dark days of 1942-43 this was particularly useful for the defence of WA as the RAAF was very short of Catalinas.

In August 1942, that part of the north-eastern Kimberley from Halls Creek to Yampi Sound was transferred by the RAAF to North-Western Area which had its HQ at Darwin. Interestingly, with one brief exception, no operational squadrons were based in WA north of Geraldton. Instead, a series of airbases were established with fuel and bomb stocks and ‘housekeeping’ units. Using the mobility and flexibility of airpower, operational squadrons or detachments were staged to these bases according to strategic or tactical requirements, including support of Allied landings in New Guinea. Some aircraft made attacks on enemy targets or shipping in the NEI, others carried out reconnaissances or special missions, whilst others (fighters) provided local defence. Whilst most of the strike (bombers and long range fighters) and reconnaissance aircraft were staged in from the NT, fighters were frequently sent up from Perth to air bases such as Learmonth (POTSHOT) and Derby.

These ‘air garrison’ operations against Timor, the Lesser Sunda Islands (Flores, Sumba, Sumbawa and Lombok) and Java, helped reinforce in the minds of the Japanese a threat perception, ie that an invasion of Timor would be launched from Darwin. This tied up a large number of Japanese troops, air defences and supply resources in these islands for the rest of the war instead of them being better employed resisting the Allied advance along the northern coast of New Guinea and toward the Philippines.

There were a further 18 Japanese air attacks on WA up to September 1943, ranging from planned bombing raids to small strafing attacks, some coming from Timor, and some from Surabaya. Targets were Wyndham, Drysdale Mission, Derby, Carnot Bay, Broome, Port Hedland, Onslow and Exmouth Gulf. These attacks reinforced Allied fears of an invasion of northern WA, as well as causing the diversion of valuable Allied air defences (fighters, radars, anti-aircraft guns) from New Guinea.

During 1943, the first sorties against east Java (mainly Surabaya) and Bali were flown out of the secret air base of Corunna Downs (near Marble Bar) by USAAF Liberator bombers staging in from their NT bases. Shorter range aircraft continued their staging missions through the Drysdale airbase. In 1944, RAAF Catalinas staging in from Darwin and Queensland commenced aerial minelaying missions from top secret bases in the west Kimberley (Cygnet Bay and Yampi Sound) with support from USN flying boat tenders. These missions were aimed at blocking harbours and shipping channels in the NEI used by Japanese ships.

B-24 Liberators from the USAAF’s 380th Bomb Group on a runway at Corunna Downs for the series of raids on eastern Java and Bali during 9-18 November 1943. Photo courtesy R. Dakeyne
Whilst nominally a civilian operation under RAF control, in 1943 Qantas commenced a regular Indian Ocean service using unarmed Catalinas. These non-stop flights between Crawley and Ceylon averaged 28-30 hours. In 1944 they were supplemented by Liberators flying between Learmonth (Exmouth) and Ceylon and in 1945 were replaced by Lancastrians.

During 1943, the RAAF continued to build up its network of airfields, operational bases and radar stations in the northern half of WA. Because the primitive Drysdale airfield could not handle fully laden Liberator bombers, the new bomber air base of Truscott was constructed nearby in 1944. It filled an important strategic role by allowing RAAF and USAAF aircraft to attack more distant enemy targets in the NEI. Adjoining it was the advanced flying boat base at West Bay which enabled RAAF Catalina operations to be moved from Yampi Sound. The USAAF established a LORAN (long range navigation) network along the Kimberley coast at the same time.

The Japanese ‘fleet scare’ of March 1944 demonstrated the mobility of air power: bombers and fighters were rushed to Perth, Learmonth (POTSHOT), and Corunna Downs from the NT and Canberra. Similarly, when Operation TRANSOM took place two months later, fighters were staged to Learmonth from Perth and the NT to provide aerial cover for the large Allied fleet whilst it refuelled in Exmouth Gulf before and after the carrier attack on Surabaya.

In early 1945, the RAAF based a Liberator squadron at Cunderdin. Staging to Truscott, Corunna Downs and Learmonth, it made bombing missions over the NEI (mostly east Java) until the last 10 days of the Pacific war. Part of its operations were diversionary raids against the main Japanese airfield of Malang in east Java in support of the three Allied landings in Borneo.

Finally, in 1945 the RAF developed a bomber base (Station BROWN) on the strategically-located Cocos Islands, basing five squadrons of Liberators there which attacked NEI targets up to the end of the war.

About the author: Lindsay Peet is a professional historian and heritage consultant specialising in defence sites and is undertaking a higher degree at the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage at Curtin University of Technology. This slightly amended article with added illustrations is part of a publication he researched and wrote as part of the Australia Remembers 1945-1995, and issued in August 1995 with the assistance of Mr Richard Evans, the then Federal Member for Cowan. The parts covering the activities of the Armies and Avies will be published in our next two editions of The Listening Post.
Boer War Memorial Repairs

Driving through Kings Park a few months ago, Claremont Sub-Branch member John Burridge Jnr noticed part of the statue on the Boer War Memorial (pictured left) was corroding. John, a military historian, wrote to State President Ken Bladen, highlighting the problem and the importance of this memorial in recognising the contribution of Western Australian troops during that conflict.

ANZAC House staff promptly liaised with Kings Park Administration staff and an assessment of cost of repairs and avenues of funding were discussed. The repair/replacement of the corroded rifle and hands will cost approximately $8,000. The original rifle was stolen many years ago and never recovered. Kings Park has pledged $3,000 toward the cost of repairs and RSL State Secretary Shane Seers sought a Government grant to cover the balance.

The first contingent of WA troops sailed from Albany on 7 November 1899, less than one month after the declaration of war and almost 14 months before Federation. The British accepted troops from the colonies more as a demonstration of Empire unity, rather than seeing them as an effective fighting force. However, the fighting skills of the Australians were soon apparent in the way they carried the fight to the Boers and doggedly resisted superior enemy forces.

They fought mainly as mounted infantry. An example of their fighting prowess was the battle of Elands River where a garrison of 200 Rhodesians and 300 Australians protected a rich supply of stores. Surrounded and besieged by Boer artillery, the troops in the five acre garrison dug in and resisted resolutely. Some days later, after a constant barrage, an offer of free passage was made to the besieged troops by the Boer Commander, on the condition that they surrender.

The garrison commander, Lt. Col C.O. Hore, refused the offer outright and was reported to have told the Boer delegation that he was in command of Australians who would probably cut his throat if he surrendered.

The siege resumed and it was only after a courageous rider from the garrison reached British lines at night that a relief force of 10,000 troops led by Lord Kitchener reached the besieged men some 12 days after the siege started.

There were many individual acts of heroism by the Elands River troops and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in a history of the Boer War, noted:

"... when ballad makers of Australia seek for a subject let them turn to Eland's River, for there was no finer fighting in the war ..."
Memorial Service for World War II Nurses from Vyner-Brooke

A television documentary on the sinking of the vessel Vyner-Brooke and the subsequent Banka Island massacre prompted ex-Royal Perth Hospital nurse Brenda Taylor to properly commemorate the occasion. Single handedly she arranged funding and the manufacture of a memorial plaque that records the event, and at the bases of 21 red flowering gums a number of smaller plaques bear the names of the 65 nurses who were aboard the Vyner-Brooke.

At a service at Pt Walter Reserve on 2 May almost 700 relatives and friends of the nurses gathered for the ceremony. The plaque was unveiled by Mrs Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkel) AO MBE ARRC FNM and another survivor, Mrs Wilma Young (nee Oram) AM.

Most of the wording on the plaque is reprinted below.

Our Nursing Heritage

On 12 February 1942 sixty-five Australian Army Nursing Sisters were ordered to leave Singapore in the wake of the advancing Japanese army. They boarded the ship Vyner-Brooke along with civilians. Two days later the ship was discovered by Japanese aircraft and bombed. Twelve nurses drowned after the attack. Twenty-two nurses many of them wounded, landed on Banka Island.

The group was found by Japanese soldiers and forced to walk into the sea and were shot. One nurse, named Vivian Bullwinkel, although shot, feigned death and later made her way to shore. She and the remaining thirty nurses became prisoners-of-war for three and a half years. A further eight nurses died during this period of captivity. Twenty-four nurses returned home.

This memorial was made possible by Cape Bouvard Investments and the City of Melville.

EDITOR

Reflective moments at the memorial service.
Mrs Wilma Young (left) and Mrs Vivian Statham.

Erratum: Raw and Sore over Motto of the Corps

In the last edition, typesetting errors in the article about ex-sapper Mick Keen’s tour as a mine-clearing instructor in North Iraq, saw the RAE become RAW. RAE Association President Mick Ryan OAM, the ex SSM of 13 Field Sqn, pointed out the error in the time-honoured tradition and, after two hours doubling me around the parade ground in full kit with the new (lighter than an SLR) Steyr at high port, I agreed to make amends. Here’s another sapper story, Mick.

Chris Brooks
Editor

El Qantara

Soon after their arrival in Egypt, the 1st AIF Engineers were sent to the Suez Canal to construct field fortifications. First to the canal was 3rd Field Company whose No 3 Section were WA men. The British at Ismailia soon realised this company contained men experienced in many trades. Within a week they had taken over the running of the searchlights, the powerhouse, the surveying of the artillery ranges and map-making, while the majority made bridgeheads at Serapeum, Ismailia, Kantara and a floating bridge at Ismailia ferry-post. The long-awaited Turkish attack on the canal occurred on 3 February 1915, but the two battalions of infantry who had been sent to Ismailia for defence were not engaged by the enemy, but part of 3rd Field Company – in the trenches south of El Qantara – took them on. This was the first time Australian Engineers came under fire in World War I. General Bridges reported “The GOC commanding the Force in Egypt informed the High Commissioner by cable that the 3rd Field Company Engineers, had been under fire in the Canal and had comported themselves as he would wish... They were simply invaluable, both officers and men and have thoroughly earned the excellent reputation they have acquired... and been exemplary in conduct.” Lt. Napier (late of 13 Fd Coy Perth) wrote in his diary on 25 February after arriving back as Mena “much embarrassed by 12th Battn band playing us back into camp. Cheered by other companies”.

This was the first real engagement against the enemy by the Engineers in World War I, and took place well before the Landing at Gallipoli which involved the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Field Companies Australian Engineers.

Courtesy: RAE Assn of WA
Sincere thanks to all members and Sub-Branches who supported our 1999 Badge Day Appeal and congratulations on the excellent results your efforts produced. Legacy was aiming for $100,000 and we are nearly two thirds of the way there with donor contributions still to be factored in.

Help keep the Legacy torch burning

Have you ever thought of making a bequest in your will to help Legacy? By remembering Legacy in your will, you will be leaving an enduring gift that will help provide vital support for the widows and children of deceased war veterans and service personnel killed in hazardous service or training for war. Legacy in Western Australia provides support to about 9000 widows and 160 children and dependants with disabilities, with an average 15 enrolments in WA each week. For more information about this worthy cause, please contact Terry Healy, Fundraising Manager Perth Legacy, on (08) 9367 5799 or PO Box 249, South Perth WA 6951.

1999 Legacy Raffle

As Legacy commemorates 71 years of service in Western Australia this year, we need your support to help us raise our much-needed funds. Our raffle this year has three major prizes:

1ST PRIZE: $5,000 CASH

2ND PRIZE: Pentium 111 450MMX Deluxe Computer System with Windows 98, fax modem, CD ROM and colour printer – valued at $3,600.

3RD PRIZE: Five prizes of one dozen EVANS & TATE premium table wines valued at $200 per dozen.

Tickets are $2.00 each and available in books of five. To order your ticket books contact Terry Healy at Legacy House on (08) 9367 5799 or send in the coupon below. The raffle will be drawn in late September, 1999.
Dance of the cobra
by Oliver Hartley

Oliver Hartley of Kalamunda, a rubber planter in Malaya when World War II wreaked havoc in that country, was captured by the Japanese and put to work, along with thousands of other military and civilian prisoners, on the Burma/Siam Railway. Oliver is the author of a book called ‘Rimba Raya, Deep Virgin Jungle’, now being prepared for publication. His book contains anecdotes from rubber plantations and dramatic stories of the hunt for wild animals that threatened the plantations and their workers, as well as the villagers of the area. This is a brief reference to his captivity, of which he has very bitter memories that continue to haunt him.

Whilst a POW of the Japanese on the Burma/Siam Railway, my captors detailed a small party of prisoners, including myself to be sent north up the rail line into Burma. We were to check the telegraph communication lines that had failed to work after an allied bombing raid. After finding and repairing the various breaks by installing new poles and wire, we were bedded down in a Burmese village with the next day to be spent waiting for a Japanese troop train that had not yet been bombed off the line. In the meantime we watched the preparations for a festival that was to take place that evening. There was a language barrier between our group and the natives so we could not learn the cause of the celebration. After some feasting by the villagers, while we had to eat our usual stale and maggot-ridden rice, the traditional dancing began within a huge circle encompassed by the whole village population. Our Japanese guards wanted to watch the show, and the best way to keep an eye on the prisoners was to have us there as well.

We were placed well to the front with the Japanese right behind us so we could be well observed, but in the process got one of the best views of what was going on. After some speeches, dancing and singing that was well appreciated by the clapping and colourfully-dressed crowd, a young girl of 16 or 17 was led into the centre of this wide human circle. There were prayers and the burning of incense, then the drums rolled, and everyone left the circle centre, except the girl.

Soft music was struck up by a collection of musicians, with the flute dominant, and the girl went slowly into the liquid motions of an exaggerated dance sequence, using her head, fingers, arms and legs in over-emphasised rhythmic motions to indicate the theme of the dance. Then as the music reached a high pitch, four gaudily dressed men brought in and deposited, in the centre of the circle, a bamboo cage. The cage was too closely shuttered for us to fathom out the contents, but it was not long before the music stopped and an attendant advanced towards the cage and raised the lid with the help of a long pole. Nothing happened until the music resumed again in that eastern wail, and as it progressed there rose from the bamboo cage the enormous spread hood of a king cobra. It continued to rise until reaching a height of around four feet, and its hood hissed reached the ears of all around the large dance circle. As it hissed, there issued a sort of colour range before its head; this was the overflowing venom being exuded in a spray from its mouth with every hiss. The rays of the sun, shining through the venomous mist, created a spectrum of rainbow colours.

This was a large Burmese hamadryad, stretching between 16 and 18 feet, and we were to be given proof later that it still possessed its fangs and was full of potent venom. The girl continued to dance, in the extremely graceful manner of Asians of this region. The length of the snake oozed itself out of the cage towards the girl in short forward slithers, and it raised its head and flared its wide hood as if looking for a victim. It was noticeable how the fringe of the circle widened as the snake moved towards any group of people, everyone being aware of the consequences of just one bite. Soon the snake was within six feet of the dancing girl, with its head raised to about the same level as hers; it then, with extended hood, came to a stop and started to sway to right and left in front of her. The girl danced closer, gently swaying and circling the awesome snake, which in turn swayed to the rhythm of the music and swivelled its head from left to right. Now and again it hissed and punctured the air with a striking lunge, like a shadow boxer. Even from our viewpoint, I thought the eyes of the snake were most threatening, constantly promising death. The mellifluous music continued to work its charm, and the reptile seemed to be under the same spell as the girl, as they both showed maximum grace with minimal movement. The slow swaying in itself was grace personified, and the silvery, sweet, flowing music seemed to weave a mantle about the two that brought them closer and closer. The girl portrayed a gentle, timid but dignified victim and the snake a proud, princely, dominant character. It was a bizarre performance, with all of us abhorring the obvious climax to come. It was patently apparent that the villagers were having a spectacular sacrificial ceremony, with the girl employing dignity to the end.

The climax came when the girl, in all her Burmese finery of silks, gold thread, and jewels, faced the snake. They were only two feet apart, and still swaying to each other’s rhythmic movements, while looking into each other’s eyes. The music reached a euphonic crescendo, and we cringed as we awaited the strike of death as the music climaxed. We were instead chilled by the final act, that brought the unexpected. As the two continued their...
oscillating motions to the climaxing music, their heads came almost together, and the snake’s cruel lips brushed those of the girl, as though in a stolen kiss. The music stopped, the snake shrivelled its hood and dropped to the ground, then it slithered at speed towards the edge of the human circle and freedom, the circle opening to allow the snake’s exit. At the last moment before the snake was completely clear of the crowd, one of the Burmese rushed up with a dog in his arms which he threw into the snake’s path. There was a swift reaction by the hamadryad as it struck the dog with its fangs and knocked it over with the power of its lunging strike. With a yelp the dog recovered its feet and crept under a nearby raised house to whimper and die within the half hour.

To me this had been a ballet with an exceptional leading ballerina, but the villain’s part could not have been played with more grace than this serpent’s performance, for which he deserved his freedom, notwithstanding his poisonous character. It could have been titled ‘The power of music over poison’, ‘Snakes have charm’ or even ‘A stolen kiss’. Whatever title it was staged under, I have never seen another ballet that could equal it for high drama and natural grace. I still shiver at the remembrance, but thrill to the symmetry of cast and performance.

A New Day

The machine guns are blurring
The Turks are stirring
Up the slopes they ran.
Men are screaming as they fall,
The slopes so steep some had to crawl
The sand blood red
The unmistakable stench of the dead.
Back home families wonder,
Back home families dread
The knock on the door;
They weren’t so strong any more.
No more happiness, no more laughter,
People had fallen
Sadness filled the air.
ANZAC Day remembers
People who died in the war.
Up at five in the morning
People are mourning
Wreaths are laid
Respects are paid.
Lest we forget.
Poem by Simon Whitfield, Year 7, Trinity College

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PS: Members interested in taking part in a pilgrimage to Tandarkan, are invited to call Flightline Travel and register; your interest in a trip we are planning.
City of South Perth Memorial Plaque

A private ceremony was held in the City of South Perth Memorial Garden on 12 April 1999 to unveil a plaque to honour the memory of Nursing Sisters Bates and Wilmott. Former residents of the South Perth district, Louvinia Bates and Bessie Wilmott, lost their lives at the Banka Island Massacre off Sumatra in February 1942.

The ceremony, arranged by the City of South Perth and the RSL Sub-Branches in the district, was part of the City’s contribution to recognise the 100th anniversary of Australian Service Nursing which commenced when nurses enlisted to serve during the Boer War.

The plaque was unveiled by Mrs Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkel) AO MBE ARRC ED Florence Nightingale Medal, the sole survivor of the massacre and His Worship the Mayor, Mr John Hardwick JP, in the presence of members of the Manning, Como and City of South Perth Sub-Branches and the Returned Sisters Sub-Branch of the RSL. The plaque was dedicated during the ANZAC Day Service held at the District War Memorial located in the Memorial Garden.

The City of South Perth has contributed $10,000 to the National Australian Service Nurses Memorial being built in ANZAC Drive Canberra, due to be unveiled in October this year.

KEVIN TRENT

Valedictory to Tarakan Lt Gen Morsehead’s Address

The following article was printed in the Tarakan Times 13 August 1945. The treasured cutting was kept by a member of the brigade and after his death a copy found its way to The Listening Post. The sentiment expressed is worth re-printing.

EDITOR

At a ceremonial parade on the Tarakan Oval yesterday afternoon, the Corps Commander, Lt Gen Sir Leslie Morsehead, KCB KBE CMG DSO ED presented the ribbons of decorations won by officers and men of the Brigade in the Tarakan Operations.

Addressing the parade, Sir Leslie said: “No one knows better, or is more appreciative - or is prouder - of the long and distinguished record of this Brigade than I. My mind turns back to those first days in Cyrenaica. Then to Tobruk. Then to Tel el Eisa and that great Battle, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of this war - Alamein. After that came Satelberg - another epic - Wareo, and now Tarakan, your very own campaign, which has added lustre to your name. In all of these campaigns, you have had to fight hard, and from each you have emerged with honour to yourselves and to our country. Battles and campaigns are won by leadership - leadership not only of senior but of junior commanders - by discipline, by that knowledge begotten of experience - knowing what to do and how to do it - and by hard work. And above all that, by courage, which we call “guts”, gallantry, and devotion to duty.

“Now that Japan has accepted defeat and the cessation of hostilities will soon be ordered, our thoughts naturally turn homeward, to living once more a peaceful, normal life. But a word of warning. For obvious reasons - and some not so apparent - it will be some considerable time before we can all get home. Although we can rely on the Government doing its utmost to bring about the demobilisation of our forces as quickly as possible it is not practicable for us just to up sticks and get away. We must contain ourselves in sensible patience. Be soldierly, and cheerfully and willingly perform the tasks set us.
"When eventually you do return to civil life, it is up to you to serve your country, our country, faithfully and well. Retain and cultivate that fellowship, that comradeship, which can be forged only in war. Keep fresh and green the memory of those, our fallen comrades, who gave their all, and be ever ready to say a kindly word, give a helping hand, to those near and dear to them. And to those other comrades of ours still afflicted by wounds.

"To you all I say, "well done!" It's been grand to have served with you. To you all I offer my warm wishes for your future welfare, health, happiness and success. "Good luck, and may God bless you always."

The death of Rommel

This is taken from an article which appeared in ROTA, when Ray Widdows of the 2/12th Field Regiment, on his European jaunt after the Alamein Anniversary celebrations, met Manfred Rommel and obtained a copy of the article in which the Field Marshal’s son tells of his father’s last hours.

"My father died on 14 October 1944 in Herrlingen near Ulm. We lived in a rented house there and it was to this house that my father came after being seriously wounded in Normandy on 17 July 1944.

"At the time, I was aged 15 and serving in a home defence Ack Ack Battery in Ulm, and on the morning of 14 October went home for a short leave. On arrival, my father told me that two Generals from the Army Department would be calling at lunchtime to discuss his next posting. He thought it possible that he would be arrested that day, as the Gestapo had been keeping a 24-hour watch on the house for weeks.

"About midday, both Generals arrived and asked to speak alone with father, so my mother and I withdrew to the first floor of the house. After some time, my father came upstairs and went into my mother’s room and then he came into mine. He said that both Generals had, in Hitler’s name, accused him of treason and had brought poison with them. Hitler was inviting him to kill himself with the poison, and if he accepted this invitation, his family would not be subjected to the usual measures taken against a family for crimes committed by one of its members. He said he had decided to take the way out, which had been offered him, as it was the most reasonable solution and he had no chance of receiving a trial. Hitler would not have him sentenced in public, because of the high esteem in which Rommel was held by the population.

"We would receive a telephone call in 20 minutes telling us that he had died of a stroke and he would get a State Funeral in Ulm, but not in Berlin. Then he gave me his keys and a few personal things he had with him. He was very calm and together with his aide-de-camp, Herr Aldinger and me, he left the house where the Generals awaited him. We accompanied him through the garden as far as the General’s car, which was waiting on the road. Twenty minutes after the car had left, we received a telephone call telling us that my father had died of a stroke. He had been taken to a military hospital in Ulm and was dead on arrival."

N.DIGBY

STOP PRESS

Dear Sir,

We would be most appreciative if your publication could promote the reunion of the ships companies of three famous Australian ships – HMAS Arunta, HMAS Warramunga and HMAS Bataan. The occasion is the first to be held in 53 years, so it is reasonable to assume that the ageing expected to gather will have wealth of experience to share and perhaps some unwritten history may emerge as well. The month of September sees spring at its best on the Queensland Sunshine Coast and a host of activities will be available at group prices for all to enjoy during the recollection of events with, and of, past shipmates.

A touching remembrance ceremony and march will conclude the reunion with a most appropriate river and ocean foreground from our own Memorial Park overlooking the calm of the Noosa River.

KEN BRIDGES, Co-ordinator

FIRST NATIONAL REUNION RAN TRIBAL CLASS DESTROYERS

Reunions for ex HMAS Arunta, HMAS Warramunga and HMAS Bataan members is to be held on 9, 10, 11 and 12 September 1999 at Tewantin Noosa RSL Club, Queensland. Good accommodation is available and the official events on 11 and 12 September will include an official dinner and conclude with a march and service. For information and bookings, contact Joe Flaherty, phone 07 5476 0262/fax 07 5476 0297; or Ken Bridges, phone 07 5449 8689/fax 07 5474 2689. RSVP 30 June 1999.

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The right man for the moment

The following is an edited transcript of the address by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC MC, Governor of Western Australia, at the official launch of the biography of Brigadier Arnold Potts, Warrior of Kokoda by Mr. Bill Edgar.

A couple of weeks ago Australia said goodbye to a very well-known face. The name of Private Wally Johnson may not ring many bells, but let me paint a picture for you.

A piece of black and white film shows a young Australian soldier, his arm in a sling and both eyes bandaged. He has a coat draped over his shoulders that has little effect in keeping him dry from the tropical jungle rain. His good arm rests around the shoulders of another Aussie soldier, whose slouch hat and puggaree are distinctive, and he is being led through a fast flowing creek in the highlands of New Guinea on a trek that would challenge even the most able-bodied of men.

Had it not been for Damien Parer’s remarkable footage in *Kokoda - Front Line*, featuring Private Johnson, few would have ever had a real image of what the 21st Brigade, under the command of Brigadier Arnold Potts, achieved in August and September of 1942.

Bill Edgar’s book *Warrior of Kokoda* tells the story of a man who, although not Australian by birth, can truly be called one of Western Australia’s great sons. Born on the Isle of Man, Potts came to Australia with his school teacher father, living in the twin goldfields cities of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, where his father was contracted as deputy headmaster of North Kalgoorlie School and then headmaster of Boulder School. Although small in stature, Arnold was nuggety, and active. He enjoyed the love and companionship of his parents and sisters, and his close knit family relationship instilled in him a strong work ethic, and a sense of dignity and purpose.

As a boarder at the still-young Guildford Grammar School, Potts was to receive the education that would mould him into a great leader of men. He was fit, strong and active, involved in many sports at the top level, and learned in the dormitory houses, the skills of living and interacting closely with others so vital in any good army.

In early 1915, the former Guildford Grammar Cadet and 86th Battalion militiaman joined the 16th battalion, 1st AIF as an Acting Sergeant of the 4th reinforcements. In his book, Bill Edgar tells how the young Potts joined his Battalion at Gallipoli as a Private in July 1915. He was soon in action as the 4th Brigade was given the task of taking Chunuk Bair, with the 8th and 10th Light Horse carrying out the horrific assault on the Nek, only a mile away, as a diversion for the British landing at Suvla.

By October, Potts had been made up to Sergeant, and then to Second Lieutenant early in 1916 at the age of 19, after the battalion was withdrawn to Alexandria. He was promoted full Lieutenant in March. After a period of reorganisation and training, the battalion embarked for France. During the savage action at Moquet Farm in August 1916, the now Acting-Captain Potts and his mortar battery fought with tenacity and courage, supporting the assaulting battalion despite their own position being under severe pressure. For this action Potts was awarded the Military Cross.

It is well known that the Australians and New Zealanders in France were involved in the most savage of fighting, and it is no surprise that an Australian soldier had nearly a 7 out of 10 chance of being at least wounded. Potts was no exception. After a period of rest, the brigade was involved in railway route maintenance when a stray bullet hit Potts in the hip. In his typical style, the wound was dressed and he carried on obliviously.

But in July 1917 at Hamel, Potts was hit in the chest by a sniper’s bullet. The wound was severe, and for Captain Arnold Potts, World War I war was over.

Arnold’s wound took a great deal of time to heal, and perhaps it was only through his exceptional fitness and inner strength that he survived at all. After returning to Kalgoorlie, he declined his father’s suggestion of a comparatively sedentary career as a teacher, choosing instead a life on the land, as a jackaroo in the rugged north-west, then eventually the south west of WA near Kojonup, where he purchased a property of just over 1600 acres, which he named Barrule.

Despite his hard slog on the land, Arnold was active in the Kojonup community, playing football and polo and helping out in various places. He found around him others with whom he had served, including Sergeant Dick Norrish MM, who had carried his shattered body to safety through the hell that was the Somme.

In the early 1920s, Arnold Potts met a young girl by the name of Doreen, or Dawn as she was known, and a long and delightful love story began, expressed through a remarkable series of letters highlighted in Bill’s book. In 1926 they were married and by the start of World War II had three wonderful children, David, Judith and Nancy. Bill Edgar’s book provides a glimpse of their happy life between the wars and of the strength of family life in the south-west.

With war looming, Arnold and a group of veterans worked at re-raising the 25th Light Horse, and when war...
was declared he was in camp at Rockingham. In 1940 the 7th Division was raised, and the 2/16th Battalion was born, with Major Arnold Potts as the Recruitment and Training Officer. Using his talents and skills as a leader, he encouraged - and on some occasions poached from other units - the young south-west farmers, many of them sons of his World War I comrades, to join the 2/16th. He knew in them and the young men from the goldfields there was strength, depth of character, and just enough questioning of hide bound authority to make them the best of soldiers.

Eventually the 2/16th, as part of the 21st Brigade, embarked for overseas service. After what seemed to Potts an interminably long time training in the Middle East, the 21st was to deploy to Syria as part of Operation Exporter under Lt Gen. John Lavarack, with the brigade’s ultimate goal to occupy Beirut.

On 8th June 1941, Major Arnold Potts was back in action leading the battalion advance guard. When ordered to attack the Vichy French across the Litani river, Potts’ battle experience and sound tactical knowledge showed clearly, and inspired his officers and men. When the lead platoon was pinned down, Potts advised them to wait a while and it would blow over, which it did, and they continued.

During a lull, Potts wrote to Dawn; “Did I tell you I'd got a pat or two on the head from the Brig? Not deserved really, old darling, as I’ve got heaps of experience to draw on. Don’t be surprised but I can duck, lie flat, sprint and pick up the sound of the dangerous stuff, just as if there had been no 20 years of peace”.

By the time they marched into Beirut on the 15th, the 2/16th had distinguished themselves as a very good fighting battalion, but had lost nearly 270 men killed or wounded, including my uncle, Captain Ivan Johnson. With the transfer of the their CO, Lt. Col. “Bandy” McDonald, Potts was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and given command of his beloved West Australians, and for his part in the Syrian action at Damour and Sidon, Potts was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

But the focus of the war for Australia had moved much closer to home, and, in January, the men left the Middle East, unsure of their destination. Having been issued tropical clothing in Colombo they guessed they were heading for Singapore, while Churchill wanted the 7th division in Burma. So they circled for a time while the allied leaders thrashed out their strategy. But the fall of Singapore and the landing of the Japanese at Rabaul left Australia in a bad situation. Australian Prime Minister John Curtin insisted on our divisions returning to defend Australia and fight the Japanese.

So, in April 1942, a month after General Sir Thomas Blamey was appointed Commander in Chief of the Australian military forces, all Australians not fighting in the Middle East or Europe came under the overall command of MacArthur as Supreme Allied Commander, South West Pacific. In MacArthur’s headquarters, Blamey was appointed Commander of all allied land forces.

Having had some short respite in Australia, the men trained hard, and eventually Potts’ leadership and tenacity was recognised with his promotion to Brigadier, and command of the 21st brigade. They were battle-hardened and well-led soldiers from Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia.

In the meantime a serious threat to Port Moresby had developed with the heavy and unexpected thrust of the Japanese across the Kokoda Track. The militiamen of the 39th Battalion had fought bravely to hold the village of Kokoda, but fierce Japanese assaults had forced them back to rear positions. Another militia battalion, the 53rd, had been moved up into defensive positions at Alola, but the might of the Japanese, under Major-General Horii, threatened to overwhelm the Australians, leaving Port Moresby with its critical port and airfield highly vulnerable.

The advance battalions of Potts’ 21st Brigade arrived in Moresby on August 17th, and started their climb up the
incredible track. In his book *Australians in Nine Wars*, Peter Firkins quotes Major General Sir Kingsley Norris's description of the track:

"Imagine an area of approximately 100 miles long. Crumple and fold this into a series of ridges, each rising higher and higher until 7,000 feet is reached, then declining in ridges to 3,000 feet. Cover this thickly with jungle, short trees and tall trees, tangled with great entwining savage vines. Through the oppression of this density, cut a little native track, two or three feet wide, up the ridges, over the spurs, round gorges and down across swiftly flowing, happy mountain streams."

Every day at midday and every night the rain would come, turning the track into foetid streams and destroying the thousands of steps cut by the natives and sappers.

It would be wrong of me to go into too much detail of the 21st Brigade's gallant action on the Kokoda Track, as it would detract from Bill Edgar's excellent and easily understood account of their battles under their dynamic and aggressive commander.

But as the commander of 21 Bde and Marouba Force (the 39th and 53rd Battalions) Potts faced not only the incredible terrain, but severe problems of supply (because of lack of stocks at Myola), seriously underestimated enemy figures, and a higher command which seemed unable or not wishing to grasp the conditions under which he and his men were fighting.

Having orders to retake the Japanese-held Kokoda, Potts chose to relieve the battle-weary men of the 39th Battalion with one of his own, the 2/14th, and retain the 53rd in place. But the Japanese attacked during the relief, and the inexperienced men of the 53rd faltered and exposed the flank. The Japanese Commander, Major General Horii, pushed hard and there followed around Isurava many days of bitter fighting, hand to hand, over unimaginable terrain. The Australians held but by then the Japanese suffered heavy casualties. But Maj-Gen Horii was a tough leader, and the Japanese continued their frenzied attacks on Marouba Force.

The Australians, regardless of rank or trade, AIF or militia, fought side by side, but the Japanese were swarming all around and Potts, defending Brigade Headquarters with his staff, had to decide whether to hold to the death or fall back.

History shows that, rather than being surrounded and cut off at Isurava, he chose to conduct a fighting withdrawal. But as the Australians withdrew, fighting hard all the way, the 39th and 2/14th leap-frogging through the 2/16th at Alola, the problems of supply became more and more difficult for the Japanese and commensurately easier for the Australians. Indeed it is well-known that the starving Japanese resorted to eating their own in some cases.

By September 6, the fresh South Australian Battalion (the 2/27th) had joined the veteran 2/14th and 2/16th battalions at Efogi, and the 39th and 53rd battalions had been withdrawn. On September 8, the Japanese threw everything at Efogi, causing heavy casualties to the 2/27th and threatening to surround them. Two days later, Arnold Potts was relieved of his command by Blamey, even though Potts had led his men courageously, with tactical skill and against overwhelming odds. The brigade had severely blunted and delayed the Japanese advance on Moresby. But fighting a tactical withdrawal had not suited MacArthur's offensive temperament. He was a good soldier, but also a grandiose showman, who had been driven from the Philippines and was not going to let it happen again. In truth, the Americans were, at best, ignorant of the conditions of the battlefield, borne out by MacArthur's engineer, Maj-Gen Casey, suggesting that the Australians should blow up parts of the Kokoda Track, particularly "The Gap" which was not a gap at all, but just a name for a section of the track. They also displayed appalling lapses of staff work, particularly in the gross under-estimation of Japanese numbers. Perhaps it is a little unfair to over-criticise MacArthur if this was the type of advice he was receiving.

A short time later, Brigadier K.W. Eather's 25th Brigade arrived to relieve the 21st, which had now lost 26 officers and 473 men. Eather was to halt the Japanese advance and regain control of the Track and eventually to retake Kokoda. But it was not long before Eather's 1000 men were up against a now-reinforced enemy force of 5000. Eather - keen, experienced and aggressive - found early on what Potts had had to deal with and, fearing being surrounded, requested permission to withdraw from Isuraba to Imita. MacArthur was again very critical of the Australian leadership and still convinced that the Australians outnumbered the Japanese on the Trail.

The War Cabinet despatched Blamey himself to take control of the New Guinea situation. The Commander of New Guinea Force, Lt-General Rowell, saw this as an affront to his command ability and, after a short but intense clash, was relieved of his command by Blamey.

But Eather's men, dug in at Imita, were steadfast and through their aggressive patrolling and the arrival of the 25 pounders, the Japanese resolve was all but broken. On September 26, the Japanese, needing all available resources for Guadalcanal, were ordered to withdraw.

The 25th now advanced at great speed, snapping at the heels of the Japanese and discovering for themselves the unimaginable horrors that the 21st had endured. Despite the inherent supply problems of such an advance,
MacArthur urged Blamey to make greater speed, and Blamey in turn pressed the Divisional Commander, Maj-Gen ‘Tubby’ Allen. Allen simply replied that it was impossible. Interestingly, despite the fact that the Australians were advancing against the Japanese while the Americans were not, MacArthur was still not satisfied with the rate of advance, and Blamey was compelled to relieve Allen of his command—the only higher Commander who had physically been on the track and understood the conditions there.

There was still a lot of hard fighting to be seen by the 25th and later the 16th brigades, but Port Moresby had been saved and the possible threat of invasion of northern Australia thus negated. But back to Arnold Potts. What was he really like?

He was every inch the quintessential Australian soldier. He was strong, confident, and calculating; he suffered fools badly, and could be critical of authority. He was a brilliant tactical leader of men on the ground, he led from the front, and loved the soldiers who fought with him.

As the CO of the 2/27th, Lieutenant-Colonel Geoff Cooper recalled:

When we met Arnold Potts at Efogi he didn’t show the strain or pressure he’d been under. He was quiet and gentlemanly and had a sort of gruff farmer’s approach to people. He was quietly ebullient, if that’s not a contradiction; a little bubbling up all the time; never depressed, always pleasant to people. I never heard him, ever, dress anyone down; I never heard him make any aggressive comments about anyone in his own force. He was not an aggressive man, but he had a great deal of drive. He tended to jolly people along, to help them. He might make a suggestion, ‘Well, have you thought of doing it this other way?... What about this proposition?... Do you think we could pull it off if we did this?... never overbearing. There was, however, never any question that he was the boss.

He was a strong man but never had the attitude, ‘I’m at the top; I’m leading.... This will be a big deal for me - which a lot of commanders (then) did have. He was one of the commanders who was never looking to his own professional future. He was just doing his job with the brigade... He knew all his company commanders; he got around, he was always there in the thick of it ... a very competent commander and a pleasure to serve under. He was inclined to be humorous rather than dull about any difficult situation.

He certainly was a good planner.... He did take a risk at Brigade Hill. He had to sit down and shoot it out at every point usable for that purpose.

Captain Harry Katekar came up ahead of C and D Companies of the 2/27th. He recalls that...

Author of Warrior of Kokoda, Mr Bill Edgar, is the archivist/historian at Hale School in Perth. Warrior of Kokoda is his seventh book on Australian social history.

...Arnold was a commanding personality, physically and mentally strong and rugged. He was jovial and genial but he never got to the stage where overfamiliarity lessened his dignified personality. George Vasey carried it too far that way: Tried to be too popular. Arnold Potts had the delightful ability to be hail-fellow-well-met but still be highly respected; frank and honest, but knowledgeable. He had tremendous ability. If there is any question about stopping to fight at Brigade Hill it should be completely ignored. He was the man on the spot; what else could he do? He had two battalions which had been just torn to bits really, done a hell of a good job, weary but still willing to do their best for their Brigadier. The 2/16th worshipped him, and it brushed off on the 14th and 17th. It had been a bitter disappointment for Arnold to be relieved. However, he was given another command, the 23rd brigade at Darwin and saw further service with it in Bougainville.

But the story doesn’t end there.

For some inexplicable reason at a parade at Koitaki on 9 November, Blamey administered a scathing upbraiding to the remaining men of the 21st inferring, if not directly saying, that they had been beaten by inferior numbers of inferior troops. It was, in any context, a terrible thing to either infer or to state, to men who had fought as they had, and where they had. History has not been kind to Blamey over this issue, and whatever your opinions of him, it
showed a terrible lapse of judgement and leadership on his part at that time.

Debate about Blamey's abilities and life continues today. But whatever way you look at him, he was probably the only man for the C-in-C job at the time. Blamey was a brilliant strategist and high level military planner and organiser. He was experienced, highly decorated, ambitious and aggressive, and cared little for people's opinions of him. He sat in an unenviable place, between Prime Minister Curtin, War Minister Forde, and the flamboyant Supreme Allied Commander MacArthur.

There just seems to be no obvious reason as to why he took to the 21st Brigade. Was it the pressure of the war, the worry caused by a very near run thing on the Track, brought about by poor intelligence assessment in the first place as to the viability of the Track for a major Japanese thrust, or a total misunderstanding of the 21st's gallant fighting withdrawal? Further, why did he display such a terrible unawareness and lack of appreciation of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner's tremendous performance in command of the gallant 39th Battalion? Why was the 39th later disbanded, whilst the 53rd remained on the order of battle? Perhaps it is simply true to say that Blamey, like many great achievers, had his flaws and made mistakes.

As earlier mentioned, Arnold Potts returned to a field command, taking the 23rd Brigade to Bougainville, after moulding a fairly complacent group in Darwin into yet another well-trained brigade of young men stirring for a fight. His aggression and desire to mix it again with the Japanese continued to show through until the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought an end to the hostilities.

And so ended the war in New Guinea after which Arnold Potts settled back to his farm with his beloved Dawn. Although not as young as he once was, he worked hard on his property, and was a prominent figure in the south-west community. Potts was a member of many boards, including the Land Settlement Board, through which he saw many of his ex-21st men receive farming allotments, and once again was into coercing some of the veterans he knew into taking up memberships of various clubs and organisations. As with many of his ilk, he also sought to better the lot of the south-west people through a political career, but narrowly missed taking the seat of Forrest for the Country Party in 1949. Potts was also instrumental in the setting up of the Bushfire Control Board, and was a strong advocate for CMF service for young Western Australians.

Arnold Potts was not a sophisticate, nor a socialite, but embodied all that has made WA the progressive State that it is today. When not distinguishing himself at Gallipoli, in Syria or New Guinea, he was grubbing out mallee roots on the land in our south-west, or helping out his coppers in every way he could.

There is no doubt that Potts was an exceptional individual. Firstly he was an outstanding fighting soldier, whose personal fitness, aggression and fighting skills were of a very high order. Secondly he was a consummate tactician on the ground.

What he achieved with the 21st Brigade was a classic fighting withdrawal. As General George S. Patton Junior said, "battles are won by fire and movement. The purpose of movement is to get the fire to a more advantageous position to play upon the enemy". With depleted stores, and tired, battered, outnumbered but gallant troops, Arnold Potts managed just that, but in terrain of unique difficulty.

Bill Edgar has written a biography that is interesting, human and extremely readable; and not just to the military enthusiast, but to the ordinary citizen. Intertwined in this excellent account of a man and his men in battle is a delightful story of the love that he and his wife Dawn shared throughout their life.

This is indeed a military history which I think will have and deserve wide public appeal. I congratulate Bill Edgar on a tremendous military story and have much pleasure in officially launching "Warrior of Kokoda".

THANK YOU.
We appreciate your contributions to

The Listening Post

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

The Editor
The Listening Post
Returned and Services League
PO Box Y3023
East St Georges Terrace, Perth 6832

Please observe the deadlines and general requirements for copy listed on Page 1 of this issue, under the Contents information. Thank you in advance for your continued support of The Listening Post.

The Hollywood Private Hospital Afternoon Tea Dance – how to get a ticket

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the annual Hollywood Afternoon Tea Dance run as part of Veterans’ Health Week, we are going to try a new ‘fairer’ system for the tickets this year.

Last year the tickets were “sold out” months before the event and there was a long waiting list. This year, Hollywood will be holding a draw for tickets to the dance in order to give everyone an equal opportunity to get a ticket.

The dance will be held in the Red Cross Hall at Hollywood Private Hospital off Verdun Street, Nedlands, on Thursday October 14 1999 from 1.30 to 4.00pm. Tickets are FREE and include afternoon tea. The hall can hold a maximum of 200 people.

If you would like to enter the draw for a ticket please fill in the form below and send or fax it to Jayma Knudson, Community Relations, Hollywood Private Hospital, Monash Avenue, NEDLANDS WA 6009, Fax: (08) 9389-8470, by Wednesday, July 9, 1999. A draw will take place at Hollywood in early July and the lucky winners will be contacted by mail.

Please note: Only ONE entry per person and each person entering may only request a MAXIMUM OF TWO TICKETS. We are unable to accept group entries.

If you have any further queries about the dance, please contact Catherine Archer or Jayma Knudson at Hollywood on (08) 9346-6716 during business hours.

Good luck!

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL AFTERNOON TEA DANCE
THURSDAY OCTOBER 14 1999

NAME:______________________________________________

ADDRESS:__________________________________________

POST CODE:________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER:____________________________________

NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUESTED (MAX OF 2):_________

Send or fax this form to Jayma Knudson, Community Relations, Hollywood Private Hospital, Monash Avenue, NEDLANDS WA 6009, Fax: (08) 9389-8470, by Wednesday, June 30, 1999.
Sources of information about military service

WW1 Personnel Records Service
The National Archives of Australia holds the personal service dossiers for members of the First Australian Imperial Force, Australian Flying Corps, Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train, Australian Army Nursing Service and Depot or home records for personnel who served within Australia. Approximately 420,000 dossiers are held. Examples of the types of documents to be found on a dossier are shown on our Internet site at: www.naa.gov.au Select The Collection and then Defence and Australian Army records to locate the images.

A photocopy of a dossier can be obtained by applying to the address below. A charge of $15.00 per complete dossier covers handling, photocopying and postage.

WW1 Personnel Records Service
National Archives of Australia
PO Box 7425, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610
Tel: (02) 6209 3428
Fax: (02) 6241 7711 e-mail: wwp1prs@naa.gov.au

Army service during WWII and more recent campaigns and medal entitlements for all campaigns

Inquiries about those who served with the Army in WWII and more recent campaigns should be directed to the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) at the address given below. Where a serviceman or servicewoman saw service in both WWI and WWII, the records have usually be amalgamated on a WWII dossier held by SCMA. SCMA also process all applications for medal entitlements. Substantive inquiries must be submitted in writing.

Soldier Career Management Agency
GPO Box 393 D, Melbourne VIC 3001
Tel (WWII Service): (03) 9282 7063
Tel (Medals inquiries): (03) 9282 6077
Tel (All inquiries): (03) 9282 5018

Boer War (South African War) nominal rolls and service dossiers; Permanent Military Forces (PMF) dossiers

Copies of nominal rolls for most Victorian and NSW Boer War units and some units from other States are available on microfilm in all offices of the National Archives. All inquiries relating to information from the dossiers of Boer War service personnel should be directed to our Melbourne office at the address given below. Dossiers are held for around a third of the approximately 15,000 who saw Boer War service. These relate mainly to those who saw service in Commonwealth battalion following Federation. No similar record appears to have existed for those who served with colonial units.

Our Melbourne office also holds PMF dossiers and attestation papers for 1901-40.

Melbourne Archives Centre
Casselden Place, 2 Lonsdale St, Melbourne VIC 3000
PO Box 8005, Burwood Heights VIC 3151
Tel: (03) 9285 7999
Fax: (03) 9285 7979 e-mail: refvic@naa.gov.au

Citations, photographs, nominal and embarkation rolls, and unit diaries for WWI, WWII and later conflicts

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) hold citations for most recommendations for honours and awards resulting from Australia’s participation in all twentieth century conflicts and information relating to the Red Cross. The AWM also has an extensive photographic collection, maps, films and books. In addition, the AWM holds official Commonwealth records such as nominal rolls, embarkation rolls and unit diaries, and privately donated papers such as letters and diaries.

Australian War Memorial
Anzac Parade, Campbell ACT 2612
GPO Box 345, Canberra ACT 2601
Internet address: www.awm.gov.au
Tel: (02) 6243 4315
Fax: (02) 6243 4545 e-mail: info@awm.gov.au

ADFA WWI Database
The AIF Project within the History Department of the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) has created a database listing details of 331,000 men and women who served overseas in the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF). For a fee of $25.00 per enquiry, the Project will provide a consolidated statement of service suitable for framing, together with a full printout of all information held on the database. The printout does not include copies of original service dossiers.

The AIF Project
Department of History, University College
Australian Defence Force Academy
Canberra ACT 2600
Internet: www.adfa.oz.au/HISTORY/diggers.html
Tel: (02) 6268 8867 or 6268 8829
Fax: (02) 6268 8879
e-mail: p-dennis@adfa.oz.au
Lichtenberg (South Africa)

(NSW Contingent)

RUDYARD KIPLING

The sand of the desert is sodden red,
Red with the wreck of a square that broke;
The Gatling's jammed and the regiment blind with dust and smoke
The river of death had brimmed his banks,
And England's far, and Honour a name,
But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks,
'Play up! Play up! And play the game.'
This is the world that year by year,
While in her place the School is set,
Every one of her sons must hear,
And none that hears it dare forget.
This they all with a joyful mind
Near through life like a torch in flames,
And falling, fling to the host behind-
Play up! Play up! And play the game!'

HENRY NEWBOLT

The Listening Post - Winter 1999
Above: Mick Jones of the Royal Engineers.
Top left: Dianah MacAulay and Anne Leach.
Centre left: State Executive Member Ross O'Connor provides propulsion for 100-year-old WWI veteran Viv Folland from Kojoonup.

At the head of the services contingent: Lt/Col Ken Bladen (State President), and the senior officers of the three services.

Armoured Corps stalwarts Don Handley (left) and Rob Cox

Returned Ex-service women at the ANZAC Day commemorations

Front seat passenger Jim Dove with driver Les McCann and comrades, 2/4 MG Bn

Parade Marshal Percy White.

The complement from HMAS Darwin

The Listening Post - Winter 1999
**Korean War Nominal Roll**

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Bruce Scott, is calling upon veterans and their families to help complete the nominal roll list of all Australians who served during the Korean War.

He said the Department of Veterans' Affairs is going to publish a preliminary draft of the nominal roll on Kapyong Day, 24 April 1999. The roll will be used as the basis for a mortality study to establish the cause of death of Koran veterans, and also to help develop a clearer picture of the health of remaining veterans.

The nominal roll will list all Australian Defence Force veterans who served in the Korean Operational Area from June 1950 to April 1956. The area includes the Korean mainland and the sea within 100 nautical miles of the coast.

The Minister believes some errors are likely on the roll because the records are now close to 50 years old, are hand written, and often hard to read. Researchers will match individual service cards to names on the roll to correct such errors, but the Minister also needs the valuable support of the veteran community to do this.

Veterans who wish to have their names included on the roll should contact the Department. Any veterans, for either personal or cultural reasons, who do not wish to have their name on the roll, should also contact the Department. The telephone number of the Department is 1800 502 302.

MARGARET REID
Senator for the ACT

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**ANZAC Landing Memorial Park at Gallipoli**

Following the announcement of the Government's commitment of $1.2 million to establish a new site for the Dawn Service at Gallipoli, planning is proceeding with a view to opening the site on ANZAC Day 2000. For some years, the ceremony has been held at Ari Burnu War Cemetery at the northern end of ANZAC Cove. However, this site can no longer cope with the numbers attending the Dawn Service - last year 7000 - and there have been many complaints about damage to headstones in the cemetery.

There are only two feasible sites, one immediately adjacent and on the northern side of the cemetery and one some 500 metres further north, along North Beach. The National Executive has recommended that the latter site be used, as it is seen to offer greater capacity for the long term without losing the special ambience of Ari Burnu. Negotiations are proceeding with the Turkish Government and it is planned to build a suitable monument as a focal point for the Dawn Service. The RSL, together with the Returned Services Association of New Zealand, is committed to contributing some component to this monument in commemoration of the landing and the campaign from which both organisations have their genesis.

*Courtesy: Stand To*
Naval Disaster, Seeadler Harbour Manus Island

Little if any publicity was ever given to Manus Island, one of the largest in the Admiralty Island Group or, as it was known by the RAN, HMAS Tarangau. Surrendered to the Japanese in 1942 the island, part of Australian Mandated Territory, was eventually recaptured in 1944 by the US Army’s First Cavalry Division.

The United States spent millions of dollars developing airfields, roads, storage facilities, wharves and workshops. Seeadler Harbour, protected by a barrier reef on the northern side of the island, was of sufficient size and depth to provide anchorage for many ships. Some indication of that size is that on one day in 1944, prior to an attack on the Philippines, at anchor were seven battleships, 10 aircraft carriers, 11 cruisers, three submarines, 38 destroyers, 18 destroyer escorts and 74 support ships. Included in this group were HMAS Australia, HMAS Shropshire, HMAS Warramunga, HMAS Arunta and HMAS Hawkesbury.

Despite proposals after World War II by the US Government to maintain the base, the RAN moved its advance base from Dreger Harbour on the New Guinea mainland to Manus Island and it was commissioned as HMAS Tarangau in 1950. During the period 1950-1951 War Crimes trials were held at Nutt Point on the eastern side of the island, with 150 Japanese officers and other ranks charged with crimes against Australian servicemen in the Pacific area. Five of the accused were hanged and the remainder sentenced to imprisonment on Manus Island. Administration for the War Criminals Compound was handled by naval officers, warders were drawn from Chiefs and Petty Officers and guards were members of the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary. The majority of the prisoners were utilised on various construction and maintenance sites around the island and came under direct supervision of Naval Artisans (Chippies) who undertook the building of a church, cinema, swimming pool, hospital and accommodation blocks.

Following the eventual repatriation to Japan of the surviving Japanese and Korean prisoners and the withdrawal of all RAN and RAAF personnel, the island reverted to PNG and is a base for the Papua New Guinea Navy.

However, on 10 November 1944, a disaster recognised as the largest at any wartime Pacific Fleet Base took place, claiming the lives of 743 men. The recently commissioned ammunition ship AE11, the USS Mount Hood on her maiden voyage, was laden with 3500 tons of shells and ammunition for the fleet’s warships. While she lay at anchor in the harbour, the Communications Officer, Lieutenant L.A. Wallace, took a group of 17 crew members ashore to stretch their legs along the beach front, but when they looked back at their ship some 20 minutes later, they saw a flash followed by two huge explosions. The USS Mount Hood had been blown to pieces and took 22 smaller vessels with it. Mushrooming smoke rose 2000 metres obscuring the ship and the surrounding area for a radius of 500 metres. It was indeed a day that “rained metal”. Every available small craft was pressed into service to attend the dead and dying crew members.

For all of us who served on the island during the postwar period, none was aware of the magnitude of the disaster that had taken place in the harbour. One can only imagine how devastated the survivors and crews of the remaining ships must have felt as they steamed out in convoy for the Marshall Islands on the following day - 11 November, Armistice Day.

BRUCE McEwan
Booragoon

The Listening Post - Winter 1999
On 9 April 1999 the RAADA Division Council approved the formation of an RAAF Nursing Service (RAAFNS) Branch. This was a timely event as it coincided with the dedication of a memorial at Hollywood Private Hospital on 15 April 1999 to honour the RAAFNS.

The Office Bearers/Executive Council for the new branch are: President: Mrs Margaret Campbell, Vice President: Group Captain (Rtd) Jean Harrison ARRC FRCNA, and Secretary/Treasurer: Ms Pam Bell and Ms Sue Szalay. For further information please contact Ms Pam Bell on 9354 1715.

The first official task undertaken by the RAAFNS executive council was to proudly present to SqnOff (Rtd) Eleanor Brett a certificate of honorary membership to the RAAFNS Branch. SqnOff Brett was awarded this certificate in recognition not only of her encouragement and continued support and advice that led to the RAAFNS becoming a Branch, but also her tireless efforts to the dedication of the RAAFNS Chapel Window in the RAAF Association Chapel at the Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek.

A dedication and blessing service for the stained glass window (pictured above) was held in the chapel on Sunday, 16 August 1998. The window design was taken from the front cover of the RAAFNS Book 1040–1990 by Gay Halstead, with modifications to the nurse’s uniform. W.L. TATE

The Returned and Services League of Australia

Code of Citizenship

We believe the highest values of citizenship are fundamental to our society.
We believe good citizenship is the responsibility of every citizen of Australia.
We believe every citizen should uphold these social values:

- Loyalty to Australia and the Crown.
- Strong commitment to democracy and democratic institutions.
- Respect for law and order and the rights of others.
- Practical compassion for those in need.
- High personal standards of responsibility, conduct, performance and integrity.
- Fair dealing, and giving value for value.
- Personal co-operation and friendship with citizens of other countries.
- Unselfishness.

We believe a sound environment is desirable for the preservation of these values.
We believe each generation is entitled to be grounded soundly in these values – in the home, in centres of learning and through the example of every adult citizen.

* * *

In fostering this Code, the aim of the RSL is to improve the quality of life in Australia to make it worthy of those men and women who built this country and of those who gave their lives to preserve it.

"The price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"
Humour in Uniform

It started with a flag

David Clendinnen of Surrey Hills, Victoria responded to our request for 'letters we wish we'd written' with this gem.

Dear Sirs

It’s with deep regret and haste that I write this letter to you. Regret that such a small misunderstanding could lead to the following circumstances and in haste in order that you receive this report before you form any preconceived notions and opinions from reports in the British press. I am sure that the press tend to over-dramatise in their reports on such casualties.

We had just embarked the Pilot and the Deck Cadet had returned to the Wheelhouse after changing over the G flag (“I require a Pilot”) to the H flag (“I have a Pilot on board”). This being his first trip, he was having difficulty in rolling up the G flag before stowing it. I therefore proceeded to instruct him on the correct method of rolling up a signal flag. Coming to the last part of his instruction I told him to “let go”. The lad, although willing enough was not too bright and this necessitated my having to repeat the order in a somewhat loud and sharper tone: “Let go”.

At this moment the Chief Officer appeared from the chartroom, having been plotting the vessel’s progress and, thinking that it was the anchors which were being referred to, repeated the “let go” to the Third Officer who was on the forecastle. The port anchor, having been cleared away but not walked out was promptly let go. The effect of letting go the anchor whilst the vessel was proceeding at full harbour speed proved too much for the windlass brake. The entire length of the port cable was thus pulled out by the roots, depositing the anchor and 13 shackles of cable on the harbour bed. Whilst this was happening the braking effect of the port anchor naturally caused a sheer to port – right towards a swing bridge which spanned a tributary to the river on which we were navigating.

The swing bridge operator showed great presence of mind by promptly opening the bridge to my vessel. Unfortunately, he did not think to stop the vehicle traffic. The result was that the bridge opened and deposited a Volkswagen, two cyclists and a cattle truck on the foredeck. My ship’s company are at present rounding up the contents of the cattle truck which I gather, from the noise outside, are pigs. In his efforts to stop the progress of the vessel the Third Mate dropped the starboard anchor, too late to be of any practical use as it fell directly onto the swing bridge operator’s control cabin, a poor reward, I fear, for his quick action in opening the bridge.

After the vessel had started to sheer through the accidental letting go of the port anchor, I gave a “Double Ring” of Full Astern on the telegraph. I also personally rang the Engine Room to verbally order maximum astern revolutions. I was thus informed by the duty Engineer that the sea temperature was 53 degrees Fahrenheit and asked it there was to be a movie on this night. My reply, whilst colorful would not add constructively to this report.

It is strange, but at the same time exactly the port anchor was dropped there was a power cut ashore. The fact that we were passing over a cable area at the time may suggest that we might have touched something on the river bed. I am perhaps lucky that the high-tension cables which were brought down by our foremast and landed on the foredeck and bridge were not “live”, otherwise I might not be now writing this report. Possibly the cables had been replaced by an underwater cable. Owing to the blackout ashore it is impossible to ascertain where the electric cable pylon fell.

Up to now I have confined my report to the activities at the forward end of my vessel. Down aft they were having their own problems. At the moment the port anchor was let go the Second Mate was supervising the making fast of the after tug. The sudden braking effect of the port anchor caused the tug to run under the stem of my vessel - just at the very moment the propeller was answering my double ring of Full Astern. The prompt action of the Second Mate in securing the inboard end of the towing spring delayed the sinking of the tug by several minutes, thereby allowing the safe abandonment of that vessel by her crew.

It never fails to amaze me - the actions and behaviors of foreigners during a moment of crisis. The Pilot is huddled in the corner of my dayroom crooning to himself after having drunk a bottle of whisky in a time worthy of inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records. The Tug Master, on the other hand reacted quite violently and had to be forcibly restrained by the steward. He is at present handcuffed in the ship’s hospital where he is telling me to do impossible things with my ship.

Enclosed with this report are the names and addresses of the drivers, the details of their insurance companies, of the vehicles and cyclists that fell onto my foredeck. These particulars will enable you to claim for the damage they caused to the railing, coamings and deck around No 1 hatch when they landed there from the swing bridge.
To conclude this report I wish to point out that had the Cadet not been a "First Tripper" and had more experience, he would have realized that it is not necessary to fly the Pilot Flag in the dark and none of this would have occurred.

Yours faithfully
Master

Courtesy: Alfred's Navigation Notebook

Say Something Funny

In the days before World War II, television comedy writer and producer Frank Galen reported for his Army physical when his draft notice came. When he finally reached the front of the line, the sergeant read his papers and said, "So you're a comedy writer, huh? Say something funny." The young man thought for a moment, turned to face the long line of recruits standing behind him in their underwear and yelled, "The rest of you men can go home now. The position has been filled."

Jean Harris


Just a funny Ha-Ha

It was Christmas Day 1951. We were aboard the Sydney docked alongside at Kure Harbour in Japan. Yes we were celebrating; we had been given two bottles of beer and one bottle of stout per man. But being Australians, we had planned this day months ahead. Booze had been smuggled aboard - lots of alcoholic beverages. We were having a rest from the Korean War and had decided it was to be a relaxing day. It was!

In the evening a few of us decided to wander up on the flight deck and get some air and would you believe, as far as the eye could see were many thousands of empty bottles and cartons floating out to sea. What a sight to behold. Story has it that our carrier, the Sydney came out of the water a foot that day. I know this story is true. I was on board and helped to drink my share.

Raymond Larson
Ex-72 CBALS
HMAS Sydney
1950-1952

2/7 Aust Field Regiment

The following story is supplied by Dudley Mackie and is an excerpt from the History of the 2/7 Australian Field Regiment.

On the evening of Saturday, 13 September 1941, at about 2200 hours, an ominous rumble made itself heard on the still desert air from the general direction of the enemy-held escarpment. No one could be certain what it was all about, and all forward movement was continued. But towards midnight, there could be no doubt that heavy tracked armour was moving down the Pass or along the escarpment.

Up the coast road, just short of our minefields was a listening post which comprised the Scots Guards' Column Commander (Captain Macrae), a handful of carriers, three or four 2-pounder anti-tank guns, and the artillery Observation Post Officers' vehicle. They passed the night uneasily, every vehicle facing east, ready to take off for Cairo at ten seconds' notice. Drivers needed no orders to replenish petrol, oil and water; tanks, sumps and radiators were quietly filled to the brim.

When communications were established that night between GPOs, Sniping Gun and the Column Commander at the listening post on Point 19, the Column Commander was flippant, as only the British can be. In response to a discreet enquiry as to what all the noise was about, he passed back the confident message: "Oh, it's only the sea - you often hear that up here." The comforted GPO passed on the message to his men. In the ensuing silence, you could hear the Aussie brains churning out the overtime.

A sceptical ack-ack gunner, renowned for his dry humour is said to have passed the never-to-be-forgotten remark that eventually broke silence: "Well, I've heard a lot of funny things in my time, but it's the first time I've heard the #*%$! sea change gears"

A new face at ANZAC House

We welcome a new member to the ANZAC House team, Administration Assistant Anne Scully.

Welcome aboard, Anne, and congratulations to Rebecca Franklin who is now Secretary to the State President.
Women in the Australian Defence Force

A report on the employment of women in the ADF is under consideration by the Chiefs of Staff Committee prior to its submission to the Government.

by Gabriele Kovacevik

Among the issues the report examines is the current ADF exclusion of women from combat duties, attitudes to the employment of women in combat and overseas experiences in this area.

Speaking recently at a Defence Women’s Network seminar in Canberra, CDF, ADM Chris Barrie said that, consistent with operational requirements, the ADF was committed to policies and practices which allow all members, irrespective of gender, race or religion to participate fully in its primary role of protecting Australia. The ADF aims to attract people of high quality to maintain our defence capability.

‘Women are integral to this requirement.’ ADM Barrie said. ‘And we are certainly moving in the right direction if you consider that the Navy has its first female Commanding Officer of a ship. Women have been serving on warships for some time and are now training for the Collins submarines.

‘All three Services have qualified women pilots, as well as navigators in the Air Force, although we still have some way to go to emulate the American women fighter pilots who recently flew bombing missions over Iraq.’

ADM Barrie said that contrary to recent media reports, the ADF did not discriminate against women on the basis of gender.

‘Our combat effectiveness and performance in the field relates to the physical and mental competence of our people—men and women,’ ADM Barrie said.

‘If there are to be significant changes, we have to take into account current competencies, management and imperatives.

‘When physical characteristics are carefully defined, I can think of a lot of men who would not qualify to serve in the front line.

‘Properly defining these qualifications for combat units will take sophistication and time. However, I am sure nobody can take issue with the mental and physical qualifications of the women medical and nursing officers who were decorated following their performance under pressure during the horrific massacre in Rwanda.

‘Or Major Ferguson, the Special Air Services medical officer who served with the Gulf deployment last year or the women sailors who fought the fire on HMAS Westralia and helped prevent an even greater tragedy.’

The process of getting women into combat units should focus on their capability, not their gender, as well as taking into account community expectations and combat capability requirements, he said.

ADM Barrie told the seminar that the ADF was among the front runners in recognising the value of equity in the workplace.

A number of initiatives had arisen from the 1996 Burton report Women in the ADF. The report found a more systematic and strategic approach was required to eliminate sex-based discrimination in the ADF.

The Defence Equity Organisation (DEO) was established in 1997 to promote equity and diversity in Defence.

The DEO has developed a number of framework documents and maintains a comprehensive database of personnel-related statistics. In addition, it conducts surveys into sexual and gender harassment.

ADM Barrie said a good example of the DEO’s value was its review last year of policies and practices to deal with sexual harassment and offences at ADFA.

Defence was educating people about unacceptable behavior. Although incidents were still occurring, they were in the main being resolved with thoroughness and in a timely and sensitive manner.

ADM Barrie said attitudinal change was probably the ‘hardest nut to crack’. This was a long-term process to be met with education, role models and promoting positive stories of the benefits of diversity.

Among recent examples was the success of Australian women peace monitors in facilitating the peace process in Bougainville, which operates as a matriarchal society. Another was the use of flexible working arrangements by a high performing military member, which led to positive changes and increased morale.

The major initiative driving these changes was the Defence Workplace Equity and Diversity Plan, which earned the department a commendation in the 1998 Workplace Diversity Awards, announced last week.

ADM Barrie cautioned that there was still a long way to go.

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Australian industry provided some challenging benchmarks, including AMP, which has built equity and diversity into its appraisal system and ensures that when an employee is posted overseas, the spouse is found a job or funded for study.

"However, we are doing a reasonable job so far and have put in good support mechanisms," he said.

"The US military has just adopted our (personnel) record keeping system and the ACT Government is coming to be briefed on our initiatives.

"The Italians are impressed with the hard work we are doing on integrating women into the ADF and the South Australian Correctional Service has requested information on our scheme."

Courtesy: Air Force News

**The serene side of academy life**

More than 300 officer cadets performing Tai Chi at 6 am on a military parade ground is not what you'd expect to see, but this is part of the new cadet training at the Australian Defence Force Academy, alongside traditional military training.

Commandant of the Academy, CDRE Brian Adams, said the introduction of Tai Chi was a first for ADFA and reflected its new approach to ADFA training.

"Tai Chi has been introduced to first year cadets in their initial five-week training program for its physical fitness and health benefits and for relaxation and stress management during a sometimes stressful settling-in period." CDRE Adams said.

"Adaptability is a trait required of all officers in the Defence Force in the 21st century as they are required to deal with a range of situations from disaster relief and peacekeeping to potential conflict.

"Tai Chi has been used as a vehicle to introduce officer cadets to more versatility.

"The officer cadets have found Tai Chi to be the thinking person's exercise and the classes have provided an opportunity for staff and cadets to learn a new discipline together."

The flexibility that is acquired through the stretching exercises has also assisted in halving the number of cadet injuries during the 1999 cadet induction and familiarisation training period.

After the initial five-week induction period, cadets can choose whether they wish to continue with Tai Chi and an extra-curricular club has been set up for that purpose.

Tai Chi is one of a number of widespread changes that have been introduced to Academy life, including training in equity and diversity, conflict resolution and negotiating skills.

Courtesy: Navy News

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**FORMER AND CURRENT RESERVISTS TO REMEMBER DECEASED COMRADES**

**RESERVE FORCES DAY, 1 JULY 1999**

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE TO BE HELD AT THE WAR MEMORIAL KINGS PARK**

Former and current Reservists of the Navy, Army and Air Force and Allied Forces will gather at the War Memorial Kings Park at 0650 Hrs on 1 July 1999 to remember their comrades (which include members of the Militia, the Citizen Military Forces and members of the Naval, Army and Air Force Reserves) who have given their lives in the defence of their country, either whilst on active service, during exercises, as a result of training accidents or who have passed away.

It is the dedication by our part time service men and women (the Reservists) in support of the full time defence force (the Regulars) which continues to maintain the defence of Australia.

This is an opportunity for former and current Reservists to gather together and think of those who have been prepared to serve our nation if the need arose.

For further information ring (08) 9366 8462.
Letters to the Editor

Suggestion for Requiem

While I don’t entirely agree with the comments by Gordon Reynolds (Letter Autumn 1999), I have “picked up the gauntlet”, as it were, and forward my alternative poem. Perhaps some reader of literary bent may be able to achieve the desired result from it.

Requiem for A Veteran

He/she heard the call and answered it, and though not one who died
In war, he/she served his/her country well, and then retired with pride.
In fav’rite homeland sites to dwell, 'til came his/her eventide.
And now we trust his/her soul to God, forever to abide.
Lest we forget.

ALEX ROSE
Mandurah Sub-Branch

I must agree with the views expressed in a letter The Ode in the Autumn issue. I do not think that The Ode is suitable for a grave side service.

Therefore, I submit what I trust you may consider to be a more appropriate graveside tribute. May I add this is entirely my own work; neither has it been taken from any other source nor previously published. In fact it was written only last night.

Like a bugle call this is the hour,
One last parade for you,
Your God has called come join me now,
Honest, steadfast and true,
Your country served your duty done,
In peace abide with me.

T.A. MILLS

Recently I had to say “goodbye” to my uncle (ex BCOF) of 80 years of age. I felt I could not say The Ode as is so I changed the words to suit the occasion and was warmly thanked for the poetic pattern of selective words as a simple but meaningful poem.

I would like to offer my version for discussion as per the suggestion in the last Listening Post.

Longevity to The Ode

Yes he joined the army (or Specific Service)
Yes he left these shores

To go overseas
And help to defend his country
Yes as one of the lucky ones
Returned to thankful longevity
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember him
Lest we forget

G.G. WORTH

Brigadier Sir William Hall

On Friday, 11 September last year I was privileged to attend Scots Church in Melbourne for the funeral of Brigadier Sir William Hall KBE DSO ED, who had been a National President of the RSL. In company with some 800 mourners was our current National President, Bruce Ruxton, who took part in the service.

I have searched subsequent editions of The Listening Post for an obituary notice, or at least a reference to his passing, but have not found one. If I am not mistaken in this omission, could you please make some reference to this sad event in the next edition.

F.H.S. SCRIVEN
Member, City of Perth Branch

Editor’s Note:

Sir William’s National Presidency (1974-1978) was distinguished by his effort to ensure the longevity of the RSL. He rejected a philosophy in the League at the time that it was best to let the League “die out with dignity”. He commented, “It is inconceivable in my mind that all those national qualities that the RSL has sought to uphold, all the great principles for which it has stood over the years, the initiatives it has taken in many community and national affairs and its whole contribution to life in Australia should be allowed to wither on the vine for lack of imagination.”

We regret the omission.

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

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

We reserve the right to edit and abbreviate.
2/23rd Australian Infantry Battalion

Thank you for placing our notice in the last Listening Post through which we hoped to find three members of our battalion after 50+ years... namely, Bill Butler, Charlie Attrill and Ernie Carter.

The response was great. Geraldton RSL wrote to say Charlie Attrill passed away five years ago and Ernie Carter telephoned me - what a surprise! I was particularly pleased to hear from him as he and I shared the same foxhole in Tarakan.

We may hear of Bill Butler yet.

DON TIBBITS OAM
President
2/23rd AIF Battalion Association

Standard Bearers Display Team

You may ask what a Standard Bearer is? Well to put it simply, he or she is a flag bearer who parades Unit and Kindred Association Emblems at official functions.

As a Standard Bearer of 15 years experience with the Royal British Legion and a full member of a display team who travelled nationally and Europe-wide with the team, I found that the team members are ambassadors of the RSL and we were accepted as such.

I have approached the RSL and have been given permission to form a Display Team which, when formed, will promote the name and function of the RSL to the public by performing set routines of drill and carrying the Standards at various venues, which would include schools, open days, fetes and the like.

The team will consist of 15 members and be available for RSL-approved functions. The cost of this will be approximately $4,800 which will pay for the Standards, slings, gauntlets and berets for the team. This is an initial cost and we hope to find a sponsor for running costs, i.e. travel to venues.

If any members of the League are interested in becoming a member of the team or are able to help in any way, please contact me at home on 9277 1992 or via ANZAC House.

W.C. (BILL) JOHNSTONE

Letter to Pat Rowland - Welfare Assistance

At our last meeting member John Gray told us of his experience when during a recent visit to Perth he and his wife Peggy, faced difficulties when they were unable to fly back to Exmouth because of the Cyclone.

When they sought help from the RSL, the response was gracious, swift and more than they could ever have hoped for. They told us how supportive you were even though they were strangers.

While we understand it is your role to assist veterans, it shows that you do that job in a way that people appreciate. And we are pleased to know that the RSL and its personnel will help in all manner of circumstances.

John and Peggy are very special people in our Sub-Branch, and we look forward to thanking you in person when next you visit Exmouth.

ROD WILLIAMS
Secretary, Exmouth Sub-Branch

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate the organisers of the marching parade at the ANZAC Day Dockers game. It was a different and moving experience. The simulation of smoke grenades, sounds of choppers and gunfire brought back memories of Vietnam.

The whole show was meaningful and moving and I'm sure all the Diggers who marched would agree. Well done and thank you.

GINO DE BARI
Cockburn Waters

Crime - Perception v Reality

Recent reports in the media highlighting "home invasions", robberies and assaults on elderly people have raised concern within our community. While it is the case that some seniors are victims of these crimes, the statistics show that people over 60 years are far less likely to be targeted than those under 60.

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<thead>
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<th>Offence</th>
<th>Under 60</th>
<th>Over 60</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>7852</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>34639</td>
<td>6378</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
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Anyone who is the target of a crime can take some sensible precautions to minimise personal harm. Remember that it is your safety that is most important, not money or property. You can get information about reducing the risks and crime prevention action by telephoning 131 444 or your local Crime Prevention Office.

Courtesy of Crime Prevention Bureau
WA Police Service
Can you help

**HMNAS Diamantina crew members**

Peter Nunan, researcher for the Queensland Maritime Museum, is investigating a ‘fishy’ story. On 12 July 1945 the ship’s crew landed a shark and after opening the unfortunate fish discovered feathers and a message from 42 Australian Landing Craft Company. It is said the message reached the addressee only days later.

If you can help with any information about the incident please contact:

**JACK PATTERSON** (PH: 9342 0142)

**World War II Photos**

One of our members, Stan Podd, found and has the originals of the enclosed photos which were left near a photocopier in Kelmeston about a month ago. They would be valuable to the owner and ‘Frankie’ (Jerusalem 1940) would, in all probability, be an RSL man.

**A.L. BACSKAI CD**
37 Cook Avenue, Hillarys, WA 6025
Phone: (08) 9401 0566 Fax: (08) 9307 4799

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**Australian Army Band Perth**

The Australian Army Band Perth is currently researching the history of Army bands located in Perth and would like to contact as many ex-bandsmen as possible preferably those who were involved with the Band during 1930 to 1950.

The Band was known also as the Western Command band, WA Headquarters Line of Communication Band, 5th Garrison Brigade Band, 10th Garrison Battalion Band and Northam Army Camp Band (1940s). There may be a link as far back as the 1890s.

We are especially interested in the date of formation, the various name changes, photos and memorabilia and other information.

Please contact **Sgt. Ashley Baker, AAB (P)**,
Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, WA 6010
Phone: (08) 9383 6474 Fax: (08) 9383 6550.

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**RAAF World War II**

Artist/Author Jim Turner would welcome eyewitness accounts (2 pages max.) of day to day life or action from RAAF aircrew or groundcrew who served in Korea during World War II - Malaya or Vietnam, especially those who served in smaller or specialised sqns/units. These stories, with biographies and photos, will be used in The RAAF at War Vol. II.

Please write to 960 Kurmond Road, North Richmond NSW 2754 or telephone: (02) 4570 7051.

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**29th Garrison Battalion**

I am seeking information on my old unit the 29th Garrison Battalion. Anyone with information can contact me at, 102 Upland Street, Wagin 6315.
W.L. CAMPBELL (W49906)

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**Imperial Camel Corps Brigade**

I am writing a book on the ANZAC Battalions of the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade during World War II. It will take the form of a Unit history and I hope finally to produce three volumes, one each on the three ANZAC Battalions of this Brigade. As you know there are no Unit Histories for the Camel Corps and this will fill a large gap in our Military History for that period.

As a retired soldier on a disability pension, I have the time to dedicate to this project in which the War Memorial had been a great help. My main concern is the lack of personal information, i.e. diaries and photos, so I hope some of your readers may have had a relative in the Camel Corps and may still have their diaries or photos of their service. I appreciate that most people are concerned about parting with treasured items of a loved one.

All diaries should be translated as I need only the translations not the originals, likewise the photos - if there are copies they will be suitable and all original photos sent will be copied and returned. All items will be acknowledged in the book.

Any help you can give will go a long way to bring into the public arena a frequently forgotten part of our history, which is often overlooked by writers on the campaigns in Egypt and Palestine.

**STEVE BECKER**
5/106 Broadway Street
Bassendean 6054

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**Shipping in North Queensland**

I am researching shipping in North Queensland waters during World War II. My interest includes arrival and departure date of ships that entered the ports of Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Lucinda, Cairns, Cooktown, Portland Roads and Thursday island.

My research has been mostly from primary sources and I have chronicled the majority of convoys and their Naval escorts up and down the Queensland coast and to and from New Guinea and Darwin, but there were many ships that sailed independently. My list of ships currently exceeds 1000 but regrettably I have been unable to uncover movement records for a good number of them.

I would like to hear from anyone who was crew or passenger on any vessel (no matter what size), which called at any of the above ports from 1941 to 1946.

Peter Nielsen, NQ WW2 Researcher
PO Box 665 Smithfield NQ 4878
Did you know

**Commonwealth War Graves Internet Site**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission released details of more than 1.7 million war dead on the Internet recently providing details of burial sites used in two world wars.

The commission established the Debt of Honour Register database, making it possible to identify exact resting places by cemetery plot or memorial panels where names are commemorated.

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Bruce Scott said this was an important part of Australia’s history, with 101,285 diggers killed in the two major conflicts of this century.

“More people are taking the trouble to find out about those who made the supreme sacrifice, and the Commonwealth War Graves Internet site, in conjunction with the French Department of the Somme Internet site, will provide easy access to information about them,” Mr Scott said.

The Debt of Honour Register can be located at [http://www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) and the French site is located at [http://www.amzac.org](http://www.amzac.org).

*Courtesy Army Newspaper*

**Splicing the Mainbrace**

The Royal Naval tradition of supplying RN ships’ companies at sea with a ration of rum was one of the longest, unbroken traditions of the sea, dating back to 1655.

In 1970 the ‘powers that be’ (but probably not their Lordships of the Admiralty) decided that the tradition was to end. On 1 August of that year an allowance was instituted, to be paid to all members of the lower deck in lieu of the ration. The pipe ‘up spirits’ was, I suppose, declared defunct!

The rum supplied came originally from the British Virgin Islands, although one may wonder whether the naming of the islands came before the production of the rum or afterwards.

Some time after the tradition was instituted, the rum was diluted with water before being issued, a practice attributed to Admiral Lord Grogram, and lead to the tot or ration being known as ‘grog’. This term is not unknown to Australian Service personnel, but covers any alcoholic beverage. In the RN the undiluted rum was called ‘Pusser’s rum’ - presumably because the ship’s Purser was the custodian of all such commodities aboard ship.

I experienced ‘pussers’ whilst in the British Army. It was issued to us during jungle operations in Malaysia where it can get cold at night! Also, whilst visiting HMS *Devonshire* (which my battalion, the 1st Seaforth Highlanders, had adopted whilst it was in Far Eastern waters), I was offered ‘sippers’ from a bottle of pusser’s rum which had been filled by hoarding the daily tot - an illegal practice, but a blind eye was turned. Another naval tradition I suspect made famous by Admiral Lord Nelson!

Should any Naval personnel wish to correct me on any of the above details, or offer me ‘sippers’, I would be pleased to hear from them.

TERRY GILL

**Eureka Stockade**

There was a link between the Eureka Stockade and the landing on Gallipoli. The feeble defence of the stockade melted before an attack by troops comprising the 40th Foot and a detachment of the 12th Foot. One of the officers of the 12th Battalion AIF was Captain J.P. Lalor, a grandson of Peter Lalor, the leader of the Eureka Stockade rebels. Captain Lalor, an officer of what is now the Staff Corps, was stationed in WA when war broke out in 1914. He was killed in action on the day of the landing.

EDITOR

**An American’s influence in the return of Vietnam war dead**

On 12 September 1965 a member of the Australian Army Training Team died from wounds received while accompanying an ARVN battalion on an operation in Quang Tin province. Warrant Officer 2 R.A. Scott, Royal Australian Infantry, became the second member of the Team to be killed by enemy action. His death set in motion a series of events, which resulted in the Australian Government reversing its longstanding policy of interring war dead only in cemeteries overseas.

Scott arrived in Vietnam on 16 March 1965, leaving his wife and two children in Sydney. He was attached to the advisory team of 3rd Battalion 6th Regiment 2nd ARVN Division based in Tam Ky, the capital of Quang Tin province. The team leader paired him with Master Sergeant Eugene Jordon, US Army. Scott and Jordon became firm friends, protecting and supporting each other on operations and sharing their moments of relaxation when the battalion was at rest. As with many unit advisers, each knew that the other would not quit the field of battle without his friend. The knowledge that one could rely totally on one’s partner was perhaps the greatest comfort an adviser had. Scott once confided to Jordon that if he were killed he would still be around as an escort. The subject was not mentioned again.

The operation on which Scott met his death was a routine search of a village four kilometres north of Tam Ky. There had been no resistance before a single erratic
Jordon tended to his friend until a helicopter skipped in the direction of the two advisors. One hit Scott in the head. Jordon tended to his friend until a helicopter arrived to evacuate him to the US Marine Corps Aid Station at Chu Lai where Scott died the same afternoon.

Mindful of his assurances to Scott, Jordon sought leave to accompany his friend’s body to Australia but found that Scott was to be buried in the British War Cemetery in Malaya. Jordon then approached an American general in Saigon on whose personal staff he had once worked and asked for an aircraft to transport Scott’s body home for burial, in accordance with the American practice, and for permission to accompany it. But although willing to make an aircraft available, the general was loath to oppose Australian policy so obviously.

Jordon then returned to 1 Corps where he began a collection among the American advisors of 2nd ARVN Division. When the advisers at Australia House, Da Nang, heard that the Americans were intending to pay for the return to Australia of one of their own who had been killed in action they immediately began their own collection. Accompanied by Master Sergeant Jordon, Warrant Officer Scott’s body was flown to Australia by Qantas on 19 September and was buried in the military section of Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, on 22 September. Jordon had refused to allow his own fare to be paid from the donations, insisting that any money left over be given to Scott’s widow.

In Australia ‘Tiny’ Jordon, tall, regular featured, and well spoken, was an excellent ambassador for his country. He was feted by the Returned Servicemen’s League and army units. At the same time, articles appeared in the Australian press observing that Americans and the Australians were having to pay for the return to Australia of diggers killed in action. In Da Nang, it was taken for granted by the Training Team that, the precedent having been set, they would return to Australia for burial any further adviser killed in action if the next-of-kin so desired. Rather than tempt fate by maintaining a fund for this purpose, they decided to collect the money only when needed. The need did arise two months later when Warrant Officer 2 K.A. Wheatley, who received the Victoria Cross posthumously, and Warrant Officer 2 R.J. Swanton were killed in action in Quang Ngai province. The Training Team arranged for their bodies to be flown to Australia.

Not long after, on 21 January 1966, the Australian Government announced that the bodies of servicemen who died overseas would be returned to Australia at public expense. It was a popular decision among the soldiers, many feeling that suffering in Australia during the Vietnam War was restricted to the close relatives and friends of the few who made the sacrifice. The return of their dead seemed a gesture the country could well afford.

The action of an American in fulfilling a promise to his friend resulted in the Australian Government reversing a long-held policy; it also demonstrated that Australians have no monopoly on mateship.

Extract from The Team by Ian McNeil
Courtesy Australian War Memorial

### The origin of the word ANZAC

At 6.25 am on 1 November 1914, a convoy of 36 ships sailed from Albany, WA, with an escort of three cruisers. The ships carried troops from Australia and New Zealand and were joined two days later by two transports carrying troops from South and Western Australia. The transports arrived at Port Said on 2 December 1914 and at Alexandria on the following day.

Lord Kitchener appointed Major General William R. Birdwood as Commander of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The Corps consisted of two infantry divisions and one mounted division. The mounted division was composed of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigades and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade. The infantry divisions were the 1st Australian Division and the New Zealand Division, consisting of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade and the New Zealand Infantry Brigade respectively.

Birdwood’s Headquarters were in the southern corridor of Shepherd’s Hotel in Cairo and stationery was addressed in cases marked ‘A and NZ Army Corps’. One day early in 1915 Major C.M. Wagstaff mentioned to the clerks in the General Staff office that a convenient word was wanted as a code for the Corps. According to most accounts, Lieutenant A.T. White, from the British Army Service Corps, who for a time was superintending clerk in the Corps Headquarters, suggested: ‘How about ‘ANZAC’?’ Major Wagstaff proposed the name to the General, who approved it, and ‘ANZAC’ thereupon became the code name of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Courtesy RDFWA, NSW Branch

The Listening Post Committee welcomes your contributions to its pages. However, all material has to go through an editorial process which means we have quite a long lead time. To give your material an even chance of making it on to these pages, please send items in as soon as possible, not just before the deadlines as advertised on page 1. Thank you!!

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TALLEST ON THE RIGHT
A Soldier’s Story
by Alan L. Pickford

All who have served in the defence forces — either at bases training “apprentices”, “recruits” or just the regular service bases — will identify with the situations, the occurrences and characters portrayed throughout this book. It does not matter what “service” or in what “country”, they all have an Alan Parker and other notable types who are remembered when the anecdotes and humorous escapades (that seem to accompany them all throughout their service careers) are discussed and re-lived.

This book is light-hearted and an easy read, and if it has started to rain just as you were about to do the gardening, sit down with this book and have a laugh until the sun comes out. Tallest on the Right is available direct from the author, Alan L. Pickford, 57A Evandale Street, Floreat, 6014. Phone: (H) 9387 2456, (W) 9366 5356. Price $12.95. Copies also available at ANZAC House.

GEOFF TANNER

WARRIOR OF KOKODA
by Bill Edgar

The respect still held for Brigadier Arnold Potts by those who served under him was shown when more than 70 World War II veterans from the 2/16th Battalion, together with current serving members of 16th Battalion, RWAR, formed a guard of honour for the arrival of the Governor of Western Australia at the launch of a book titled Warrior of Kokoda.

The book traces the life of Arnold Potts from his birth on the Isle of Man on 16 September 1896, his immigration to WA with his family in 1904, through his service in World War I at Gallipoli and France and World War II in the Middle East and Kokoda in New Guinea, ending with his death on New Year’s Day 1968.

Written by Bill Edgar, the book was launched by the Governor, Major General Michael Jeffrey, at the Headquarters of the 16th battalion, The Royal Western Australian Regiment in Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta. Warrior of Kokoda, the seventh book on Australian social history written by Bill Edgar, was inspired by his meeting with Brigadier Potts as a teenager. The archivist/curator at Hale School in Perth, Mr Edgar has a special interest in researching and recording Australia’s social history.

Although the book covers the life of Arnold Potts, it has concentrated on his time as commander of Maroubra Force, comprising the 21st Infantry Brigade (2/14th and 2/16th battalions), 39th Battalion and the 53rd Battalion, on the Kokoda Track in 1942.

Before becoming Commander of the 21st Infantry Brigade, Arnold Potts was Commanding Officer of the 2/16th Battalion and always held a “soft spot” for that Battalion.

Maroubra Force was outnumbered nearly eight to one by the Japanese on the Kokoda Track and was hard pressed with supply and support problems but still managed to bring the enemy to a standstill on the ridges overlooking Port Moresby in a valiant fighting withdrawal.

Much of the book concentrates on the controversy surrounding the removal of Potts as Commander of the 21st Brigade by General Sir Thomas Blamey for what he perceived as a failure by Potts on the Kokoda Track.

Published by Allen & Unwin, Warrior of Kokoda is priced at $30.

SERGEANT MICHAEL MINCHIN

A JUNGLE CIRCUS: MEMORIES OF VIETNAM
by Mike Towers

Some books by veterans offering a personal perspective on their tour of Vietnam have given credence to the saying “There is a book in everybody... and that is where it should stay.” Not this one.

Even the sensibly located glossary of military acronyms and soldier slang is required reading, not only for those unfamiliar with such terminology but for the revealing glimpse of dry humour that has sustained those in the ranks and probably will forever.

The book’s preface tells of the author’s 1990 meeting with a World War I veteran. A kindred spirit, the old man’s bitter reminiscences reveal to the author the truth of war. The memories don’t go away... the experience of combat is indelibly etched on the psyche and soul... and the participants forever live with the experience.

After being ‘press-ganged’ into the army in 1968 by way of the National Service ballot, Mike Towers drew some comfort from the assurances of the Government and Military that only volunteers were being sent to Vietnam. Despite actively not volunteering during recruit and corps training, Towers soon found himself stepping out of a Wallaby Airlines Caribou into the dust and heat of Nui Dat. The reluctant conscript was now an Infantry rifleman at the ‘pointy end’ of the war.
In the following chapters Towers details the life of a 'grunt' on operations. His accurate and colorful depictions of the landscape, the discomfort, the fear, the noise, the personalities, the mistakes and the minutiae of soldiering in Vietnam will be instantly familiar to those who shared the experience.

The comradeship, trust and level of support from his mates experienced at section, platoon and battalion level while on active service contrasts harshly with the treatment the author received on his return to Australia.

A Jungle Circus - Mike Towers' memories of his time in Vietnam serving with B Company 4 RAR - is recommended reading. His book is complemented by an earlier publication. Delta Four by Gary McKay, a platoon commander in the same battalion. Both books should be required reading for today's combat soldiers. A Jungle Circus is published by Allen & Unwin, RRP is $19.95.

CHRIS BROOKS

WE WERE THE FIRST
The Unit History of No. 1 Independent Company
by Alexander “Sandy” McNab

The First Independent Company, on the intervention and insistence of Prime Minister Robert Menzies, was to be formed on the style of the British Commando Companies. The British had observed the attacking qualities of the Australian soldier in the Middle East, and advised the Australian Military that the formation of this type of specially trained Unit was a necessity. The Australian Military authorities resented the proposal but, having been over-rulled by the Prime Minister, went ahead and formed No. 1 Independent Company.

The Company was brought together, and underwent training at the then remote and rugged Wilsons Promontory in Victoria. After completing their training they were sent to Kavieng on New Ireland. When the Japanese invasion occurred they were overrun: the majority were captured and made POWs. More tragedy was to overtake the POWs when 130 of their number lost their lives after the prison ship Montevideo Maru was sunk by an American submarine.

This history of the First Independent Company details the determination of the men who proudly wore the 'double green diamond' and who battled exhaustion, hardship and conditions at times too harsh to fully describe. It is a history of young inadequately trained Australian troops, with little or no battle experience who were sent against a force that was superior in number. But despite this they still upheld the fighting spirit and proud tradition of Australians at war.

We were the First is thoroughly recommended to the former members of No.1 Independent Company, their families and friends and to those interested in Australian war history. In many cases throughout this book, the "real truth" is revealed. The book is available by mail from Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus, 2232, NSW. Price $45.00 including postage.

GEOFF TANNER

FOUR ACES
Four RAAF Aircrew Aces of World War II
by Lex McAulay

Although Four Aces describes the flying careers of four Royal Australian Air Force Aircrew, it is a tribute to all RAAF Aircrew who served with distinction in the war against the enemy in the air.

Of the Four Aces, Nicky Barr, “The P40 Ace” and the only one to survive the war, flew P40 Tomahawks and Kittyhawks with 3 Squadron RAAF in the desert campaigns 1941-42.

Hugo Armstrong, “The Spitfire Ace”, flew the Spitfire in many successful operational sorties over occupied France. Hugo was a member of the first course of trainees to go through the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) program.

Peter Panitz and Dickie Williams formed the “Mosquito Crew Aces.” Flying Mosquito Aircraft with Peter Panitz as Pilot and Dickie Williams as Navigator, the pair carried out many successful flights by flying intruder operations hunting trains, aircraft and ground targets, at low level at night in occupied France. They then led 464 Squadron RAAF after the D Day invasion in low level night strikes in the Normandy battle area.

This book is dedicated to all RAAF personnel who served Australia with pride, courage and distinction during World War II. Four Aces is published with hard-cover and dustjacket by Banner Books, 122 Walker Street, Maryborough, QLD 4650. Available from leading bookshops, it is priced at A$35, post free in Australia.

GEOFF TANNER

ALL IN MY STRIDE
John Gilmour’s Story
by Richard Harris

All In My Stride tells of John Gilmour’s early days living in a group settlement in the south west of Western Australia, the struggle for survival during the Great Depression, enlistment in the Army as a fit young man and his coming to terms with major damage to his eyesight through malnutrition in Changi gaol. Worse was to come - nightmare years as a slave labourer in Japan. Gilmour was a 2/4th machine gunner.

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On his subsequent return to Japan as a world champion veteran athlete, he received the respect of his rivals and honours from authorities.

Richard Harris wrote Gilmour’s story as a message of hope to people of all ages everywhere - to have a vision, to keep going and to take setbacks in one’s stride. It is more than a book about running. It is about the strength of the human spirit when adversity is shared, the support provided by friends, how a little bit of hope will take you a long way and of how small acts of kindness from strangers can be of value beyond measure.

John Gilmour’s story is an inspiration to all. The book is published by Hesperian Press, PO Box 317, Victoria Park, 6979, 65 Oats Street, Carlisle. Price is $20 plus $3.50 postage.

GEOFFTANNER

A Handful of Hacks
by Peter Sekuless

Peter Sekuless wrote this book because of the lack of existing material on the greats of Australian journalism, in particular those who first found fame as war correspondents.

A Handful of Hacks is a collection of accessible biographies of seven of Australia’s most famous World War II correspondents. It tells the stories of some of the towering giants of that journalism: Wilfred Burchett, Richard Hughes, George Johnson, Alan Moorehead, Kenneth Slessor and Chester Willmont. Most importantly it draws attention to the contribution made by women to war correspondence through the life and work of Lorraine Stumm.

Peter Sekuless describes how the effects of World War II pervaded not only the work, but also the lives of these seven “hacks” both during and after the war. These journalists made Tobruk and Kokoda household names and contributed significantly to bringing the news of the war not only to Australia but also to the world. Another scored one of the great scoops of the century when he became the first journalist to report from the bombed city of Hiroshima.

Of interest to general readers, particularly enthusiasts of biographies and military history, the book is published by Allen and Unwin, PO Box 8500, 9 Atchinson Street, St. Leonards, NSW 2064. Recommended price A$19.95, it is available from the publisher or leading bookshops.

GEOFFTANNER

BRAVERY ABOVE BLUNDER
The 9th Australian Division at Finschhafen, Sattelberg and Sio
By John Coates

Using interviews with veterans and Australian, American and Japanese records, Lieutenant-General John Coates provides a vivid and much needed account of the famous 9th Division’s counter-offensive against the Japanese in northern New Guinea in 1943-44. The bravery of the troops is counterpoised with blunder by senior commanders. General Douglas MacArthur and his staff, remote from the theatre of war, underestimated Japanese strength in the area and failed to provide reinforcements when their error became obvious. Although dogged by inadequate doctrine, training and equipment, the troops rapidly mastered jungle warfare and fought magnificently.

Bravery Above Blunder: The 9th Division at Finschhafen, Sattelberg and Sio moves with drama and momentum from the highest level of strategy and decision-making to the heroic private soldier on patrol. Although the 9th Australian Division has already been recognised for its efforts sin the North African desert at Tobruk and El Alamein, the troops have received scant recognition for their commitment and sacrifice in this counter-offensive. The book seeks to give credit to one of Australia’s most famous divisions in one of its least known but most demanding campaigns.

Bravery Above Blunder, published by Oxford Press, is available from bookshops at RRP of $45.
OUR VOLUNTEERS AT ANZAC HOUSE

SERVICES JOBLINK

This article focuses on Services Joblink, currently based at ANZAC House. Although separate from the RSL, we like to call them 'our' volunteers because of the close co-operation that exists with ANZAC House staff.

Services Joblink's main charter is to provide support for members of the armed services who are seeking to move into civilian employment after completing their term of enlistment, to provide support for service personnel seeking assistance in making applications for service and disability pensions, and to assist in the administration of 'Cypress Cottage' in conjunction with our Welfare Officer, Mrs Patricia Rowland OAM JP, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Services Joblink is administered by a committee headed by Mr Doug Rasmussen, with Mr Ross O'Connor as his Deputy, Mr Clive Mayo CPA BeC, Treasurer, and Mr Greg Young, Secretary. The Committee Executive is ably assisted by 10 members, all volunteers, with Margaret Krupa as Office Co-ordinator and Appointment Secretary.

Committee members are Max Ball, Denis Connelly, Terry Fagin, Brian Hammond, Terry Hills, Ken Holland, Charles Lammers, Merv Wilson and Neil McCullock, with assistance from Debbie Hill (DVA) and Patricia Rowland OAM JP (Welfare Officer RSL).

The Services Joblink is very active, meets once a month at ANZAC House and enjoys the support of WADOT (WA Department of Training).

This committee has a very strong link with senior defence personnel in WA so that current employment trends can be addressed and every assistance can be given to retiring service personnel, thus making the transition from service life to civilian employment beneficial and less traumatic for ex-service personnel and their families.

The following personnel have been trained to DVA criteria to provide pension assistance in a volunteer capacity: Doug Rasmussen, Ross O'Connor, Greg Young, Kevin Kirkup, Merv Wilson and Hilton Devereux. Also the WA Department of Training is providing funding to employ a part-time Employment Officer (Mal Durbin) and a full time Officer Manager (Margaret Krupa).

If the Services Joblink Unit can assist you or your family or your mates, please ring Margaret on 9221 7090 or 9221 7010 for an appointment to discuss your problem.

DENIS CONNELLY CD
The Bush Wireless
by Margot Harness, Advocate to VRB, War Compensation Office, VVTEAS Enquiries

It was very heartening to receive a number of calls from veterans asking to be sent one-or-other of the dreaded “SoPs” after our last issue - which confirmed that people are reading this column on DVA/Disability pension matters. As your Advocate, I will endeavor to continue “getting-the-word-out,” as and when changes take place, and using this column to try to inform our readers about topics of general pension interest.

A quick up-date on SoPs

To briefly reiterate, the first and most important thing to know is that since 1 July 1994, the DVA has gauged claims for disability entitlements against Statements of Principles (known in the trade as “SoPs”). These individual “Statements” for virtually all types of injury, disease and disabling conditions (except rarer forms of disease), outline clearly the circumstances that must exist before the DVA will accept that a veteran’s illness/disability is due to his service. They also set the legal “standard of proof”: a “reasonable hypothesis” for men who have had “active service”; or “on the balance of probabilities” for veterans without active service (eg: World War II men who remained in Australia - NOT serving in Darwin during the period of bombing, and peace-time service-people 1972-94) for whom it is much harder.

If a person shows he/she can comply, or “meet” the causative “factors” for a disability, as they are listed on the relevant SoP - the claim will probably succeed. If he/she cannot, the claim will fail (even at Appeal).

Note: Several veterans have rung in, worried that they might have to show they can meet a SoP, when they are only after an Increase for Disability ALREADY accepted. Be reassured - this is not the case. Once you have had a condition/disability accepted as war-caused, the SoPs shouldn’t have anything further to do with the matter.

Emphysema/Chronic Bronchitis - what this SoP has to say

The SoP I will focus on now is that for “Emphysema/Chronic Bronchitis” as lung troubles are widespread among smokers, in particular - and many of our World War II veterans had/have war-related smoking habits.

Whilst other “causative factors” are listed (eg: “exposure to airborne irritants, which caused acute respiratory symptoms within 48 hours after exposure... “being exposed to mustard gas/Lewisite within the 10 years before clinical onset... etc”, most veterans claim for the condition due to war-related smoking. You would need to take it to your doctor, as it distinguishes between “chronic simple, chronic mucopurulent or asthmatic bronchitis” (which apparently features nil or minimal pulmonary obstruction, which is characterised by mucoid sputum production) and a second type: “chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema”.

Both involve smoking at least 10 “pack-years” of cigarettes (or tobacco equivalents). If smoking has ceased, only the chronic simple bronchitis states a requirement that clinical onset be within one year of cessation.

For the other type, 10 pack-years of smoking is considered to be implicated, whether one has given it up or maintained the habit (indicative of what a harmful drug nicotine is to the respiratory system).

Note: As I explained in the last issue, a “pack year” is a pack of 20 tailor-mades per day, every day of the year (7,300 cigarettes per year). Compare this to a man who smoked 40 a day for 10 years, which actually totals 20 “pack-years”. If he only smoked 9-10 a day between 1943 and 1953, he would be considered to have smoked only 5 pack-years. (Confusing isn’t it?)

There is NO clause in this SoP to allow for wartime passive smoking. (No Australian has ever spent 10 years at war, you see. Thank God!)

Next issue I will discuss Solar Skin Damage (of concern to many veterans as it is so common in our part of the world) and hope to also touch on the time-frames allowed in which to appeal against DVA Decisions.

Remember: If you are considering claiming for a condition, ring and ask me to post the relevant SoP out to you. (Make sure your GP has advised you of the medical diagnosis for it, as SoPs are listed under their official, medical name eg: “Lumbar spondylitis” - not “sore lower back”). If I am unavailable, leave your name, address, phone number and SoP you require with the office staff, and I will be happy to send it out.

MARGOT HARNESS
War Compensation Officer
New Co-sponsor

Simplicity Funerals stepped into the breach as co-sponsor for the bowls tournament at North Beach when the previous sponsor defected. Co-sponsored by the North Beach Sub-Branch it was deemed appropriate that a North Beach team should win even if only by .03 of a shot!

With Ron Almond leading, Alan Hornby second, Garth Davis third and skipped by Max Plester, they had two fairly easy wins. However, Ray Ridley’s Osborne Park team finished their two games with the same score. It was up to the calculator to decide the winner - North Beach. Max O’Loughlin, Bill Clarke and Ian Gardner made up Ray Ridley’s team. Committee man Wally Evans and three Kalamunda bowlers were third. Round prizes went to Gordon Becker and Gordon Hugo.

The sponsorship by Simplicity Funerals is appreciated, but no one seemed in a hurry to sample the sponsor’s product. They will eventually!

Twenty-six teams contested the annual Cliff Sadlier VC mixed fours sponsored jointly by the Osborne Park Bowling Club and the Osborne Park Sub-Branch.

North beach again provided the winning team: Ron and June Almond and Garth and Porn Davis. They beat a local team of Doug and Phil Lind with Ted and June O’Grady. Third was Stan and Nell Evill, Ritchie Walker and Lorna Cassidy. Round winners were Dusty Rhodes’ team and Max O’Loughlin’s team.

The RSL Champ triples, sponsored by the Scarborough Sub-Branch and played at Doubleview, attracted 28 teams.

Tup Sarre skipped the winning team of Dave Lyle and Tony Horner. Noel Laird, Max O’Loughlin and Bill Clarke were second, George Smith, Chris Pickering and Dave Clark were third. Round prizes went to teams skipped by Max Plester, Alan Tucker and Eddie Hammond.

MAX PLESTER, PRO

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_
BEAUMARIS BEACH

Friday 30 April saw eight members of the Beaumaris beach Sub-Branch leave Perth and head to Geraldton to board the game fishing boat Winora anchored at the Yacht Club. By 5.00 am next day we were well on our way to make a serious dent in the fish population around the Abrolhos Islands and beyond. The trip out was smooth and it was no effort to have the game boat coasting at 28 knots. When we arrived at Rat Island some two and a half hours later, four lines went out and trawling had commenced. The next 30 minutes or so produced some beautiful coral trout; however, as we were out for a couple of days, we released our catch, as fish conservation is very important.

Mid-morning saw some bottom fishing in deep water out toward the shelf and we soon found ourselves catching more fish than we thought possible: again much was released. After a couple of hours we cruised back to the “Rat” trawling on the way, a skirted lure produced a sailfish that gave a great display for a short while before breaking off. Phil Simpson soon landed a Spanish Mackerel weighing in at 26kg. As luck would have it this was pulled in around lunchtime and our Sub-Branch chef, Harley Bradstreet, saw a golden opportunity to make an unforgettable meal. More trawling continued with Derek “the Mullet” Miller landing the first of many, and possibly the biggest, yellowfin tuna caught on the weekend. Weighing in at 23kg, it put up quite a fight prior to becoming Sushimi.

That evening we anchored in a crystal-clear bay in glass calm conditions and enjoyed a golden sunset with ice cold beer and food fit for a king, whilst some of the diehards including myself baitcast well into the night.

At first light the next day we were again in our element, hooking into a variety of fish, all of good size and enough to fill Winora’s freezer. The warm weather, blue skies and glass calm conditions saw Tony, Phil, Derek and Bill Murphy don diving gear and explore some of the best coral reefs to be seen. The fish were so close they could be hand-fed - which wasn’t done. After a couple of hours we put our kit back on the boat and headed to the snapper fields north of Geraldton.

Again more fish were caught, and in the last hour or so of fishing Alf Downes landed our first Dhuie which weighed in at 23.5kg with a further catch going to Deckie Matt. Around 5.00 pm Sunday we were all tired and sunburnt, but certainly not fished out.

After mooring at the Geraldton Yacht Club, we packed our gear on the bus: the weekend had felt like a week’s holiday and all had a great time. It certainly won’t be the last fishing trip planned by our Sub-Branch. In fact, we are re-booking the Winora for next year but for a longer time. In the meantime, we are talking about salmon fishing down south and fishing later in the year around the top end.

Any sort of activity which brings members of the League closer together should be encouraged. It’s not only good for health and peace of mind, it shows new members as well as the old we do have a lot to offer.

Information on the Winora can be found on the net on: www.winora.com and many thanks to the War Veterans’ Home for the use of its bus.

TONY KENT
President

BUSSELTON

ANZAC Day Commemoration Services were attended by record numbers. Seventy members and about 300 of the general public were at the Dawn Service. The parade was led by the Busselton Naval Cadets, participating for the first time. Supporting them were the DEMS Gunners who, to the best of our knowledge, marched for the first time as a unit in Australia, outside a capital city.

Parade numbers consisted of about 130 members, Navy and Army Cadets and a Police contingent, marching for the first time for some years. The Fire Brigade and community and youth organisations made a total of some 400. The overall attendance was in the vicinity of 2000. The President of the local Sub-Branch gave the main address and the reviewing officer was Sdq-Ldr Rolley Thompsett, RAAF; a serving officer and former Busselton resident.

Refurbishment of the RSL Hall was completed in time for ANZAC Day thanks to the efforts of a few hard working members. Our membership continues to grow and now stands at 210. Visiting members are welcome to our meeting nights on the fourth Tuesday of each month and fellowship nights are on the fourth Friday of each month.

SECRETARY

CANNING DISTRICTS AND VICTORIA PARK

The Sub-Branch suffered a huge loss with our Manager/ Treasurer Phil leaving to take employment at Kenwick Sports Club. He did an excellent job for us during the building up process. Welcome to our replacements - Ruby as Manager and Neil as handyman.
Congratulations to President Bill Day and his wife Adelaide (Ladies Auxiliary President), who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 14 May. Kapyong Day organised by Reg Band, was most successful with Major Jack Girk in attendance; visitors included George Lawrence from NSW, Kerry Smith, Secretary/Treasurer of the Rockhampton KSEAV-Association and members of the Air Despatch Service from the Eastern States. ANZAC Day saw good attendance at the March and the Service which included many young children. Thanks to President Bill and others, including Reg Bandy and Bill Danaher, who gave their time to talk to children at nearby schools in the area on the significance of ANZAC Day. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary on their magnificent work over the weekend, as well as to Doug, Wendy, Ruby and Neil.

The Old Diggers’ Club meets each Wednesday at noon at 162 Wharf Street, Cannington. Please come along and join us. The Merrymakers Day Club meets each Monday at 10am and we are looking forward to our Christmas-in-July dinner.

Don’t forget your club has meals on Friday at 6.30pm and anyone interested in helping is asked to contact the Ladies Auxiliary.

Sadly we lost three members of the club recently... Bert Squire, Barbara Pratt and Doug Proctor who will be much missed.

WENDY SCHWAB, PRO

COCKBURN

ANZAC Day was a tremendous success. The 270 marchers included a large number of cadets, scouts and guides. The Bibra Lake scouts commenced their ANZAC Day weekend on the Saturday morning when the RSL took part in a presentation of the history of ANZAC Day.

The luncheon was enjoyed by all, thanks to the willing workers who assisted. The wintertime cabaret is on Saturday 26 June and will include an Aussie spit roast dinner and music by Ray T and his band. The hall has been declared “smoke free” with smoking permitted in the breezeway and bar area only.

The proposed move to Hamilton Hill has been rejected by the majority of members. Council had not given us a draft lease agreement for the hall, and we would have to spend more money on building plans before we could seek financial grants for the proposed new building.

Our Friday night activities are going well, so why not come along (from 1600 hours) and enjoy the friendly company with a sausage sizzle, raffles and bingo.

ARTHUR J. STANTON, PRO

GERALDTON CITY

A dedicated Management Committee member for two years, Charlie Britt was unanimously elected President at the AGM. Dennis Moss was elected to the important position of Membership Officer. Sitting members were re-elected and Graeme Perham is the new Treasurer, succeeding John Spendlove who had been the moneyman since 1985.

The Management Committee consists of Frank Sharp, Lester Mills, Pam Burgess and Derek Andrews with new faces Ben Cunningham, Ron Troughton, Christina Ross and Ron Gammie.

Highlights of this year’s general meeting included the presentation of a League Life Membership certificate to Frank Sharp and the unveiling of a handsome nameplate for the K & G Memorabilia Room honouring the outstanding efforts of Kevin Grey and Graeme Perham. We received a $5,000 cheque from the City of Geraldton towards improvements to Birdwood House and a welcome to five new members; Police Superintendent Allan Gronow, Ron Gammie, Major David Hoare, Ron Bentley and Christina Ross.

A Gidgegannup couple, Mr and Mrs Charles Smith, have been commissioned by Geraldton Rotary Club to design the proposed Memorial on Mount Scott to honour the loss of HMAS Sydney and its personnel in November 1941. This has resulted in bronze castings of soldiers, about three times life-size, for the Army Memorial in ANZAC Parade, Canberra.

ANZAC Day’s dawn parade attracted probably the best-attended early service for 43 years. The Last Post and Rouse were played by Les Sivwright using the bugle of Sgt Roy Thompson of C Company 11th Battalion who lost his life at Gallipoli.

Proudly wearing his World War II medals and those of his late father was Bill Read of the RSL Village. His father, 1402 Sgt George Read, landed at Gallipoli and served on the Western Front, winning the Military Medal in Belgium in September 1918.

An estimated 2,500 attended the main service after the march, the salute being taken by Police Superintendent Allan Gronow. The march was led by mounted horsemen Owen Fitzpatrick, of the 10th Light Horse Regiment World War II, and Terry Obst, followed by the City Band and a large number of Service and community groups. Vintage vehicles transported some of the 150 veterans. The Last Post and Rouse were played by bandmaster Peter O’Dea also on Sgt Thompson’s bugle and RSL President Charlie Britt recited The Ode. The Head Boy and Girl from Geraldton Secondary College, Ryan Fletcher and Popsy Ilhanimo, were heartily congratulated on their ANZAC Day addresses.

PETER BARDEN, PRO
MANDURAH

Between 600 and 700 people attended our Dawn Service and about 5,500 were at the main ANZAC Day service. The Officer of the Day was Commander McLaren from HMAS Stirling. Members had previously addressed six local schools when they held their ANZAC services.

The Sub-Branch and the Women’s Auxiliary celebrated their 60th birthdays with a luncheon at the Silver Sands Hotel on May 29.

WYN HOLDING, PRO

NOLLAMARÁ-NORTH PERTH

Our ANZAC Day march and ceremony on 18 April was a great success. The march was led by the WA Navy Band and midway in the column by the TS Marmion Drum Corps. Cadets were represented by the Army (No. 51 Cadet Unit, Girrawheen), Air Training Corps (No.2 Flight, Wanneroo) and Navy (TS Marmion). Thanks are extended to the police escort from Mirrabooka Police Headquarters and Brian O’Reilly for the Red Cross Ambulance.

Wreaths were laid by: Keith Boxshall, President, Sub-Branch; Vera Lewis, President, Women’s Auxiliary; Paul Pescud, Treasurer, Vietnam Veterans’ Motor Cycle Club; Jann McFarlane, Federal MP for Stirling; John Kobelke, State MLA for Nollamara; June Copley, Balga Ward Councillor; Jim Dalton, Deputy Commissioner of the Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs; John Brigden (RSL State Executive) and Graham Armstrong, Patron, Toyota Galleria.

Thank you to the Navy Band for entertainment and the Women’s Auxiliary for catering at the afternoon’s festivities.

On Friday, 23 April President Keith Boxshall and Committee men Ken Hawke, Graham Worth and Ross Jones attended ceremonies at Camboon, Marangaroo, West Morley, Girrawheen and John Septimus Roe Anglican Community schools; the attention of the pupils was outstanding.

A single wreath was laid at the Dawn Service on Sunday morning after a touching poem by Carol Randall and the bugle calls by Graham Worth. Ken Hawke gave The Ode to a gathering of more than 150 people who appreciated the simple ceremony.

ROSCO JONES, PRO

NORTH BEACH

On April 1 Wally Somers, our immediate past president passed away. He had been a hard working and long serving member of the Sub-Branch. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

ANZAC Day was commemorated with another bumper crowd. Fifteen cadets, under the command of Capt Peter de Masson, marched with ex-service personnel and were given a warm welcome. Carine High School, where the cadet unit is based, also supplied the buglers while pupils from local schools laid wreaths along with members of the public.

President Bill Hepton addressed the North Beach pupils and Geoff Pope the Marmion students at their school services.

MAX PLESTER
PRO

RIVERVALE-CARLISLE

The Open Day for our 50th anniversary was a huge success. About 90 were at lunch, more than 100 at afternoon tea and 40 stayed for the evening meal. We were pleased to welcome State President Lt Col K.J. Bladen who presented the 50th Anniversary Plaque accepted on behalf of the Sub-Branch by President Len. He also presented Eric Smith with his well-deserved Life Membership Certificate.

The Youth Assistance Program has donated $300 to assist a young calisthenics team to go to Sweden in July. Our Women’s Auxiliary ran a raffle with proceeds to the RSL Exmouth and Moora. At our general meeting, it was decided to donate $500 to the Amelioration Funds of each of the two Sub-Branches.

The joint pre-ANZAC Day Service with Belmont Sub-Branch went off well, although sadly was a diminished number of members on parade. Our members and visitors adjourned to the hall for refreshments after the parade.

The tennis courts are becoming popular but more use can be made of them. We’ll be happy to welcome other clubs as Social Club members or Affiliates, if qualified.

Welcome is extended to new member Alan Weston, ex-Korea veteran, and I regret to advise the passing of our late member Norm Sukroo.

TOM GRIFFITH
Secretary

PHOTOGRAPHS

Sub-Branch contributors are encouraged to send photographs with their stories. However, we receive a lot of photographs we cannot use because of poor focus or lack of contrast. Even some of the photos we do use are not sufficiently clear to give a good result. Make sure your are close to your subjects, and that they do not have shadows over their faces. EDITOR
Former crew members of the above corvette are invited to a reunion in the City of Dubbo, NSW, on Trafalgar Day, Thursday 21 October 1999. Would anyone interested in attending who has not already been in touch, please contact (WA) Warren Green 9364 8883 or (SA) John Rischbieth (08) 8344 7797 immediately to enable a program to be arranged.

3RAR 1971 Tour Reunion

The members of 3RAR 1971 tour of South Vietnam are holding a reunion in Adelaide to commemorate the 30th anniversary of that tour of duty and to coincide with Kapyong/ANZAC Day in 2001. For further information please contact your company representative ASAP.

A Coy  Mike English  08 8325 0450
B Coy  Don Hannaford  02 4573 2025
C Coy  Tony Cox  02 4261 1664
D Coy  Murray Crittenden  08 8235 0017
Sp Coy  Geoff Campbell  08 8297 2362
Admin Coy  Bob Davis  08 8382 4275
Bn HQ  Peter Scott  08 8323 8083

BOB LEWIS
Acting Secretary
3RAR Reunion Committee

104 Sigs Reunion - 30 years on

If you served in Vietnam and would like further information about a planned reunion on the Gold Coast in April 2001, please forward a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

104 Reunion
13 Urangan Court, Helensvale QLD 4212
Phone (07) 5529 8112

Queen’s Guard of Honour Reunion

On 26 March, 25 years after providing the first Honour Guard in Australia for a visiting reigning monarch, Guard Commander Capt. Don Piper and a few of the original 40-strong guard held a reunion at ANZAC House.

The 1974 Guard of Honour was manned by regular soldiers from 17 NS Training Battalion and 22 Construction Squadron.

Detailed preparation for the Royal visit included instructions to confine the guard to barracks the night before the event to ensure the troops were in a fit condition the next day. Initiative was shown and a couple of lads ‘escaped’ and returned from Swanbourne with refreshments. However the Honour Guard performed their duties on the day in an exemplary manner and with great skill and precision. Well done Gentlemen.

CHRIS BROOKS

RSL Women’s Auxiliary President’s Report

The request for funds for the Moora floods and the Exmouth cyclone victims has been a great success. Donations started within days of the letter being received by Auxiliaries. The money has been sent to the Sub-Branches concerned and will be distributed to all ex-service-men and their families. Our grateful thanks to all Auxiliaries who have been so generous.

The Presidents and Secretaries’ meeting held in April, whilst not well attended, proved very interesting and much discussion took place on many subjects. Hopefully all those members who attended learnt something of interest.

I have received many invitations from Auxiliaries, Sub-Branches and Kindred Associations since my last report and I sincerely thank you all.

I attended an ANZAC Day Remembrance Service in St. George’s Cathedral on April 24 and the ANZAC Day march in Perth. It is very pleasing to see more and more young people taking part in the march and also watching with their families. Good luck to all and God bless.

MARGARET FISHER
# New Members

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

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We welcome you all and trust that you will enjoy the fellowship at your Sub-Branch and benefit from membership of the RSL in Western Australia.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

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

AIRCREW ASSOCIATION
President: George Oliver, 2 Ainslie Crt, Kardinya 6163; Ph: 9337 7163. Correspondence to Secretary: Basil Loftus, 81/177 Dampier Ave, Kallaroo 6025; Ph: 9402 0962. Meetings: bi-monthly as arranged.

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

ALLIED MERCHANT SEAMEN ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Maurice O’Rourke, 1A Dundee Ct, Duncraig; Ph: 9349 6529. Meetings: 11am 2nd Tues in Feb, June, Aug and Oct (AGM Aug), Belmont RSL Hall, Leake St.

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

ASSOCIATION OF WREN'S BRANCH
President: Audrey Mantle, 30 Mabena Place, Ocean Reef 6027; Ph: 9300 4749. Correspondence to Secretary: Eunice Thompson, 36 Eden Drive, Bullbrook, 6084; Ph: 9571 2807. Meetings: 10.30am 4th Thurs monthly, ANZAC House.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VETERAN (WA BRANCH)
President: Bob Smith, 14 Dundee Ct, Duncraig; Ph: 9448 5023. Correspondence to Secretary: Barry Long, 6 Hazelton Crt, Two Rocks 6035; Ph: 9561 1741. Meetings: after ANZAC Day, AGM (mid-June), birthday (end July), others in quarterly newsletters.

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

AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSOC (WA) INC
President: Neil Chaplin, Ph: 9302 1338 (w) 9307 8460 (h). Secretary: Terry Crossley, PO Box 962, Morley 6943; Ph: 9271 1955 (w) 0417 916 243 (mob). Correspondence to: PO Box 1724, Wangara 6065.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
President: Lionel Hutchings Ph 9309 9675. Correspondence to Secretary: Vera Hutchings, 17 St Johns Crt, Kingsley 6026. Meetings: 2nd Mon monthly, Aranmore Hall, Leederville; Fremantle 1.30pm 2nd Tuesday bi-monthly, Navy Club Fremantle. State Council Meetings 3rd Thurs bi-monthly at 13th Brigade Headquarters, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOC WA BRANCH (INC)
President: Bob Nugent; Ph: 93099491. Secretary: Bruce Wallis; Ph: 9384 1933 (w), 9387 6768 (h). Correspondence to The House No 6 Battery Rd, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne 6010. Meetings: 6pm 3rd Tues monthly, The House (as above); AGM August.

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

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOC WA (INC)
President: Kath Barnes; Correspondence to: Joy Tunfem, 1A Swan Rd, Attadale 6156; Ph: 9330 3945; Treasurer: Ruth Franklin, 126B Basinghall St, East Vic Park 6101; Ph: 9361 5157. Meetings: 10am 1st Thurs Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec at 10am, Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House. AGM 1st Thurs. Feb.

BCOF ASSOC OF PERTH WA
President: Joy Whiting, 15 Turo Cl., Willeton 6155; Ph: 9457 0368. Correspondence to Secretary: MJ Buckley, 12 Croydon Ave, Yokine 6060; Ph: 9349 6529. Meetings: 14.30pm 2nd Tues in Feb, June, Aug and Oct (AGM Aug), Red Cross House, 110 Goderich St., East Perth.

BLINDED SOLDIERS OF ST DUNSTANS WA
President: WA Walters, Retirement Village, 3rd Ave, Mandurah; Ph: 9535 3602. Correspondence to Secretary: Mrs P Dean, 31 Lamond St, Melville 6156; Ph: 9330 5458. Meetings: 1.30pm 2nd Tues in Feb, June, Aug and Oct (AGM Aug), Belmont RSL Hall, Leake St.

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

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA POLICE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)
Chairman: Richard Hamley, 18 Arreton Close, Willeton; Ph: 9457 6970. Secretary: John Seward, 9/71 Epsom Ave, Redcliffe; Ph: 9277 3396.

CATALINA CLUB OF WA
President: David Rubery, 70 Fifth Avenue, Shoalwater 6168; Ph: 9528 4697. Secretary: Harvey Hodgkiss, 66 Cawston Road, Attadale 6156; Ph: 9330 4222. Correspondence to: PO Box 866, Canning Bridge 6153. Meetings: 10.45am 2nd Thurs in March, June (AGM), September, December at ANZAC House.

DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: LCol (Ret’d) P Winstanley RFD, 55 Jeanes Rd, Karrinyup; Ph: 9341 6883. Secretary: Maj (Ret’d), PC Pickersgill RFD, ED, 191 Kitchener Rd, Booragoon; Ph: 9330 4015. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Mon. 13 Infantry Brigade Conference Room; AGM 1st Mon April.

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

EX-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S LAND ARMY (AWLA)
President: Phyl Ptolomey, 84 West Rd, Bassendean; Ph: 9279 2279. Correspondence to Secretary: Hilda Grey, 21B Elvira St, Palmyra 6157; Ph: 9339 5391. Meetings: 10am 4th Thurs monthly, ANZAC House.
EX-FORTESS ENGINEERS ASSOC
President: F. Louge; Ph: 9349 7495. Correspondence to Secretary: Reg Kidd, 257 Holmes Rd, Forestfield 6058; Ph: 9453 2393. Meetings: AGM mid-April; Christmas last Sun Nov.

EX-POW ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Arthur Robinson, 19/26 Pinaster St, Menora 6050; Ph: 9271 4733. Correspondence to Secretary: Ruth James, 7b Wenden Pl, Williton 6155; Ph: 9457 8727. Meetings: 1pm 1st Wed monthly, ANZAC House; AGM 1pm 1st Wed March.

EX-WRANS ASSOC OF WA
President: Beverley Kain, 3 Voyager Crt, Cooloongup; Ph: 9527 3401. Correspondence to Secretary: Renée Blackett, 3/93 Aurelian St, Palmyra; Ph: 9339 5030. Meetings: 12.30pm 2nd Mon monthly, ANZAC House; AGM noon 2nd Mon Oct.

FEDERATED TB SAILORS', SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Frank Hamilton, 35 Clement Dr, Karrinyup; Ph: 9448 5204. Correspondence to Secretary: Bert Turner, PO Box 2, Inglewood 6052. Meetings: last Mon monthly, except Jan.

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

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

GREEK AUSTRALIANS RETURNED SERVICEMEN'S LEAGUE
President: Greg Theodosiadis, 69 Beamish Rd, Brentwood 6153; Ph: 9364 7461. Secretary: Steoliос Costandinou, 7/86 Railway Pde, Bayswater. Meetings: 1st Sat every month at 3.30pm at Greek Club, Stirling St, Perth. AGM every 2 years.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: S. Bower. Correspondence to Secretary: Peter Mulrennan, JP, PO Box 370, Tuart Hill 6939; Ph: 9443 8081. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Mon monthly, 7.30 pm ANZAC House. (AGM September).

HMAS AUSTRALIA VETERANS' CLUB
President: Don Cookesley, 3 Dorking Rd, City Beach; Ph: 9385 7061. Secretary: Harry Townsend, Unit 9, 1-3 Leslie St, Mandurah 6210; Ph: 9586 3828. Meetings: 11am 1st Tues quarterly (from March), Naval Association HQ, 71 West Pde, East Perth.

HMAS BATAN VETERANS' ASSOC
President: Mr Jack Le Cras, 10 Kenton Cres, Kingsley 6026; Ph: 9409 1014. Correspondence to Secretary: Colin Hepburn, 39a Fallow Cres, Spearwood 6163; Ph: 9434 4556.

HMAS CANBERRA - SHROPSHIRE ASSOC (WA DIVISION)
President: Bill Kynaston, 29 Tifera Circle, Kallaroo; Ph: 9307 8029. Correspondence to Secretary: Arthur Carter, 93 Tamar St, Palmyra 6157; Ph: 9339 1483. Meetings: AGM Nov. Committee meetings as required. Annual reunion 9 August, other social functions about four times per year. Further information, please contact either of the above.

HMAS HOBART ASSOC (WA DIVISION)
President: Graeme Purkiss, 14 Hollis St, Samson; Ph: 9337 8976. Secretary: Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Rd, Shenton Park 6008; Ph: 9381 8705. Luncheons: from noon last Thurs monthly, ANZAC House; AGM/Reunion 2nd Fri Feb.

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

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH INC)
President: KJ Emberson. 48 Fleetwood Cct, Woodvale 6026; Ph: 9409 3037. Secretary: A McMorland, 13/69 Gladstone Ave, Swan View 6056; Ph: 9255 3825. Meetings: AGM 2nd Sat in March. Meetings: 10am 2nd Sat June, Sept and Dec at Canning-Victoria Park Sub-Branch, 162 Wharf St, Cannington.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOC OF WA (INC)
President: PR Collins. c/o TPI Memorial House, 80-82 Henley St, Como. Correspondence to: Secretary: Rosemary Maddren, Private Bag 12, Bentley Delivery Centre, Bentley 6983; Ph: 9450 6428. Meetings: 1st Wed monthly (except Jan) at 1.30pm. Office hrs: 9-11am Tues, 9am-12pm Wed & Thurs.

MALAYA MERDEKA VETERANS (WA)
Vice-President: Bruce Dennis; Ph: 9335 6535. Correspondence to 24 Sherington Rd, Greenwood 6169; Meeting details: contact above.

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

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

NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOC (AUSTRALIA) INC
Chairman: Harry Lowe, 14 Mueller Way, Thornlie 6108; Ph: 9459 7101. Secretary: J Hully, 9a Glover Pl, Huntingdale 6110; Ph: 9398 5983. All correspondence to NMBVA (WA), PO Box 1117, Canning Vale 6970.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Oliver Lovelle, 22 Lynamth Rd, Dianella; Ph: 9276 1676. Secretary: Ken Pages-Oliver, 54/47 Forest Ave, East Perth; Ph: 9221 2937. Correspondence to: Secretary PO Box 23023, East St George's Tce, Perth 6832.

NAVAL ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA, CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President/Secretary: Don Needham, 16 Warragoon Cres, Attadale 6156; Ph: 9330 3411. Meetings: 11.30am last Mon monthly, Navy Club, Fremantle.

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

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

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC IN AUST
President: E Baints, 51 Homestead Rd, Gosnells; Ph: 9362 1920. Correspondence to Secretary: Dr J Kuijpers, PO Box 311, Inglewood 6932; Ph: 9448 7178. Meetings: 11am 1st Tues, Nollamara/North Perth Sub-Branch, 68 Sylvia St, Nollamara 6061; AGM Nov.

NORMANDY VETERANS' ASSOC
President: J.O. Button, 15 Finlay Crt, Rivervale; Ph: 9306 6061. Correspondence to Secretary: M.J. Rinaldi, 35 Whykes; Ph: 9279 5931. Meetings: 1st Fri, Maylands 6051.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOC WA BRANCH
President: Ron Mahar, 272 Marmion Dr, Wanneroo; Ph: 9306 4232. Secretary: Peter Philp, 14 Sappers Way, Wanneroo; Ph: 9339 1798. Enquiries to Secretary: Dr Keith L. McFarlane, 24 Quarkum Ave, Wanneroo; Ph: 9452 0228. Meetings: 12pm 1st Wed monthly, ANZAC House.

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

PERTH LEGACY INCORPORATED
President: Eric Watts; Secretary: Gerald B. Hadley. Contact at Legacy House, 64 Mill Rd, South Perth 6151; Phone 9367 5799. AGM: 3rd Wednesday in Nov at 6.30pm.

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC SUB-BRANCH NO. 9
President/Secretary: Dr W Gorski OAM; Ph: 9447 1559. Correspondence to 33 Eighth Ave, Maylands 6051.

RAAF ASSOC AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION SQUADRONS BRANCH
President: Ron Lopaten; Ph: 9535 7830. Secretary: Ray Smith; Ph: 9534 3522. Meetings: quarterly at RAAF Assn Clubrooms, 133 Mandurah Tce, Mandurah.

RAAF ASSOC MANDURAH BRANCH
President: John McMahon. Corresponds to Secretary Jack Flanagan, PO Box 1015, Mandurah, 6210. AGM: 3rd Tues of month at 1.30pm. Committee Meeting: 2nd Fri of the month at 1.30pm.

RAAF 467-463 LANCASTER SQUADRONS ASSOC WA
President: John MacKenzie, 186 Weaponess Rd, Wembley 6019; Ph: 9341 1358. Correspondence to Secretary: Jim Quinn, 9 Redcourt Rd, Attadale 6156; Ph: 9330 4151 Meetings: 4 times/year, RAAF Association, Bullcreek.

RAE ASOCIATION OF WA
President: John Klein, Ph: 9279 3080; Secretary John Curtis, Ph: 9271 4520. Correspondence to PO Box 186, Bayswater 6053 or e-mail curtis@bigpond.com AGM: end of March each year. Meetings: 1st Thurs each month at 1900 hours (except Jan) at ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Tce Perth.

RAE CORPS COMMITTEE (WA BRANCH)
Contact Information Officer: Don Horsley, 11 Celeste St, Wanneroo 6065, Ph: 9306 2946.

RAE VIETNAM ASSOC
President: Don Horsley; Ph: 9306 2946. Secretary: Garry Whyks; Ph: 9276 1920. Corresponds to: 33 Kanimbla Wy, Morley 6062.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOC (WA BRANCH INC.)
President: Bill Mahar, 272 Marmion St, Palmyra; Ph: 9339 2187. Correspondence to Secretary: Betty Rumble, 13/19 Byron Rd, Kalamunda 6076; Ph: 9293 2723. Meetings: 1pm 2nd Tues monthly, ANZAC Club.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Sean L Dfc, 129 Sunnyside Rd, Palmyra; Ph/Fax: 9401 5839. Enquiries to Secretary: George Nash, 4 Bilinga Rd, Westminster 6061; Ph: 9344 1279. Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)
President: Eileen Southern; Ph: 9311 4444. Correspondence to Secretary: Robert L. Bunney, Bull Creek Dr, Bull Creek 6149; Ph: 9311 4444 (w). Meetings: Air Force Memorial Estate, 3rd Tues.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY FORCE ASSOC WA DIVISION INC. – BULLCREEK BRANCH
President: Ken Stewart; Ph: 9362 2246. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Mon monthly, Meg Olive Room, Air Force Memorial Estate.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS
President: Garnet Buckley JP, 23 Quarkum St, Wanneroo; Ph: 9306 4232. Secretary: Lynne Mitchell, 15 Adisham St, Maddington; Ph: 9452 0228. Correspondence to: PO Box 631, Gosnells 6110. Meetings: 7.30pm 30 Mar, 29 June, 24 Aug, 26 Oct, 19 Jan, 10 Lighthouse Throssell Club, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta; AGM 8pm 23 Feb.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOC WA BRANCH
President: Irene England, 18 Connought St, Forrestfield. Correspondence to Secretary: Helen Birch, 82 Florence Rd, Nedlands 6009; Ph: 9386 2396. Meetings: quarterly (contact Secretary).

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOC WA (INC)
President/Secretary: Col Warren Evans, 16 Lorrimah Pl, Murdoch 6150. Ph/Fax: 9310 3618. Treasurer: Kevin Graham, PO Box 97, Claremont. Ph: 9389 1406. AGM held after ANZAC Day March and Service.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC (WA)
President/Correspondence to: John Hobbs, 10 Edgar Wy, Mt Pleasant; Ph: 9364 3568. Secretary: Doug Morris, 178 Empire Ave, Wembley Downs. Meetings: 10am 3rd Mon monthly, ANZAC House – open to members and members of affiliated associations.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOC OF WA
President: Michael Ryan OAM, 4 Milne Crt, Ocean Reef 6027; Ph: 9307 2385. Correspondence to Secretary: Neville Clark, 26 Linthorne Way, Balga 6061; Ph: 9342 5808. Meetings: 2nd Sun in Feb, Apr, June, Aug and Oct, 13 Fd Sqn RAE, Sappers Way, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY – ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS
President: Neville Philp, 14 Hamilton Tce, Greenmount; Ph: 9294 1798. Secretary: Mrs B Philp, address as above. Meetings/ luncheon: 11.30am 2nd Fri bi-monthly (from Feb), ANZAC House.
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVERS ASSOCIATION WA CHAPTER
Presidential: Alex Donald DSC, 7 Woodley Cres, Melville Heights; Ph: 9330 6596. Secretary: POCD Bruce Day, Lot 240 Princeton Dve, Port Bouvard, Mandurah 6210; Ph: 9553 2484 (w), 9534 2753 (h). Correspondence: c/- Auscdt Four HMAS Stirling, Rockingham 6958. Meeting: ANZAC Day (AGM) 1300hrs, Navy Club, High St, Fremantle.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORVETTES ASSOC (WA)
President: Bernie Edmondson, 3 Moness Pl, Shelley 6148; Ph: 9457 5620. Correspondence to Secretary: Jack Shephard, Unit 45/60 Kalinda Dve, City Beach 6015; Ph: 9385 8400. Meetings: Third Monday Feb, May, Aug and Nov.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SIGNALS ASSOC WA (INC)
President: Peter Lofdahl, 7 Danaher Mews, Clarkson 6030; Ph: 9305 1303. Correspond to Secretary: Brian Macauley, 173 Hardye Rd, Belmont 6104; Ph: 9277 1406. Meetings: 7pm 1st Thurs monthly (except Jan), ANZAC House - all Signallers welcomed.

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

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND
Contact: John Martin, 9 Gladstone St, St James 6102; Ph: 9361 3390. Airforce and Associated Units (e.g. Chindits serving in 14th Army Theatre 1939-45).

SUBMARINERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Alan Jameson, 7 Rodondo Pl, Shelley; Ph: 9457 1715. Correspondence to Secretary: Mike Pearson, 19/196 St Kilda Rd, Rivervale 6103; Ph: 9277 3741. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Wed monthly (except Dec) at Leederville Bowling Club.

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WA BRANCH INC
President: Kelvin Ferris, Ph 9450 1921. Secretary: Hubert Tucker, 161 Sixth Ave Inglewood 6052; Ph: 9272 3463. Correspondence to Private Bag 12, Bentley Delivery Centre, Bentley, 6983. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Tues monthly (except Jan); Lunches: weekdays by booking day prior.

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT RAE AIF ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: J Patterson, 53 Brinckley Cres, Koondooloa 6064; Ph: 9342 0142. Correspondence to Secretary: B Thomas, 18/19 Bulrush Dr, Bibra Lake; Ph: 9417 8585. Meetings: 11.30am 1st Mon (if holiday, Tues) monthly (except Jan), ANZAC Club.

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

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

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

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: Ken Barrington; Ph: 9446 4227. Secretary: Kevin Trent, 3 Broad St, Kensington; Ph: 9367 7794. Correspondence to: PO Box 6409, East Perth 6892. Meetings: Gurney VC RSL Hall, East Vic Park.

THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOC (WA BRANCH)
President: G. Chapman, 18 Zelkova Wy, Parkwood; Ph: 9457 0482. Correspondence to Secretary: F Walsh, 50 Wanjina Cres, Wanneroo 6065; Ph: 9405 2001. Meetings: 8pm last Tues monthly at Navy Club, Fremantle; AGM: 5pm 28 Feb 1999.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION FREMANTLE (WA) BRANCH
President: David Wiseman; 7 Andros Rd, Safety Bay; Ph: 9592 1458. Secretary: Frank Cooke-Willis, 23 Foss St, Palmyra 6157; Ph: 9339 5573. Meetings: 1st Tues monthly (except Jan), at 7pm (Oct-May), 2pm (Jun-Sept) at Navy Club, 64 High St, Fremantle.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOC, MARMION BRANCH, NORTHERN SUBURBS
Chairman: A Hobbah, 29 Centennial Gdns, Hillarys 6025; Ph: 9402 4748. Correspondence to Secretary: H Walmsley, 217 Gibson Ave, Padbury 6025; Ph: 9304 7017. Meetings: 2nd Tues monthly at 7.30pm Whitfords Sea Sports Club, Ocean Reef Boat Harbour. AGM: 2nd Tues in February at 7.30pm.

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

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

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

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

THIRTYNINERS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA
President: JP Hall, A/3 Hellam Grv, Booroogko; Ph: 9364 7776. Correspondence to Secretary: Mrs FE Johnson, 38 Renwick St, South Perth 6151; Ph: 9367 5949. Meetings: 1pm 4th Wed bi-monthly from March, ANZAC House.

TOTTALLY AND PARTIALLY DISABLED VETERANS OF WA
President: Peter Douglas; Ph: 9592 6608. Secretary: Malcolm Goss; Ph: 9592 5443. Correspondence to: PO Box 352, Rockingham 6968. Meetings: 10.30am 1st Tues monthly, Naval Assoc. Building, Point Peron.
Tribal Class Destroyers Association (WA)
President: Bryan Bremner, 62 Teranaca Gardens, Mandurah: 6210 Ph: 9534 9202. Correspondence to Secretary: Jack Le Cras, 10 Kenton Court, Kingsley 6026; Ph: 9409 1014.

United Kingdom-Combined Ex-Services Federation
All correspondence to this address please. Meetings: quarterly.

VA & AAMWS (ASSOC)
President: Glyn Cody, 138A Karriyup Rd, Karriyup 6018; Ph: 9341 3323. Secretary: Ena McGinn, 9 Castle St, Wembley Downs 6019; Ph: 9446 3742. Meetings: held monthly at members' homes. Contact Secretary for information.

Vietnam Logistical Support Veterans' Assoc of Aust (INC)
President: Vic Boreham, 8 Hollis St, Samson; Ph: 9337 8885 (h), 9334 2489 (w). Correspondence to Sec: Brian Long, 38 MacArthur Ave, Padbury 6025; Ph: 9402 0241. Meetings: 3rd Tues every 2nd month, Victoria Cross Room, ANZAC House.

Vietnam Veterans' Assoc of Australia (WA Branch)
President: Rob Cox; Ph: 9455 5310 (h) 0418 928 621 (mob). Correspondence to Secretary: PO Box 528, Williton 6955; Office: 38 Kalgoorlie St, Mt Hawthorn 6016; Ph/fax: 9443 3759. Meetings: quarterly - dates to be confirmed with Secretary.

Vietnam Veterans Motor Cycle Club (WA) INC.
PO Box 1442 Wangara 6065. President: John Lewis. Secretary: Christopher A. Bruce; Ph/fax: 9440 5353. All correspondence to Secretary.

WA RSL Bowls Section
President: Les Fynmore; Ph: 9364 1476. Correspondence to Secretary: Ted Philp, 8a Henning Cres, Manning 6152; Ph: 9450 4033. Meetings: 10am 3rd Mon monthly, Osborne Park Bowling Club.

WAAAF Association (NOR-WAAAF Group)
President: Patricia Pollard, 9/178 Edinsboro St, Joondanna 6060; Ph: 9444 7383. Correspondence to Secretary: Jean James, 206 Cedric St, Balclutha 6021; Ph: 9348 9826. Meetings: last Thurs each month (except December and January) at 1200 hrs, ANZAC House.

WAAAF Branch AFA (WA Division)
President: Kathleen Adamson, 27 The Promenade, Mt Pleasant; Ph: 9364 4028. Correspondence to Secretary: Kathleen (Kate) Quan, 79 Harris House, AFME, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek 6149; Ph: 9931 4279. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Mon monthly (except Jan), Memorial House, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bullcreek.

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

WRAAC Branch - RAFA Association
President: Judy Bland, 2 Graphic Ct, Beldon; Ph: 9401 8296. Secretary: T Little; Ph: 9417 7415. Correspondence to: RAFAA, Bullcreek Dr, Bullcreek 6149. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Tues monthly, Meg Olive Room, RAFAA Association, Bullcreek.

Z Special Unit Association of WA INC.
President: Capt. Lou Reid MBE RL, 40 Halvorson Rd, Morley; Ph: 9276 1535. Correspondence to Secretary: Lt Col Ted Dubberlin ED RL JP, 28A Houston Ave, Dianella 6062; Ph: 9275 1348. Meetings as arranged.

Z Special Unit International (Inc)
Chairman: Jack Sue; Ph: 9257 1620. Vice-Chairman: Ross Davidson; Ph: 9383 7654; Secretary: Lou Pola; Ph: 9446 2784. Correspondence: PO Box 7, Innaloo City 6918.

1st Australian Parachute Battalion, WA Branch
President: Bill Rose, 19 Jukes Wy, Glendalough; Ph: 9444 6858. Correspondence to Secretary: Ron Waters, 25 Clyo Wy, Kallaroo 6025; Ph: 9307 7079.

2/1-2/2 Pioneers WA
Chairman: LA Preedy, 152 Keighly Rd, Shenton Park 6008; Ph: 9381 6294. Meetings: 3rd Fri Mar, July & Nov, ANZAC House.

2/2 Commando Association of Australia
President: R Finkelstein, 317/130 Cresswell Rd, Dianella; Ph: 9276 7160. Correspondence to Secretary: JW Carey, 13 Stoddard Way, Bateman 6155; Ph: 9332 7050. Correspondence to PO Box T1646, GPO, Perth 6001. Meetings: 10am 2nd Tues monthly, ANZAC House.

2/3 Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Search Light Battery Assoc (WA Branch)
President: Jack Manners, 3/85 W.S.T., 101 Star St, Nollamara 6061; Ph: 9349 1409. Correspondence to Secretary: J. Kyros, 35 Covent Gardens, Stirling, 6021; Ph: 9445 2886. Meetings: 10am 3rd Tues monthly, ANZAC House; AGM: 12 noon ANZAC Day.

2/3rd Field Regiment Association
Pres/Sec: W.S.T. Stacy, 3 Jull Crt, Kardinya 6163; Ph: 9337 6227. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Wed monthly (AGM 11am May) ANZAC House.

2/3rd Field Gun Battalion
President: KE Eckermann, 31 Tranquill Rd, Kelmscott; Ph: 9390 6072. Correspondence to Secretary: FJ (Banjo) Binstead, 101 Star St, Carlisle 6101; Ph: 9361 8762.

2/4th Machine Gun Battalion AIF Ex-Members Assoc
President: E.W. Wallin, 3/63 Constance St, Nollamara 6061; Ph: 9349 1409. Correspondence to Secretary: J. Kyros, 35 Covent Gardens, Stirling, 6021; Ph: 9445 2886. Meetings: 10am 3rd Tues monthly, ANZAC House; AGM: 12 noon ANZAC Day.

2/7th Australian Field Regiment (WA) Ex-Members Assoc
President: Bill Hepton, 2/7th Australian Infantry Regiment AIF Ex-members Association (WA) Section
President: Bill Hepton, 2 Cooba Pl, Duncraig; Ph: 9443 4473. Correspondence to Secretary: Peter Kennedy, 2A Onslow Rd, Shenton Park 6008; Ph: 9381 9355. Meetings: 11am 2nd Tues monthly except Jan (AGM Aug), Pure Steel Room Gloucester Park.

2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion Assoc WA Section
President: Keith Fruin, 2/74 McCallum St, Ardross; Ph: 9364 7160. Secretary: Vern Sprigg, 8 Moss Vale, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9387 6732. Reunion after ANZAC Day March and Service.

2/7th Field Ambulance
President/Secretary: Hal Finkelstein, 15 Jukes Wy, Glendalough; Ph: 9444 0328. Reunion, September each year.

2/11th AIF BN Association
President: Ivan Walter, 4/18 Macleod Rd, Applecross 6153; Ph: 9364 3270; Correspondence to Secretary: John Watson, 686 Canning Hwy, Applecross 6153; Ph: 9364 2126. Meetings: 10am 3rd Tues monthly, ANZAC House; AGM 17 March.
2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOC AIF
President: Mervyn Schofield, 8 Tyre Ave, Riverton; Ph: 9457 2421.
Secretary: Len McCarthy, 31 Marradong St, Coolbinia; Ph: 9444 1927. Meetings: pre-ANZAC Day luncheon, ANZAC House; AGM: last Fri Oct.

2/16TH BATTALION AIF ASSOC
President: J.F. Moir, 6 West Crt, Bull Creek; Ph: 9332 6684; Correspondence to Secretary: J.S. Miller, 120 Lockhart St, Como; Ph: 9450 4170. Meetings: 10.30am 1st Wed monthly, ANZAC House. Editor Pigeon Post: D.K. Norrish, 6 Magnolia W/PO Box 26, Forrestfield 6058; Ph: 9453 2001; Assistant Editor: Ian Darrock, 9A Silkyoak Pl, Morley; Ph: 9378 3705.

2/28TH BATTALION & 24TH ANTI-TANK COY ASSOC
President: R. Middleton, 125/510 Marmion Ave, Booragoon 6154; Ph: 9330 1496. Correspondence to Secretary, T.R. Stenhouse, 47 Evandale St, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9387 1944; Meetings: ANZAC House 2nd Wed monthly, visitors welcome; AGM: 2nd Wed August.

2/32ND BATTALION
President: Colinn Savage, 467 North Beach Rd, Gwelup; Ph: 9448 7907. Correspondence to Secretary: Colin Edmiston, 3/456 Main St, Balcatta 6021; Ph: 9349 0799. AGM: 2pm 15 April.

2/43RD BATTALION ASSOC WA DIVISION
President: Eric Trolar, 2 Alison Rd, Attadale; Ph: 9330 4764. Secretary: Wally Hughes, 20 Aberle St, Hamilton Hill 6163; Ph: 9337 2088. Meetings: 3rd Wed monthly (AGM 12pm Sept), ANZAC House.

3 TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIT ASSOC (RAAF)
President: RJ Squiers; Ph: 9349 0955. Secretary: Ray De Fraine, 10 Cordova Crt, Craigie 6025; Ph: 9401 3293. Lunch: 11am-1pm 2nd Thurs monthly, ANZAC Club.

7 ARMY TROOPS COY RAEN ASSOC
President: Jack Benari, 38 Roebuck Dr, Salter Point; Ph: 9450 3876. Secretary: Colin Wilson, 41 Herald Ave, Willetton 6155. Reunion: last Fri Sept, about 60 attend.

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

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

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS
President: Bill Gill; Ph: 9332 8536. Correspondence to Secretary: N Deakin, 20 Canterbury Dr, Willetton 6155; Ph: 9457 1163. Meetings: contact Secretary.

UNIT ASSOCIATION DETAILS

Please note:
Unit Association details for inclusion in this column are limited to the President’s and Secretary’s names, address es (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 six pages only in this magazine.

CHRIS BROOKS (Editor)
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.  

LEST WE FORGET
My name is Sue Fraser. I'm 63 years old. 5 foot 3 inches tall. My hair is silver-brown. Naturally curly. I'm also 20 kilos too heavy. I live on a rural farm, in New South Wales. I went to an all girls school in Sydney. I only wish I had known years ago what I am about to share with you. To think of the pain - the endless torture - I could have avoided.

Let's go back in time. I'm 30 years old. Osteo-Arthritis attacks my right foot. Then it spreads to my upper back. The pain in my upper back becomes almost unbearable. I cannot even turn over in bed. Peaceful sleep? Out of the question.

I tried buying a new bed. Still no help. My doctor diagnosed me in 1985 with rheumatoid arthritis in both knees, both hips and my lower back. My pain is brutal. I try many expensive, strong prescription medications in search of relief. Sometimes 15 pills in a single day. But over a long period doctors warn they can produce undesirable side-effects like ulcers, chest pain, internal bleeding and severe stomach disorders. So I stop.

Dressing in the morning requires Herculean strength. I cannot even walk the length of the local shopping centre. Standing in one spot washing the dishes is unbearable. I have 3 flights of stairs in my home. I cannot walk up a single one - all because of the pain!

Anyway, recently I decided to try an all natural herbal remedy called Arthritis-Calm™. I'm extremely sceptical, but because I'm so desperate I figure, "What can I lose?" The conclusion? Within several weeks I begin to notice a real difference. My pain is easing. Blessed relief. I have less throbbing in my joints. Less bloating. Less muscle spasms. Less torment. More agility. More confidence. Do you know what this spells? LESS PAIN. MORE AGILITY.

I stride up all 3 flights of stairs - virtually pain free! So what's the bottom line? Arthritis-Calm™ works for me. I believe in it. 100%. And most importantly...

It May Work For You, Too!

Arthritis-Calm™ is a natural and gentle approach to arthritis pain. No harsh ingredients. No dangerous chemicals. No prescription needed. Just dependable relief from powerful herbal extracts such as Feverfew & Ginger.

Arthritis-Calm™ is not sold in stores. You can only acquire it direct from the manufacturer at substantial savings. They don't waste money on expensive packaging, either. But do you know what I like most? Their return policy.

No Risk Three Month Unconditional Trial Period

Best of all, they offer a 90-day money back guarantee. If you're not satisfied for any reason return the empty container(s) for a full refund of the purchase price. Arthritis-Calm™ gave me natural, gentle, temporary arthritis pain relief and its economical too. I urge you to try at least a 60 day supply, at no risk to you. I mean none whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Sue Fraser

PS. If this desperate 63 year old New South Wales housewife can get safe, gentle arthritis pain relief . . . . . . you may too.
P.P.S. My doctor was pleased with the long list of healthy products in each tablet. He also said Arthritis-Calm™ can be taken with most prescription medicine because of its natural ingredients.
Members of RSL sub-branches and United Kindred Associations are invited to take a tour of Hollywood Private Hospital to see the latest developments. Groups of 15 or more can be taken on conducted tours followed by free refreshments. If your sub-branch or association would like to take a tour, contact Catherine Archer on (08) 9346 6716, during office hours to arrange a suitable date. Alternatively, Hollywood's executive director, Kevin Cass-Ryall, is available to speak at branch or association meetings.

Some of our star attractions include:

- **Hall of Remembrance** opened on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- **The Hollywood Clinic** - 30-bed, in-patient and day patient psychiatric unit.
- **Bullwinkel wing**, comprising 122 in-patient beds (75 per cent of which are single rooms), admissions area and foyer.
- **New Hollywood Specialist Centre**, comprising 39 medical specialist suites.
- **New cardiology facility**, comprising a cardiac catheter laboratory, consulting suites, new 10-bed coronary care unit and acute admissions area.
- **New Day Procedure Unit**, Gastroenterology Department and theatre recovery area.