HMAS Bunbury firing 40/60 Bofors gun on an exercise off the WA coast.

Inside this issue:
- Map and information on ANZAC Day ceremonies at the War Memorial in Kings Park and the Esplanade in the city of Perth, and at Blackboy Hill in Mundaring.
- Details of the dedication of the Flame of Remembrance at the Pool of Reflection at the War Memorial in Kings Park by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
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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Publishers
Returned & Services League WA Branch (Incorporated)
ANZAC House
28 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
Telephone: 9325 9799
Email: rslwhq@echidna.id.au
Web site: http://www.rsl.org.au

Editorial
Editor:
Mr Chris Brooks
Deputy:
Mr Ken Monson
Committee:
Mr J. Brigden, Mrs B. Clinton,
Mrs J. Dowson, Mr. G. Norton, Mr P. White
Co-opted Members:
Messrs E. Hinchcliffe, R. Mercer (Hon. Secretary).
G. Tanner, L. Owens, J. Surridge, W. Tate
Sub Editor
Mrs Pat Elphinstone

Advertising
Westralian Publishers
Telephone: 9246 0872 Fax: 9246 7545
Contact: Pat Hosking

Typesetting/Composing
Westralian Publishers
Telephone: 9246 0872 Fax: 9246 7545
Contact: Pat Hosking

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Printer
Swanweb,
51 Miguel Road,
Bibra Lake 6163
Telephone: 9434 1333

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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:
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The Listening Post
RSL, PO Box Y3023
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Cover Picture: HMAS BUNBURY ON EXERCISE
Photo courtesy Defence Public Relations
1999 was a very successful year for the WA Branch and 2000 is shaping up to see further enhancement and activities.

The first major activity will be the dedication of the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park. The Flame of Remembrance is situated in the Court of Contemplation at the State War Memorial and is an outstanding addition to the area.

The date for this dedication is Saturday 1 April and known details are contained in the notice on page 3. It is pleasing to know that the Flame will be burning at the 2000 ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Members will be advised of further details through their sub-branches, unit and kindred associations and the media. It should prove a spectacular sight at the Dawn Service in its first year of operation as well as in future years.

ANZAC Day 2000 has caused some minor administrative concerns, as Easter immediately precedes ANZAC Day so causing a five-day weekend. It is hoped however that the ANZAC Day Parade will not be unduly affected by the break due to members taking holidays. Planning with Unit & Kindred Associations will ensure that we can conduct the parade with a maximum attendance by veterans and members of the community.

There will be several changes to the parade this year:

a. The Australian and Allied Forces of the Korean War will lead the veteran contingent of the Parade. This year commemorates the 50th anniversary of the commencement of Australia's involvement in the Korean War.

b. The ANZAC Day Committee has reviewed the forming up positions in St Georges Terrace and those members of Unit Associations that form up on East St Georges Terrace will now form up at Council House. Please refer to the ANZAC Day map in this edition.

c. The most significant change will be the parade layout at the Esplanade. The Perth City Council is planning some major renovations to the Esplanade in the next year or two. To ensure that, after the renovations are complete, the area still will accommodate the service, we are to trial the proposed layout this year.

ANZAC Day Tokens were introduced in 1999 to aid fundraising to meet the increasing need for welfare

continued on page 4
I was delighted recently to receive a letter from Major General Peter Cosgrove, Commander INTERFET, in response to the Christmas Message we had sent from the WA Branch of the RSL. Our troops in East Timor have continued to carry out their duties with efficiency and professionalism and as Australians we can be justly proud that the great ANZAC tradition of service, comradeship and courage remains in good hands.

We applaud Australia’s recent decision to provide some 4,000 troops to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in East Timor to ensure that a smooth transition to independence for East Timor is achieved.

Over recent months there have been calls to urge the Australian Government to re-introduce some kind of national service. As all members of the League are aware, a form of national service remains part of the RSL’s Standing Policy. However, irrespective of political persuasion, the reality is that governments seem reluctant to re-introduce it. In any event, even if they did, it would not happen overnight. Moreover, it seems that society at large doesn’t fully support the concept and that its economic viability is questionable. The ADF certainly doesn’t want it imposed on them.

An urgent need exists to review and reassess Australia’s defence requirements, which are now being addressed. One of the over-riding questions will undoubtedly be whether the Government and the Australian community have the political will to adequately increase defence spending. If more emphasis is to be placed on a voluntary force and the Reserves, as seems likely, job protection for the Reservists themselves as well as inducements to employers to release them for operations and training need to be properly addressed.

As Australia’s current defence policy calls for having integrated regular and reserve forces, the whole question of volunteers and the conditions under which they should serve needs to be reviewed. The RSL, and in fact all Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs), ought to get involved in the defence debate and I would expect to see some well-thought-out motions from Sub-Branches at our forthcoming State Congress 2000 dealing with these issues.

continued next page
State Secretary’s Notes continued

assistance to Veterans, Ex-defence and Defence members. The success of this fundraiser requires the support of members to sell these tokens in shopping centres or in the streets on ANZAC Day; Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Services also would provide an another opportunity.

The State Branch will, again this year, conduct an ANZAC Day Combined Thanksgiving Service to commemorate those men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice. The proposed date is Sunday, 16 April 2000 at 3.00pm. Further details will be provided through Sub-Branches, Unit & Kindred Associations when confirmed or by contacting ANZAC House reception.

The WA Branch has been selected to host this year’s National Congress which will be held from 27 August to 1 September. Members will be advised of the details through The Listening Post.

I remind members that our State Congress is rapidly approaching. Issues that can and do affect the Veteran community can be forwarded through Sub-Branches. Members may wish to consider nominating for State Executive through Sub-Branches for 2000-2002. It is your League so give it your support.

S M SEERS OAM JP

ANZAC TOKENS

To meet the continuing needs of the Veteran community and enable the League to meet all its financial obligations, your League must generate income. The ANZAC Day Token Appeal proceeds are used strictly for Welfare purposes. Sub-Branches are able to use proceeds to improve facilities to meet members’ needs.

The ANZAC Day Token is in the form of the Rising Sun badge with a capital ‘A’ in the centre representing the tradition of our ANZACS and all other service members. ANZAC Day Token badges can be worn with pride by every member who has served and every member of the community.

Every RSL member and Sub-Branch can help by selling tokens on ANZAC Day Appeal Day, Tuesday 25 April 2000. Two types are available:

Metal badges for $5.00 or a gold coin donation.

Plastic badges for donations from 50 cents.

For further information contact ANZAC House on (08) 9325 9799.

State President’s Message continued

Meanwhile all the important aspects of Australia’s defence continue to be appropriately represented to the Government by the RSL as they have in the past. We now look forward to the promised White Paper on Defence, which is expected in mid 2000.

League Finances 1999

The financial year of the League coincides with the calendar year. While the details of the 1999 audited result will not be known for some time we achieved a reasonable result by reducing the 1998 deficit of the WA Branch (ANZAC Club, Welfare and Counselling Services) from over $98,000 to approximately $10,000, an overall improvement of some $88,000!

During the year a number of unbudgeted items involving capital expenditure were necessary. These included $10,000 on computer software to ensure we were 2000 compliant; $20,000 on necessary carpet replacement for ANZAC House (which should last for many years to come); and an amount of some $13,500 which we were obliged to pay for legal and tax reasons going back some seven years. I believe we would have been in the black had we not had to pay for all these items. In any event I would almost lay odds that by the end of 2000 we will see the League in WA well and truly back in the black!

Membership

Overall, the 1999-year was steady and was virtually a mirror of 1998. Again, over 700 new members joined the League yet we were 59 financial members worse off than in 1998. I cannot emphasise enough that recruiting is every member’s responsibility. Please keep trying. While we’ve done well to keep up with natural losses we still need to achieve an overall net increase in 2000 and beyond.

Honorary (INTERFET) Membership

At the last RSL National Executive meeting it was resolved that honorary membership of the League would be extended to all INTERFET forces for the rest of the year 2000 on their returning to Australia. Sub-Branch Secretaries please note this aspect and keep passing the word around.

RSL Support for ADF Overseas

Through the Defence Department the RSL supports our troops deployed overseas primarily by providing Christmas parcels etc to individuals, which are funded by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF). The program is organised through the National Commissioner Mr Derek Robson, our National Secretary. On this occasion, as well as individual parcels; other amenities were purchased such as microwaves, refrigeration and one or two air conditioning units. These items could prove to be very useful in areas such as RAP and sick bays to supplement what meagre amenities may already exist.
Invalidity Service Pension

DVA Minister Bruce Scott recently announced that veterans currently receiving the invalidity service pension would now, after all, be able to preserve their existing entitlements. However, a more stringent criteria is to be applied on or after 1 January 2000 when assessing new applications. The new assessment criteria will bring the invalidity service pension into line with the existing tests applied to the special (TPI) rate of disability pension.

This is a very pleasing result for the RSL and the many invalidity service pensioners who had been concerned about a possible loss of benefits.

Gold Card

Various motions from different states at the 1999 National Congress that the Gold Card be provided to all Australian veterans over 70 was subsequently responded to by the Minister along the following lines ... “given the large numbers of veterans seeking access to health care benefits, any further extension of Gold Card entitlements would involve significant costs. Any variations from the current arrangements would need to be considered by the Government in the context of the Budget, having regard to its commitments and priorities in Veterans’ Affairs portfolio ...”.

The National Executive decided that the Minister has not adequately addressed the issue of World War II Veterans and the Gold Card and it was resolved to respond to the Minister accordingly.

Medal of Gallantry

Brian Collett MG, RSL President of Nannup Sub-Branch, was one of the three recipients to be presented with the Medal of Gallantry by His Excellency The Governor at a special ceremony at Government House on 20 December 1999. Other recipients were Mr John Burridge MG and Frank Cashmore MG. To all three we are delighted to extend our hearty congratulations from the WA Branch.

The Rules of the WA Branch

Last year when the State Executive endeavoured to delegate certain powers to the War Veterans’ Homes Board a number of legal impediments in the Rules precluded this from happening. A new Draft of the Rules recently has been promulgated to Sub-Branches seeking their comments. The aim of the exercise is to have the new Draft ratified at State Congress 2000 after our legal advisers have given it the green light. A new set of Rules also may assist the WA Branch with its application to achieve future charitable and/or benevolent status.

1999 RSL Cadet of the Year

Thanks to many Sub-Branches and Unit and Kindred Associations enough money has now been raised for this project to be successfully carried forward. Applications are now being considered and the winners will be announced around ANZAC Day.

The GST

While the Government has the right to overhaul the taxation system by introducing a GST, the RSL National President has informed the Prime Minister that in the view of the National Executive, the National Headquarters, State Branches and all Sub-Branches should be regarded as ‘charitable institutions’ for assessment of GST.

Because ESOs like the RSL conduct on-going substantial welfare activities on behalf of our veterans and their families, in the majority of cases using unpaid volunteers, the tax office recognises this as benefiting the community at large. Accordingly, the League is granted income tax exempt status. However, we are not recognised as a charity.

At the time of going to press, no response had been received from the Prime Minister to the National President’s request for the RSL to be granted ‘charitable institution status’.

KEN BLADEN

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The Listening Post - Autumn 2000
The RSL Commemorative Service for General Sir John Monash

On Friday 8 October 1999 at 10am more than 300 people gathered in the spring sunshine at the Brighton Cemetery in Victoria to honour the memory of perhaps our greatest soldier, General Sir John Monash GCMG, KCB, VD. This service of remembrance, revived again after many years by Victorian RSL President, Mr Bruce Ruxton AM OBE, was attended by members of Sir John’s family and leading representatives of the Government and the community. Also in attendance were Scotch College Cadets, Scotch College Pipe Band and students from Mount Scopus College. Wreaths were laid on behalf of all the organisations represented and following the service the guests, led by Mr Ruxton, filed past to place a Remembrance Poppy on Sir John’s grave.

Sir John Monash landed on Gallipoli 26 April 1915 and through that terrible campaign learned much about commanding men and himself. In July 1916 he was given command of the 3rd Division. He trained them thoroughly, inspired them and led them to victory, principally at Messines. Monash was knighted on New Year’s Day 1918. On 1 June he was appointed commander of the largest Corps in the British Army – 166,000 men, including five Major Generals and 25 Brigadier Generals. He wrote to his wife “to be the first native born Australian Corps commander is something to have lived for”. He led the Corps to ultimate success on 8 August with the great offensive from the Villers-Bretonneux area.

After the war was won General Monash took on the task of repatriating the Australians, together with some 15,000 dependants they had acquired. He did this efficiently and humanely. Back in Melbourne at the end of 1919 he was greeted with adulation and innumerable receptions, but within two months his wife died. Monash became President of the movement for the City of Melbourne to adopt Villers-Bretonneux, he promoted Anzac Day marches which he led, he was the moving force for the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance and was involved in hundreds of other projects. Monash was also the chairman of the State Electricity Commission from 1921 to 1931.

The great man died on 8 October 1931. Tributes came from everywhere. 250,000 people lined the funeral route, thousands walked behind the cortege for the nine miles from Parliament House – where he lay in state – to Brighton cemetery, where another 50,000 waited. It was an event which those who witnessed it never forgot. Like those who served under “the best general on the western front” (as Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein called him) they also never forgot their great fortune in having had such a leader.

By historian Robin S. Corfield, from “Never Forget Australia – N’Oublions Jamais l’Australie”
The following article is taken from the December-January issue of 'STAND TO', the RSL’s National Newsletter.

LOOKING BEYOND 2000

by Major General Peter Phillips

As we count down the days to the new millennium, I am very conscious as National President that the RSL faces its greatest ever challenge in the task of caring for our frail aged veterans. Those needing care will double in number over the next five years so we need to maintain a strong and respected RSL to meet the challenge.

Before looking to the future, some retrospection might be worth while. 1999 has been the International Year of Older Persons. The RSL made a significant contribution through its 1998 policy statement on aged care. This led to the formation of the National Ex-Service Round Table on Aged Care and its report to the Minister of Veterans’ Affairs sets a blueprint for the task ahead.

1999 started on a sad note with the death of Mr Fred Kelly, World War I, 53rd Battalion veteran of Gallipoli and the Somme. A machine gunner, he was wounded three times including at Fromelles. Sadly only 42 of our World War I veterans remain. State Governments have joined in providing due honour to those who have died during the year. The Northern Territory Government honoured the late Rowcliff Thompson with a State Funeral last month. Their passing reminds us how much we owe to those men for shaping the ANZAC values which will serve this nation well in the new millenium - courage, determination, honour in adversity, ingenuity, a respect for the results not for rank, all glued together with the bond of mateship.

Their Service - Our Heritage

I am pleased that the Federal Government is planning to extend the Their Service - Our Heritage Program into the years ahead. Its national events and commemorations, such as the National Service Nurses’ Memorial and the Sandakan Memorial Park, have been highly successful. The Program has greatly helped local commemorative activities and the refurbishment of war memorials in many towns and villages around Australia.

Now we have members of the Australian Defence Force again committed abroad – this time in East Timor. We wish Major General Peter Cosgrove and his troops every success and thank them for the professionalism with which they have undertaken their tasks.

The RSL has been active on a range of Defence issues - coastal surveillance, commercial support programs, the use of Reserves, sustainability of our forces, to mention a few, as well as monitoring conditions of service. The deterioration in our strategic circumstances calls on us to maintain our efforts. In particular we need to convince the government that the present level of spending on Defence at 1.8% of GDP falls far short of what is needed.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed visits during the year to all of our Branches and many Sub-Branches. Many of our Sub-Branches and clubs are celebrating their 50th or 80th anniversaries and my wife and I have been pleased to share in some of these events. This year we visited Wingham, Hornsby, Blacktown, Goulburn, Junee and Yass.

I have also been called upon to launch books, unveil memorials and give countless addresses, including the Blamey Oration. In every instance, I have been accorded great courtesy and hospitality. I have been much impressed by the good work going on in Sub-Branches to reach out to the community and to veterans in need.

The 1999 State and National Congresses were successful. The League has been fortunate in its lobbying efforts on a range of veterans’ affairs, defence and social issues.

continued next page
The RSL is being increasingly involved in government consultative forums. But there is much more to be achieved. As we enter the new millenium, we should be concerned about building a more cohesive Australia through the promotion and sharing of our ANZAC values. As a nation we need to put behind us the divisions of the Referendum and focus on the things that bind us.

The RSL has made a call to promote national unity. We have told the Government that 'multiculturalism' as a national policy is past its use-by date. We can respect each other's cultural heritage without having it forced upon us. We need to finalise Aboriginal reconciliation fairly and honestly as people of good will.

On the Defence front, we need to face up to the increased expenditure needed. We cannot shy away from the estimated $12 billion needed to replace our RAAF fighter and bomber force as well as the many needs of the other Services.

Security also must start in the house and our children deserve the best possible start in life. We need to win the 'war on drugs' and turn around the dreadful youth suicide rate.

The RSL has a large part to play in the future of Australia. To help us meet the challenges the League is currently reviewing its National Articles of Association, establishing an RSL Foundation to fund its national welfare responsibilities and launching its new membership campaign 'RSL Beyond 2000'.

I do hope you will help. Best wishes for ... the new millenium. God bless us all.

PETER PHILLIPS

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ANYBODY FOR PEACE KEEPING?

Most, if not all Australians know that we have soldiers in East Timor, most know who Major-General Peter Cosgrove is. A smaller number will know that Australia has about 300 civilians and soldiers on Bougainville as part of the peace monitoring group on the island.

But do they know about those in Damascus, Jerusalem, Maputo, Inhambane, El Gorah, Tiberias?

In fact there are close to 50 Australian soldiers serving in a variety of roles as peace keepers in locations as diverse as Mozambique, Cambodia, Egypt, Israel, and Europe.

They are following in the footsteps of thousands of Australians who have formed part of more than 30 United Nations and multinational peace operations during the last half century.

They have ranged from a wide variety of ceasefire demarcation and monitoring, buffer force and civil order restoration operations to land mine clearing, disarmament inspection and general humanitarian relief activities.

Few Australians would know that 12 Australians are currently serving with the UN’s Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) which monitors various ceasefires between Israel and its neighbours.

Or that UNTSO is commanded by Australia’s Major General Tim Ford. The Australians, working under Major Steve Evans, act as observers based in Jerusalem, Damascus, Tiberias and Nahariya in one of the most sensitive areas in the world. And even fewer Australians would know that there are 25 Australians working as headquarters staff and military observers based in El Gorah, Egypt.

Lt Col Dave Buckley, soon to be replaced by Lt Col Mark Bornholt, leads the Australian group which is part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which was established to monitor Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt's compliance with the 1980 Camp David Accords.

Half a world away two specialist engineers Major Bruce Jennings and Warrant Officer Dave Kirkby work with the UN Development Program (UNDP) in the Mozambique centres of Maputo and Inhambane on the removal of land mines in that country.

Until recently two Australian experts carried out similar work in Cambodia.

Both contributions followed the provision of a nine man team which trained Afghan refugees in the removal of land mines in Afghanistan in the four years to 1993.

In Europe, 10 Australians are serving with NATO's Stabilisation Force(SFOR) as exchange personnel with British and US Army contingents.

Closer to home some 300 Australian military and civilian personnel celebrated Christmas in Bougainville where they are part of an ongoing Australian contribution to the multi-national Peace Monitoring Group (PMG).

The PMG, led by Australian Army Brigadier Frank Roberts, was set up in April 1998 to observe the cease fire and facilitate the peace process between the factions on the Island.

Since 1980 Australians have also served in a variety of roles in areas as diverse as Zimbabwe, Iran, Iraq, Kashmir, South West Africa, Guatemala, the Western Sahara, Somalia, and Rwanda.

And, of course, they continue to serve in East Timor.

 Courtesy Defence Public Affairs Organisation
State President’s letter to the Prime Minister

On 21 December 1999 State President Ken Bladen wrote to The Prime Minister, The Hon. John Howard MP. The main points in the letter are reproduced below. At the time of publishing this issue of the Listening Post a reply although expected had not been received. ED.

Dear Prime Minister

Further to my previous letter to you dated 13 December 1999 regarding the Vietnam Veterans’ Health/Morbidity Study, I now wish to raise matters of defence, the plight of Gulf War veterans, the erosion of Veterans’ Disability Pensions, the TPI Pension and a matter concerning the Regional Summit.

Defence

May I again congratulate you and your Government on the way you have handled the East Timor (ET) situation; as Australians we are indeed grateful. Having said that, however, I am compelled to state that to continue to spend only 1.9% of GNP on Australia’s defence, the lowest since pre-World War II, is singularly inadequate and, if I may say so, irresponsible. That this country has been ‘lucky’ with ET I think you would agree; had we sustained substantial casualties as some expected, the political consequences alone hardly bear contemplation.

I appreciate that the Department of Defence has been hard pressed to get adequate troops on the ground for INTERFET, which will continue to be the case, as the time for rotation gets nearer.

I also appreciate that following the commitment of troops in ET your Government could have called for the reintroduction of some form of National Service, Australia-wide. I believe the electorate expected the Government to announce such a decision. This was indeed a missed opportunity in my view. Nevertheless, my understanding is that your Government now proposes to back the Reserves and Cadets rather than reintroduce any form of National Service.

Prime Minister, if Australia has to assume a role as the UN’s ‘head prefect’ we need to be more self-reliant than we are now, do we not? If your Government intends to rely on the Reserves of this country to supplement a small regular Defence Force two things obviously need to be put in place urgently:-

- Job protection for Reservists.
- Inducements to employers to release Reservists for training and operations.

While I appreciate that your Government is preparing a White Paper on Defence for release next year I must say that if the proposed ceiling of full time ADF troops is 50,000, including 23,000 Army personnel, it is clearly inadequate.

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.
In practical terms Australia needs an Army of minimum strength of 36,000 full-time troops organised into three brigades including a "heavy brigade" containing a strong armoured component. A Reserve Force of similar magnitude should back this up so that it can be called up for defence/emergency situations - provided that Reserve jobs get protected.

Australia’s future with those to our north is more important than most realise. We have been extremely lucky so far but next time this may not be the case. Australia’s defence spending should be regarded as an insurance premium and should not fall below 2.5% of GNP and preferably be 3% or 3.5%.

The plan to levy every Australian by increasing the Medicare Levy for ET is naive, if the defence spending was at a sensible level there would be no need to increase the Medicare Levy at all. The decision to do so is most unpopular in the community and it is understandably resented by most.

The success of Australia’s future defence and security will, in my view, be directly proportional to us having (i.e. paying for) an adequate and efficient Defence Force. If we do not possess the political will to achieve this alone, in a worst-case scenario, Australians, including your children and my children, will have no future. The responsibility to get our defences in order rests with your Government; I urge you to act now while there is still time.

**Gulf War Veterans**

My colleagues and I were delighted when the Department of Veterans’ Affairs agreed some months ago to conduct an investigation into the health of those veterans who had served in the Gulf War. However, I am appalled to now discover that the Government’s investigation has not yet started and in any event, that it is unlikely to be finished before December 2000.

Are we then to conclude (based on Vietnam Veterans’ Health/Morbidity Study) that budgeting provisions for Gulf War veterans would therefore not be made until the budgetary process in the year 2001? In the meantime your Government refuses to treat sick veterans for Gulf War illness officially, pending completion of its investigations.

There are many Gulf War veterans who are, erratically, very ill and whose sickness cannot be either properly diagnosed or definitely linked to their war service. Accordingly many of them may not be able to prove any entitlement to a disability pension. Moreover, from 1 June 2000 these veterans and in fact all veterans, will find it much more difficult to become eligible for the Invalidity Service Pension following the passing of the Veterans’ Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 1999 in the Senate on 29 November 1999. Veterans who would have been successful under existing rules in applying for the Invalidity Service Pension may, from 1 June 2000, receive a pension or allowance from the Department of Social Security (DSS) or could miss out altogether. This is outrageous!

If the Australian Government is hell bent on pursuing an agenda of welfare reform, with scant or total disregard for the welfare of many within the veteran community, how can it then properly recruit for the ADF and expect to gain loyalty from young Australians? How can those currently serving in East Timor have any real confidence in a Government which is not prepared (on its own record) to regard the health of its veterans or their families to be of any real importance?

May I respectfully draw your attention to the Australian Democrats’ stated obligation to Veterans.

‘The expense of war does not cease with the end of hostilities. After peace is restored the cost of war is still high in the lives of those who served Australia and their families. It is the solemn obligation of Government to discharge our debt to those people on behalf of the Nation!’

I respectfully suggest that your Government would do well to heed what the Democrats have wisely espoused.

**Erosion of Veterans’ Disability Pensions**

... From 1996 until September 1999, the real value of the Special Rate, the Intermediate Rate and the General Rate of veterans’ disability pensions have decreased respectively per fortnight, by $19.30; $13.20 and $7.30. This is another example, Prime Minister, of the erosion of veterans’ benefits by stealth, by your Government.

Dare I ask that these anomalies be now recognised and appropriate action taken to adjust these pensions to what they should be without undue delay?

**TPI Pension**

On 16 September 1999 National RSL President Major General P. R. Phillips AO MC (Rtd) wrote to DVA Minister Bruce Scott requesting that the TPI pension should be geared to the average male weekly earnings (AMWE) rather than the CPI. The argument was that in 1970 the TPI pension was equal to about 88% of AMWE but now it equates to only 45% (some 22,000 veterans in Australia are TPIs). The reply from DVA Secretary Dr Neil Johnston indicated that 75% of veterans, who received the TPI pension, also received the service pension, most at maximum rates. He pointed out that when compared to the AMWE, these TPI recipients were in fact better off per fortnight as follows:

- by $117.24 (single TPI)
- by $311.62 (TPI couple with no dependent children)
What he did not tabulate however was the plight of the 25% of TPIs (some 5,500 Australia wide) who do not qualify either for the Service Pension or the Invalidity Service Pension. These groups, when compared to AMWE are worse off per fortnight as follows:

- by $249.26 (single TPI)
- by $300.18 (TPI couple with no dependent children)

Once again Prime Minister I implore your Government to please consider this group of ex-servicemen and women who are not capable of earning a decent living because of the military service they rendered this nation. They do not deserve to struggle on $647 per fortnight plus an allowance $8.06 for telephone and pharmaceutical. Is this the way that a grateful nation should treat its personnel who have disabilities due to their service?

**Service Pension - Assets Test**

You are respectfully reminded Prime Minister that one of the Coalition election promises in 1996 was that the Assets Test on the Service Pension, introduced in 1984 would be repealed. This has not been done.

**The Regional Summit**

During the Regional Summit 26-29 October 1999, at which I represented the RSL (see summary p7. Summer 1999 edition of Listening Post. Ed.), I personally congratulated you on the handling of the East Timor situation just before we moved in for dinner ... subsequently you addressed the Regional delegates. Many who were present including myself were disappointed that the National Anthem was neither played nor sung; nor was Grace said ... I believe it was an opportunity missed.

In due course I respectfully look forward to your reply; in the meantime Prime Minister the WA Branch of the RSL joins me in wishing you and all members of Federal Parliament a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

K J BLADEN LTCOL (RTD)
State President

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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**
Changes at Hollywood

RADIOLOGY: SKG Radiology has moved its practice to the front of Hollywood Private Hospital, with totally redeveloped rooms, to cater better for both in- and out-patients.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE: Drs Geoff Bower and Joe Cardaci of Isotope Imaging have relocated their Nuclear Medicine Practice from West Perth to Hollywood Private Hospital. Their practice is next to the new SKG Radiology facility at the front of the hospital.

FERTILITY: An IVF program is now available at Hollywood. Dr Simon Turner started at the hospital in January and the service is known as the Hollywood Fertility Clinic.

Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall said he was very excited about the changes as they extended and improved the services available to patients and medical staff.

Healthy Heart Help at Hand

A heart health rehabilitation program has been launched at Hollywood. Run by the Perth Cardiovascular Institute, the program helps to restore people’s confidence in returning to normal daily activities and exercise following any heart event.

Participants will be instructed in an effective and safe exercise program that takes into account their health, age, interests, physical ability and any pre-existing medical conditions.

Throughout the program the participant’s progress will be carefully monitored by staff who specialise in cardiac rehabilitation. A progress report is provided to the participant and the referring doctor at completion of the rehabilitation program. Patients require a GP referral to participate in the program.

The rehabilitation team includes a cardiologist, exercise physiologist and cardiac rehabilitation co-ordinator. The team designs a comprehensive rehabilitation plan specifically suited to the person’s needs. This includes assessments before and after an eight-week exercise program, which is supported by a comprehensive rehabilitation program.

The program is at the Hollywood Functional Rehabilitation Clinic, and provides the latest in cardiovascular and weight resistance equipment plus a hydrotherapy pool. The comprehensive assessments include evaluation of cardiovascular fitness, body composition, strength, heart disease risk factors, quality of life and other indices of general health.

Who should attend the heart health rehabilitation program?

People with a history of any heart condition, including:
- Heart attack
- Heart surgery
- Angioplasty
- Angina
- Heart valve problems
- Heart failure
and people with significant risk factors for heart disease such as:
- Smokers
- Little regular exercise or activity
- Overweight
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- High blood cholesterol

For more information contact Narelle Wilson
Heart Health Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
Perth Cardiovascular Institute Telephone: 9346 6999.

Bone Bank Opens at Hollywood

The Perth Bone and Tissue Bank has been opened at Hollywood Private Hospital. The Lotteries Commission of WA provided assistance to the Bank to produce this purpose-built facility which includes an “ultra clean air” processing room. The Bone Bank, originally housed at Hollywood but moved to Shenton Park for several years, has relocated back to Hollywood, with the grant from the Lotteries Commission.

The new facility includes a special “clean air” processing room - which is similar to an operating theatre. The Perth Bone and Tissue Bank is the first Australian tissue bank to have such a facility. A non-profit organisation, the Bank was established to provide a variety of human transplant material for orthopaedic surgical procedures. Tissues are obtained from both surgical (living, joint surgery patients) and cadaveric donors (people who have died and whose next of kin have given consent to donate organs and tissues). There are about 10-12 cadaveric donors and some 500-600 femoral head donors each year. The main indications for bone allograft surgery include bone tumours, failed joint replacements, massive bone loss from...
trauma, sports injuries and spinal surgery.

Since this centralised bank was set up in February 1993, some 3600 individual graft items have been distributed and 2000 patients have benefited from the availability of allograft bone.

**Veterans Pay Tribute to Clinic**

Royal Australian Navy Vietnam veterans have made a special presentation to staff at the Hollywood Clinic in Nedlands. The veterans presented the Clinic with a framed commemorative poster of HMAS Perth containing signatures of members of its former crew.

The Patron of the Australian Navy in Vietnam Veterans’ Welfare Association, Commander Johnston CSC RAN, the Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling, presented the poster to the Hollywood Clinic’s manager, Mrs Julie Robson. Association President ‘China’ Hammal said the Association decided to present the poster because the Clinic had done so much to help veterans.

“The Clinic shows the veterans a lot of respect - we want to keep our good relationship going because we need that link,” said Mr Hammal. Julie Robson said it was an honour for the Clinic to receive the poster and added “we value the relationship with the veteran community”.

The Clinic provides psychiatric services for veterans and other private patients, including treatment for Post

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From Left to right: Hollywood Private Hospital Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall, Australian Navy in Veterans’ Welfare Association Honorary Chairman China Hammal, The Hollywood Clinic’s Clinical Nurse Manager Julie Robson, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Jim Dalton, Commander de Pietro and Commander Johnston.

Traumatic Stress Disorder, mood disorders and excessive alcohol use.

**Click here**

Hollywood Private Hospital has been on the web for a while now - but has recently relaunched its site and it’s bigger and better than ever. Check us out at www.hollywood.ramsayhealth.com.au - and let us know any feedback.
Parish Priest pedals for his missions

British ex-serviceman, Riverton Sub-Branch member and parish priest of Willetton David Noble is on his bike to raise funds for the Anglican Board of Missions.

The driving force behind ‘Operation’ LIFECYCLE 2000, David starts a 100 day cycle trip around Australia on 26 March with the aim of raising $500,000 to provide much needed aid for health and education programs in Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, the Philippines, and Myanmar [Burma] and for indigenous Australians at home. Readers wishing to assist David with his good work by providing assistance can gain further information by telephoning the Anglican Missions Board on 9325 7455 or David at the Rectory on 9457 3568.

The last men out of Vietnam

Tan Son Nhut airbase April 1975 and the fall of Saigon was imminent. Phnom Penh, Cambodia’s capital, had fallen a week before and the population of Cambodia was in the murderous grip of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. Democracy, such as it was, in the neighbouring countries was in its death throes. Through the tarmac’s heat haze an RAAF Hercules C130 transport plane lifted off, straining to gain altitude as fast as possible.

A little over three years earlier, in December 1971, the Royal Australian Air Force had brought home the last Australian troops, members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), and shortly after ceased operational flights in the war zone. Now in those chaotic final days the RAAF was back in the thick of it.

A month earlier, Australian C130 Hercules aircraft from Richmond NSW and two Dakotas based in Butterworth had been recalled to South Vietnam to assist with the distribution of humanitarian aid in the besieged country and to ferry out refugees, notably the ‘Babylift’ of war orphans. These men now were carrying out their final duties.

The Australian Embassy located in the Caravelle Hotel had been evacuated and the ambassador, embassy staff, journalists and a few Vietnamese refugees had just been flown out with their Hercules loaded to capacity and as a result four men of the RAAF’s Airfield Defence Guard (ADG) who had assisted with the evacuation had been left behind.

Fortunately a C130, which had been kept in reserve and was circling off the coast, came to the rescue and a relieved group of ADGs clambered aboard, the last Australian servicemen to leave the Republic of South Vietnam. It was ANZAC Day.

Five days later, just a few hours after the last US Marine helicopter lifted from the roof of the American Embassy a communist T34 tank burst through the embassy gates. There to record the final chapter on film was photojournalist Neil Davis, an Australian.

CHRIS BROOKS
Source: – ‘The RAAF in Vietnam’ by Chris Coultard
Clark.Allen & Unwin/AWM

Gunners’ get-together begets book

A six day reunion in October last year of ex members of the 2nd Heavy A/A Battery (Darwin) in NSW saw a good attendance at this annual event. At the Reunion Dinner it was proposed that the history of the unit be written by Bill Appleton. As usual finance is a problem but, with a small Government grant and support of ex-gunners and their families, publication can be achieved.

It is hoped that the substance of the book could be supported by gunners with extracts from personal diaries and reminiscences of events such as the ‘Moo Cow’ Murphy incident, (Gunner Max Murphy heard a strange noise while on guard duty and, after his challenge was not acknowledged, fired his weapon at the intruder. A cautious investigation of the corpse revealed the victim was a cow.) Information recorded on tape by members for the Keith Murdoch Sound Archives also would be an excellent source of material for research and I ask that these be made available. If you can assist please contact:

PETER HACKETT
11 Orizaba Place Rockingham 6168. Phone 9527 6689

Words of Wisdom – from the 5th century BC

War is an evil thing, but to submit to the dictation of other states is worse ... Freedom, if we hold fast to it, will ultimately restore our losses, but submission will mean permanent loss of all that we value ... To you who call yourselves men of peace, I say: You are not safe unless you have men of action on your side.

Thucydides
History of the Dawn Service

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day has become a solemn Australian and New Zealand tradition. It is taken for granted as part of the ANZAC ethos and few wonder how it started. Its story, as it were, is buried in a small cemetery caved out of the bush some kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton.

Almost paradoxically, one grave stands out by its very simplicity. It is covered by a protective white-washed concrete slab with a plain cement cross at its top end. No epitaph recalls even the name of the deceased. The inscription on the cross is a mere two words: 'A PRIEST'. No person would identify the grave as that of a dedicated clergyman who created the Dawn Service without the simple marker placed next to the grave only in recent times. It reads:

'Adjacent to, and on the right of this marker, lies the grave of the late Reverend Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England clergyman and padre, 44th Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force. On 25th April 1923, at Albany WA, Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of the Dawn Parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured, Australia wide, ever since'.

Reverend White was serving as one of the Padres of the earliest ANZACs to leave Australia with the 1st AIF in November 1914. The convoy was assembled in Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound at Albany. Before embarkation, at four in the morning, he conducted a service for all the men of his battalion. When White returned to Australia in 1919, he was appointed relieving rector of St John's Church in Albany. It was a stange coincidence that the starting point of the AIF convoys should now become his parish.

No doubt it must have been the memory of his first Dawn Service those many years earlier and his experiences overseas, combined with awesome cost of lives and injuries, which inspired him to honour permanently the valiant men (both living and dead) who had joined the fight for the Allied cause. "Albany," as he is quoted to have said, "was the last sight of land these ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold a service (here) on the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them." That is why on ANZAC Day 1923 he came to hold the Commemorative Dawn Service.

As the sun was rising, a man in a small dinghy cast a wreath in King George Sound while White, with a band of about 20 men gathered around him on the summit of nearby Mount Clarence, silently watched the wreath floating out to sea. He then recited the words: "As the sun rises and goeth down, we will remember them". All present were deeply moved and the news of the ceremony soon spread throughout the country; the ceremony then was adopted by the various Returned Services communities Australia wide.

Eventually, White was transferred from Albany to serve other congregations, first in South Australia, then Broken Hill where he built a church, and still later to Forbes NSW. In his retirement from parish life, he moved to Herberton where he became a Chaplain of an Anglican convent. However, soon after his arrival (on 26 September 1954) he died, to be buried so modestly and anonymously as 'A PRIEST'.


AUTHENTIC ANZAC BISCUITS

Remember the terrific, tasty ANZAC biscuits your mother or grandmother used to make?

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### FORMING UP AREAS, EX-SERVICE ORGANISATIONS
#### ANZAC DAY 2000

#### Barrack Street

- **COUNCIL HOUSE**
  - 39ers
  - Ex-POW
  - BCOF
  - KSEAVA
  - ADAA
  - Vietnam Vets
  - Naval Association Exec
  - Fleet Air Arm
  - HMAS Perth
  - HMAS Sydney
  - HMAS Hobart
  - HMAS Canberra-Shropshire
  - HMAS Australia
  - HMAS Westralia

- **CATHEDRAL AVENUE**
  - HMAS Brisbane
  - HMAS Assault
  - Submarines Assn
  - Allied Chinese Ships
  - Allied Merchant Seamen

- **ST GEORGES**
  - 6 Div CAV
  - 2/2 CDO
  - 2/5 CDO
  - 2/6 CDO
  - Z Force (WA)
  - Z Force (Aust)
  - RAAC
  - RAA
  - 2/3 Fd Regt
  - 2/7 Fd Regt
  - 2/7 Fd Regt
  - AA Assn
  - 2/3 Lt AA
  - RAAFA
  - WAAAF
  - WRAAF
  - Bomber Command
  - RAF POWs
  - Pathfinder
  - WA Spitfire Sqns
  - 467-463 Sqn
  - 460 Sqn
  - 468 Sqn
  - RAR Assn
  - 1 RAR
  - 2 RAR Malaysia
  - Sutherland Sqn
  - Catalina Sqn
  - Ubon
  - 25 Sqn
  - No. 3 Telecom
  - 3 Sqn
  - Aust SAS
  - AATV
  - Aust Inf Assoc
  - RAASC
  - RAAOC
  - 2/7 Fd Amb
  - 2/13 Fd Amb

#### Pier Street

- **TERRACE**
  - Polish
  - Greek
  - Netherlands
  - Vietnamese

#### St Andrew’s Church

- **UNIT POSITIONS SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES**

#### St George’s Cathedral

- **2/32 2/43 2/48 2/3 2/4 25 1 13 Inf Bde**
  - Bn
  - Bn
  - Bn
  - MG
  - MG
  - Regt
  - Bn
  - Bn

### PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE CHANGES FROM 1999 FORMING UP AREAS

- **ANZAC HOUSE**
ANZAC DAY 2000 – Guidance Notes
Dawn Service, State War Memorial, Kings Park

1. VIP and Unit Association wreath layers are requested to assemble in the vicinity of the Floral Clock on Fraser Avenue and be in position by 5.40 am when VIPs will be briefed by the Chief Marshall. Unit Association representatives will be assembled in parade order by the Deputy Chief Marshal behind VIPs.

2. At 5.55 am, all the official wreath layers accompanied by a drummer and under the control of the Chief Marshal will move as a body to a position on the road at the entrance of the State War Memorial Precinct.

3. His Excellency the Governor of WA, Major General Michael Jeffery AC MC and Mrs Jeffery arrive by vehicle at the State War Memorial entrance at 5.58 am where they will be greeted by the State President of the RSL, Lieutenant Colonel Ken Bladen (Rtd), RSL Representative, the State Warden of the War Memorial, Mrs Annette Knight AM JP and the Deputy Warden, Mr Ron Stone AM JP. The RSL Representative and Mrs Jeffery then move down to the Memorial.

4. His Excellency and the officials who received him on his arrival move to the head of the procession and take up position, from left to right in order:
   1. State Warden
   2. His Excellency the Governor of WA
   3. The State President of RSL
   4. Deputy Warden

5. The procession moves off and on reaching the Memorial halts, the ‘Still’ is sounded by the Bugler after which the ceremony commences with His Excellency the Governor of WA laying the first wreath. He is followed by the Official Party who will lay their wreaths in order of precedence under direction of the Chief Marshall.

6. When Wreath Laying is completed the ‘Last Post’ will be sounded by the Bugler followed by ‘Two Minutes Silence’.

7. The ‘Two Minutes Silence’ will be broken by a Gun Salute; the Buglers will then sound ‘Reveille’. ‘The Ode’ will then be delivered by the Deputy Warden; this completes the Ceremony, which should terminate at approximately 6:25 am.

8. His Excellency, Mrs Jeffery, the State President, RSL Representative and Warden will depart the State War Memorial Precinct for a further service to take place at the Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women’s Memorial.

9. After the Official Party has departed, personal wreaths may be laid at the Memorial by the public.

10. His Excellency the Governor of WA, Mrs Jeffery, State President, Warden, Deputy Warden and invited guests will move to the Jewish Memorial.

a. The Official party move via the Court of Contemplation into Fraser Avenue, at this point they will move left at the entrance to the Jewish Memorial.

b. On arrival at the Jewish Memorial the Official Party will take up its position on the southern side of the Memorial.

c. The Order of Service to be conducted at the Jewish Memorial is:
   1. Bugler sounds “g”;
   2. Special ANZAC Day Prayer - Rabbi D.I. Freilich (two minutes);
   3. Psalm 23 - (English) Rabbi J Aaronson (two minutes);
   4. Memorial Prayer in Hebrew and English - Rev C Davidowitz (three minutes);
   5. Kaddish - Rabbi D.I. Freilich (one minute);
   6. Last Post - Bugler;
   7. One minute silence;
   8. Reveille - Bugler;
   9. Wreath Laying;
   10. Ode - President of WAJEX - Ron Stone;
   11. Clergy take two paces forward, bow, turn around to greet His Excellency and other dignitaries.

d. The duration of the Service is approximately 15 - 20 minutes duration.

e. On completion of the Service His Excellency and Mrs Jeffery depart.
Parade and Service on The Esplanade

1. RSL Guests are requested to be seated in the RSL Guest Enclosure no later than 9.10 am.

2. RSL Hosts and VIP Guests, who are to be seated on the Official Dais located on the northern side of Alf Curlewis Gardens will arrive by car between 8.50 am and 9.10 am. A separate instruction detailing the order of precedence of arrival and timings will be issued in due course with a map of the area for entry.

3. The Defence Force contingents step-off from Langley Park at 9.10 am, move up Victoria Avenue, left into St Georges Terrace. They will turn left into William Street and right into Alf Curlewis Gardens. The parade will continue past the saluting base turning right as directed by Marshals, where units will take up positions for the Commemorative Service.

4. The Ex-Services contingents will step-off from St Georges Terrace at 9:40 am following the route taken by the Defence Forces.

5. At 11.00 am when all marchers are assembled in their positions on The Esplanade the Royal Salute will be given. The ANZAC Day Service will then commence.

6. When the Service terminates at 11:55 am. His Excellency the Governor of WA will depart and the parade will be dismissed.

7. Official Guests departing the Official Dais by vehicle will leave in the reverse order of their arrival commencing immediately after the departure of His Excellency the Governor.

8. It is requested that Official Guests expedite their departure to enable the aged and infirm vehicle mounted veterans to vacate their positions on The Esplanade with minimum delay.

Anyone who requires transport IN the ANZAC Day parade is asked to please contact the following:

CARS:
Mrs Barbara Bryant – Telephone 9401 9373
Lois Portelli – Telephone 9339 4807
JEEPS:
Mr Jack McRoberts – Telephone 9364 7463

SHIRE OF MUNDARING
ANZAC SERVICES
2000

BLACKBOY HILL
SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SERVICE
Friday 7 April 2000
1.30 pm
Guest Speaker
REAR ADMIRAL
PHILIP KENNEDY
AO RAN (RTD)

MONDAY 24 APRIL 2000
5.30 pm
SUNSET SERVICE

NIGHT VIGIL

Tuesday 25 April 2000
6.15am
DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC DAY MARCH AND SERVICE
BELLEVUE RSL
PURTON PLACE, BELLEVUE
11.45am PARADE FORMS
11.50am MARCH OFF

EASTERN HILLS SUB-BRANCH RSL
MUNDARING
2.45 pm MARCH OFF from Shire Offices
3.00 pm SERVICE at the War Memorial

M.N. Williams
Chief Executive Officer
700 Gt Eastern Highway
Mundaring 6073
WAR VETERANS’ HOME

The War Veterans’ Home, at Menora celebrated the arrival of the new millennium with residents from the Hostel, Darby and Joan flats and Pearson Village attending a party in the administration building.

The ‘thank you’ letters received were well appreciated. Comments included: ‘well organised’, ‘well decorated’, ‘good entertainment’, ‘plenty to eat and drink’ and ‘excellent services’.

The party would not have been the success it was without the assistance of volunteer helpers and I would like to publicly thank Percy White, Norma Turner, Helen Swanson, my husband Gerald, my son Warren and his friend Luke. A special thanks to Ron Anderson who kindly played some numbers on the saxophone for us. Thank you all.

JILL VAN BLOMMESTEIN
Director Corporate Services

Residents enjoy themselves at the WVH party.

WAR SERVICE HOMES RAFFLE 2000

This annual raffle is the major fundraiser for the welfare of our veterans and the continued improvement of our War Veterans’ Homes. All members and Sub-Branches are urged to support this worthy cause. Books contain 10 tickets at $2 each and may be sold to friends and neighbours.

1st Prize – $20,000 2nd Prize – $5,000 3rd Prize – $2,000 4th Prize – $1,000 5th Prize – $1,000

Four thousand members are NOT receiving raffle books – if you are one of those and would like to do so, please contact ANZAC House, telephone 9325 9799 or the WVH in Mt Lawley, telephone 9370 0200 or complete the coupon below and post it to: The State Secretary, ANZAC House, PO Box Y3023, East St George’s Terrace, Perth 6832.

Name ........................................................................................................... Number of Raffle Books ....................................

Address ............................................................................................................. Postcode ..................................................
Major General Peter Cosgrove  

An Aussie in charge of a US Rifle Company

Australian Army Captain Ivan Cahill, the only foreigner to have direct command of an American Rifle Company in Vietnam.

The upturned brim of his distinctive Australian slouch hat made him immediately stand out to the young marines at their base camp south of Da Nang. And his manner of saluting, flat palm of the hand brought crisply to his hat, reverberating slightly as it was snapped to a stop in the British manner, caused whole groups of young marines to deliberately cross his path so that they could salute him and watch the spectacle of his return salute. Captain Ivan J. Cahill of the Royal Australian Army held an entirely unique distinction. He was the only foreigner to have direct command of an American rifle company in combat. Not an adviser, not an observer, not a liaison officer, Captain Cahill was the commander of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during some of the most savage fighting in that unit’s proud history. Even after a long and distinguished career in the Australian army, including the command of an Australian infantry company during his second tour of Vietnam in 1971, retired Colonel Cahill would remain proud of the uniqueness of his American company command.

The story of how he came to command a US Marine rifle company began in Melbourne, where Cahill had been born some 26 years before he served in Vietnam. After finishing high school, he trained at Australia’s prestigious Royal Military College, Duntroon, where he was commissioned a lieutenant in December 1963. Cahill then was posted to the Pacific Islands Regiment in Wewak, New Guinea. At that time New Guinea was still an Australian protectorate, its forces part of the Australian army and led by Australian officers.

After a couple of years in New Guinea, Cahill was sent to Okinawa in May 1967, where his duties had him working with American forces, in particular with the headquarters of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB). At the time, the 9th MAB had several responsibilities, one of which was to provide two of its battalions as the Seventh Fleet’s Special Landing Force (SLF).

The SLF served as the Marine’s mobile fire brigade, cruising off the coast of Vietnam and ready to be deployed to hot spots and battles as needed. Only a month before Cahill’s arrival, in April 1967, the SLF had been thrown into the hill fights around Khe Sanh and had seized the strategic hills 881S, 881N and 861, which would later prove extremely valuable to the defence of Khe Sanh airstrip during the Tet offensive of 1968.

Letter from East Timor

Dear Ken
To you and all the members of the RSL’s Western Australian Branch, I thank you very much for your thoughtful Christmas letter and words of support. It was a most kind gesture, particularly at this time of the year when our thoughts turn to our loved ones far removed from us here.

All RSLs have been very supportive of the men and women of INTERFET and as Commander I extend my thanks to you for your contribution to our cause. I am very aware of the efforts of many people throughout the world supporting INTERFET and praying for peace and security in East Timor.

I too hope that you had a merry Christmas and that you may also have a safe and peaceful New Year.
Warmest regards
PETER COSGROVE
Commander, INTERFET

continued on page 22
BADGE DAY APPEAL

WEAR AUSTRALIA'S PRIDE
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Buy a badge and help Legacy keep the promise it made more than 70 years ago to look after the widows and children of deceased war veterans. Since then, Legacy has expanded its charter to include peacekeeping operations (East Timor, Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia) and all service personnel killed while on hazardous service or training for war, such as those who died in the Blackhawk helicopter (1996) and HMAS Westralia (1998) tragedies and the RAAF F-111 accident off Malaysia (1998).

Legacy is a voluntary organisation that receives no direct government assistance. This year, more than $550,000 needs to be raised so Legacy can continue to provide the best quality care and support for about 9000 widows and 160 children.

Volunteers are also needed in the Perth and Fremantle central areas as well as shopping centres throughout the State to sell Legacy Badges during Legacy's Badge Day Appeal on Friday, April 14.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Fundraising Manager Terry Healy on 9367 5799 or 0410 641 928.

Legacy’s Ninth Militaria Auction

Support Legacy and earn some money at the same time. Check your cupboards, drawers and garages for militaria items you believe may be suitable for Legacy’s Militaria Auction in March and bring them along to Legacy House as soon as possible.

Legacy is holding its ninth Militaria Auction at Legacy House, 64 Mill Point Road, South Perth, on Sunday March 12, 2000. The auction will start at 10.00am sharp with hundreds of militaria lots up for sale. Collectors can bid for badges, swords, uniforms, buttons, medals, hats, war souvenirs, books and documents. Sellers can deliver items to Legacy House each weekday from now, and a receipt will be issued on delivery.

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

INSPECTION TIMES: SATURDAY MARCH 11 10.00AM—4.00PM
SUNDAY MARCH 12 9.00AM—10.00AM

For more information about the auction and suitable items contact Fundraising Manager Terry Healy on 9367 5799 or on 0410 641 928

JOT THIS DOWN: July-September - Remember to buy a Legacy Raffle ticket or buy a book of five tickets
Service in the SLF battalions was clearly service in the vanguard of the Marines’ war against the North Vietnamese Army [NVA] and the Viet Cong, and Captain Cahill was keen to be a part of it. While he was initially posted to the island of Okinawa in a liaison billet as an S-3 (operations) officer, in August 1967 he managed to join the SLF quietly, without advising Australia, and take up duties on board USS Tripoli as part of the normal reinforcement chain from the 9th MAB.

A career soldier, Cahill would later recall: “I was very keen to go to Vietnam”. With the SLF he was dispatched as liaison officer to the forces (US Marine Corps and ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam]) in Vietnam being supported by the SLF. In that role he participated in several SLF operations, including Operations Belt Drive, Swift, Fortress Sentry, Kingfisher, Formation Leader and Knox in the Northern provinces of the I Corps area.

In the course of Cahill’s job on the Marine headquarters staff, he rubbed shoulders on a daily basis with the American Marine majors and colonels. One of these colonels was Henry Engisch, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (2/3), whose troops were embarked on board USS Tripoli as SLF-Bravo, Cahill later recalled, “I knew the battalion commander Hank Engisch...and just kept making it known that I was keen to command a company within the battalion.” He noted “I didn’t say anything to Australia about this. I didn’t even tell Australia that I’d left Okinawa. Because they could only say ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and I didn’t want to give them the opportunity to say ‘no’.”

In November 1967 the Australian captain’s constant requests for a job with the battalion finally paid off. Cahill later recalled; “One day Hank Engisch said to me, ‘How would you like to have Echo Company?’ And so I went from the staff of the Landing Force to the Landing Force battalion.” The US Marines of Echo Company now had an Australian Commanding Officer.

Within a few weeks the 2/3rd was reassigned to land-based duty in Vietnam and another battalion took its turn as the SLF. When Captain Cahill’s Echo Company, 2/3, took up positions south of Da Nang in November 1967, Cahill simply went along with it. Still he sent no word to Australia that he had even left Okinawa.

Cahill was enjoying his time with the US Marines. “The Marines were very keen,” he recalled, “very enthusiastic. Terrific young people. Professionals wanting to do a decent job and trying their utmost to do so.” And the Marines in his charge were equally happy with their foreign skipper. As Echo Company’s First Sergeant David Johnston noted at the time, in an article that appeared in Stars and Stripes, “We’re fortunate in having Captain Cahill as our Company commander and we’re proud and pleased with the situation.”

Soon the Marines of Echo Company even began referring to themselves as ‘Diggers’... The Australian connection was made even stronger when Cahill managed to acquire 200 Australian slouch hats for the Marines of Echo Company – and even received permission from the battalion commander for the Marines to wear the distinctive hats around the battalion base camp.

But the real test would come on 28 December 1967, when Cahill’s Echo Company, 2/3, was placed under the operational control of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment (3/5), for a combat operation against NVA forces that threatened the US Marines’ air base at nearby Da Nang. Cahill’s Echo Company was in the first wave of a helicopter-borne assault. As they exited the choppers and moved off from the landing zone, Cahill recalled, “we were brought under fire and a number of our troops were killed in the forward platoon”.

A citation for the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device, signed by the secretary of the US Navy, tells how “Captain Cahill, with extraordinary coolness and tactical acumen, deployed the Marines under fire to meet this unexpected threat” and how, for the next several hours the Australian Commander skilfully directed air and artillery support. It also describes how he “...without regard for his own safety, courageously moved about the battlefield, encouraging the Marines of the Company in their action against the enemy.”

Cahill’s actions that day kept the landing zone open and allowed the Marines of the 3/5th to enter the battle and complete their assigned mission, as well as eliminate more than 30 enemy soldiers. Colonel William Rockey, Commander of the 3/5th, summed up his performance, stating that Cahill “...conducted himself heroically, professionally and efficiently in command of his company. His leadership was inspirational to the Marines under his command.” But that was not the end of Captain Cahill’s time with the Marines. Far from it. He went on to command Echo Company through the Tet offensive and several additional operations around Da Nang before moving north with his battalion to join the 1st Marine Regiment for Operations Ford, Pegasus and Scotland II.

For the latter two operations, which took place in and around Khe Sanh, Lt Col Jack Davis, now commanding the 2/3rd, assigned Cahill as battalion S-3. But the highlight of his tour – “Perhaps one highlight among many” Cahill later recalled – was command of the 2/3rd’s tactical area of responsibility for a week while the battalion commander and three of the battalion’s rifle companies were away on a task assigned to them by the regimental commander of the 1st Marines.

Thus, during his last week with the battalion, Cahill commanded a force consisting of two rifle companies (one
from his own battalion and one 'on loan' from the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment), as well as the direct support artillery battery, a platoon each of tanks, 81mm mortars, 4.2 inch mortars, 106mm recoilless rifles and various other attachments - well over 500 marines in all. During that period he was responsible for a four-mile stretch of Route 9 near Khe Sanh and an area of operations encompassing some 40 square miles north and south of the highway.

While Captain Cahill’s time with the Marines eventually came to an end in May 1968, today he still speaks with great pride of what he terms the “...great honour of having led Marines.” He also notes, “…whatever views one hears today about Vietnam, no one can deny the dedication and professionalism of those Marines with whom I was privileged to serve.”

To this day it is not clear what levels of approval were given for the unusual arrangements. A foreigner in command of an American unit? When queried about that many years later, Cahill said, “I think that decisions were made within 9th MAB and within the Landing Force arrangements. I imagine that if the [US Marine] Battalion commander or the regimental commander had sought approval from higher up, it might have been denied.”

Regardless of the level at which his arrangements had been approved and authorised, how effective was he in achieving the Marine’s objectives? The secretary of the US Navy said, “His gallant efforts and brave initiative in the face of extreme danger were instrumental in the successful accomplishment of the battalion’s mission. Captain Cahill’s exceptional ability, steadfast perseverance and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service.”

And, finally, how did I know that whole groups of young Marines would alter their route just so that they could salute him and see the peculiar way in which he returned the salute? ...I was one of those young Marines.

MARK W. WOODRUFF

Footnote: This article is courtesy of Ern Marshall’s Vietnam Web-site. The article was supplied to him by Peter Lopes. Further information provided by Peter Ray records the fact that other PIR officers exchanged with the USMC in Japan, with Michael Harris (retired Brigadier), subsequently commanding D Company 1st Battalion 9th Marine Regiment in South Vietnam in 1965.

For further comment Ern Marshall can be contacted at 149 Lemon Avenue, Mildura, Victoria 3500 or e-mail marshall@mildura.net.au

EDITOR
The following edited transcripts of Gerry Lyall's Tunnels of Cu Chi story was taken from the AUSVETS website (www.ausvets.powerup.com.au) with the permission of the author. Data for the article came from several sources including A.McGregor's book, No Need for Heroes. Gerry Lyall served with 1 Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers in South Vietnam 1969-70. Ed.

Now a popular tourist destination, the tunnels in Cu Chi, Vietnam, were originally dug as hiding places for the Viet Minh, the nationalist guerillas who fought the colonial power, France, in the 1940s and 1950s. As with their successors, the Viet Cong (VC), communists dominated the independence movement.

The tunnels were dug for communication from one hamlet to another so that the Viet Minh could evade French army sweeps or spotter planes. Major Nguyen Quot, who spent the best part of 10 years living in Cu Chi’s tunnels, explains their origin. “The tunnels were started in areas temporarily occupied by the enemy. The revolutionary forces were small. It would have been impossible for our forces to survive if we had fought out in the open. We had to be in a position where we could choose the time, the place and the target of attack. By 1948 we had already dug a tunnel system; each family, each hamlet, had a tunnel connecting it with others.”

After years of bitter fighting, the French – despite American assistance – were defeated in May 1954. In Geneva in July of the same year Vietnam was partitioned ‘temporarily’ at the 17th parallel, with the Communist-led forces to the North. It was expected that the country would be reunited after National Reunification talks planned for 1956. The South’s Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem, refused to attend the proposed negotiations and the hostilities continued.

In 1960 the National Liberation Front (NLF), a communist-dominated coalition of anti-government groups, was formed to supervise the resumption of guerilla war in the South. Co-ordinated armed attacks began on army and police posts, and for the first time the essential weakness of the Diem regime was exposed. Army posts were either easily over-run or sufficiently intimidated by demonstrators or persuaded by the threats and blandishments of villagers so that all the weapons were surrendered. To the exasperation of their American advisers, some of the South’s Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units deliberately avoided enemy contact and the consequent casualties.

One by one the villages of Cu Chi and adjoining districts disarmed local ARVN detachments and effectively cut themselves off from government control. The arms acquired by this means were the first and only weapons many nascent Viet Cong units had; the enterprising villagers set about making copies, founding the huge cottage ordnance industry in the tunnels that would last until the late sixties when newer guns came south from Hanoi.

With the resumption of guerilla warfare the old redoubts of the Viet Minh had to be re-activated. The French had used aircraft to spot and bomb the Vietnamese fighters and Diem’s army was increasingly transported by American helicopters. In villages all over Cu Chi, Tay Ninh, and an area known as the ‘Iron Triangle’, and wherever possible, old tunnel networks were repaired and a great program of tunnel digging began. “When we got orders to set up a secure base here,” related one Cu Chi survivor of that period, ex-guerilla Ba Huyet, “the first thing we did was to start digging 30 kilometres of underground tunnels. It was in 1960. Not only was this one of our closest outposts to Saigon (approximately 35 km north-west of Saigon – Ed.), but it was our advanced command post throughout the war. The Americans were sure that something was going on here, but they were not sure what.”

Tunnel veteran Major Nguyen Quot estimated that 48km of tunnel excavated during the war against the French had grown to 200 kilometres by the time the American army arrived in 1965. After 1961, hitherto piecemeal local digging was connected to form an integrated network. The Americans would nickname it ‘the little IRT’, after part of the New York subway system.

In January 1966 Australian army engineers of 3 Field Troop and infantrymen of the 1st Battalion RAR were supporting the US 173rd Airborne Brigade on Operation Crimp. This was a massive attack set to strike at the very heart of the Viet Cong infrastructure in South Vietnam, in the Ho Bo Woods just west of the Iron Triangle. This no-nonsense offensive was planned to destroy the long-time communist redoubt by finding and eliminating the headquarters of the entire Viet Cong military region.

When this operation started the Viet Cong would fire on the Americans and then disappear and this was to confuse the Americans no-end. They started to find the tunnels, of course, but there was nothing in the training manual about tunnel warfare. Neither the Americans nor the Australians had any experience in dealing with what to them was a new phenomenon but they were relatively unconcerned – the famous OJT principle (on the job training) would somehow see them through. But in
January 1966, muddling through, adapting and applying combat training would not be enough to wipe out the communist presence in the ‘liberated’ zones of Cu Chi district.

THE TUNNEL RATS

The ‘tunnel rat’ was a new job and it was to stand proud and isolated within the ranks of the best equipped army in the world. The tunnel rat soon discovered that the standard infantryman’s equipment was not for him. To the contrary he discovered that the less he took into the sweaty darkness, the better the chances of survival. He soon realised that neither firepower, high technology, or personal armour (‘flak’ jackets) would ever give him an advantage over his invisible enemy.

The bayonet, the pistol and the flashlight were the basic tools for survival inside the tunnels of Cu Chi or indeed anywhere an engineer was required to descend into the depths of the earth. Having only two hands, the tunnel rat was restricted to a torch in one hand and a bayonet (as a prodder for unseen traps, etc.) in the other. Indeed, the very reverse of high-tech weapons development took place within the tiny ranks of the tunnel rats.

Australians first contacted the VC in the tunnels on Operation Crimp. Brought in to act as a blocking force on the northern perimeter of the operation in an area covered with light scrub, rubber plantations and secondary growth, the infantry of the 1st Battalion RAR and the sappers of 3 Field Troop, with their bush hats and different military background, made a distinct and colorfull background to the Gls. They were all volunteers and all were keen to find the action.

3 Field Troop was led by a large ‘beefy’ officer, Captain Alex (Sandy) McGregor. He was known in military jargon as a hands-on type, an officer who truly led his men and would ask from them nothing that he had not done or would not do himself. He was a front row rugby forward and was built like an ox. Under his command McGregor had almost 70 engineers.

On the first day of Crimp the troop found action without difficulty. Home-made grenades were spotted rigged as anti-personnel mines, with trip wires stretching between the trees from ankle to head height. On the second day they even ran across two mortar bombs activated by a grenade connected to an ankle-high trip wire. Later that day they found an area laced with punji stakes (razor sharp bamboo spikes) set in concrete in the ground. A sapper of B company demolition team trod on one and it went straight through his foot.

By the third day the Australian infantrymen were beginning to take serious casualties. Captain McGregor...
recalled that not only were the scouts of one infantry company killed, but when the stretcher bearers were called to evacuate the wounded, they too were killed. McGregor and his troop were called in when it became obvious that although the area had been surrounded, no Viet Cong had been sighted, the conclusion was that they had ‘gone down’. As the Australian ring of steel closed on the area, they found the tunnels.

Over the next four days, working with the Americans, the Australians slowly uncovered almost a mile of communication tunnels, bunkers and underground chambers. McGregor’s men had been in the country for about four months, this was their fifth operation and they were neither baffled by nor unduly apprehensive about the tunnels. They went down and explored but there were mistakes.

They used a specially adapted commercial blower called the “Mighty Mite” to blow smoke down the tunnels, then watch carefully to see where the smoke re-appeared so they could roughly plot the layout of the tunnel complex. But the smoke stayed underground and when the first tunnel-ferrets (as they then were called) went below they quickly became unconscious because of the lack of oxygen. This is how Corporal Bob Bowtell died, in a tunnel war that was about to break out in earnest.

While exploring underground Bowtell—a typically tall, lean Australian—unwisely tried to wriggle through a tiny trapdoor connecting one tunnel level with another. It measured 16 by 11 inches, dimensions that would hardly have allowed a lithe Viet Cong through, let alone a large-framed westerner. Bowtell got stuck and within seconds realised that the lingering smoke from the ‘Mighty Mite’ had expelled most of the oxygen in the tunnel. He shouted for help.

Private Jim Daly (1 RAR) volunteered to try to rescue Bowtell but by the time he got to the trapdoor Bowtell was already unconscious.

Futile attempts began above ground to try and sink an air shaft to the trapped sapper. Daly himself was almost asphyxiated by the lingering fumes. After several attempts to free Bowtell, and on the verge of collapse himself, Private Daly was ordered to stop. Private Jim Daly was awarded an MID for his “...sense of purpose, coolness in action and disregard for his own safety, which was an inspiration to all those who fought with him”.

After Bowtell’s death, McGregor made sure that no similar accidental deaths were ever to afflict the Australians. Meanwhile searching and destroying these incredible underground tunnels had to continue. Les Colmer and Barry Harford, two mates from Broken Hill, volunteered to lay the demolition charges in the tunnels. Using his skills the radio operator, Sapper (later Major) Dennis Ayoub, rigged up a proficient underground telephone system. He found ammunition caches stored in small chambers, booby-trapped Parker 57 fountain pens, and even underground flag-making facilities, complete with sewing machines. Large rice caches were also found, every one of them booby-trapped, not just around the cache but inside the bags as well.

McGregor made copious notes of what his men had found. Only his bulk prevented him from leading his men through the seemingly never-ending network of tunnels.

It was McGregor who realised the value to the VC of American combat detritus, after Dennis Ayoub found a small tunnel workshop in which hand grenades were made. The inner case was made from a small discarded tomato juice tin and the outer case from an old beer can. The fragmentation pieces were blue metal road gravel and the firing mechanism was from old French or American issue hand grenades.

“Because of what we had found in the tunnels,” recalls McGregor, “we ordered this policy of burn, bash and bury. We had ration packs with small tins. You would never leave your tins lying around so that they could be found, you never left anything the enemy could use. Your spoon...they would use that for making weapons. We left nothing, absolutely nothing.”

This was a discipline the GIs could have emulated more enthusiastically. As the war became even harder on the Viet Cong, they used the waste so generously left around by the Americans and in some areas they became dependent on it.

Tensions between the specialist engineers and the infantry began to show early in Operation Crimp. In an official Australian after-action report, the following laconic comments were recorded:

*In some cases, having secured tunnel entrances, infantry moved on to secure other locations, leaving sappers underground with no immediate close-in protection. This does not foster confidence. One instance occurred where sappers were searching a tunnel under a house and the infantry commenced to burn the house. Sappers lose confidence under those circumstances.*

There was some discord between the Australians and their American comrades too. Dennis Ayoub said quite bluntly, “The Americans taught us nothing about tunnel fighting in an hour that we hadn’t already tried ourselves. Our determination to clear the tunnels seemed to them to be nothing short of madness. They were quite surprised when we said we were going to send guys down with a torch, a pistol and a length of string.”

While the Australians began to develop the earliest
techniques for exploring and destroying tunnel systems, they had no real plan for dealing with the heart-stopping business of actually running into the enemy inside a tunnel. Dennis Ayoub recalled the first time it happened to him, when he was behind another sapper who was leading in the exploration of a narrow communications tunnel:

"One minute we were crawling through the tunnel, the next minute my mate without a word, started to back up rapidly. No-one could turn around in the tunnels we found on Crimp, you had to back out of the bloody things. So he started to back up, and I had to back up. No-one said anything. When we got to the bottom of the shaft, he somehow managed to get past me and was first up and out. So I came up second hoping that my legs weren't going to be left behind. When we got out and my mate cooled down a bit, he told me he'd seen a man down there."

Of all the tunnels intelligence assessments made during Crimp, the Royal Australian Engineer's was probably the most accurate and the most prescient. Despite their success the Aussies were never again to be involved with the tunnels of Cu Chi.

The lessons learned in the Cu Chi tunnels by the original 3 Field Troop were carried on by the successive three field troops and the tradition of the original 'tunnel rats' was upheld with both courage and distinction. The whole of the Corps of the Royal Australian Engineers owes Captain McGregor a debt of gratitude for the way he documented his procedures for successive troops to build on for successful tunnel operations in the Task Force area of operations in Phuoc Tuy Province.

GERRY LYALL

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**RSL Remembrance Day Lunch and Farewell to Governor & Mrs Jeffrey**

The Remembrance Day lunch and farewell to His Excellency The Governor, Major General Michael Jeffrey AC MC and Mrs Jeffrey was held at the Novotel Langley Perth Hotel after a Commemorative Service at the State War Memorial.

RSL State President Lt Col Ken Bladen (Rtd) welcomed the 380 distinguished guests to the function and Captain Brian Underwood MIMT (Rtd) conducted the Presbyterian Ladies' College Musical Ensemble and the formal part of the program.

Presentations were made to His Excellency, Captain Underwood, the PLC Ensemble, Mrs Joan Dowson MBE OAM and Mr Ron Stone, AM JP. The Returned Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch also made a presentation to Mrs Jeffrey.

Later as a 'thank you' to His Excellency, the Ensemble under the baton of Sir Charles Court, AK AM KCMG OBE, played the Regimental March of the Special Air Service and, with Ken Bladen leading the singing and other ex-SAS members on stage, everyone joined in, and a stirring rendition of the Regiment's *The Happy Wanderer* filled the flag-bedecked room.

Sir Charles then presented the Governor, an ex-Commanding Officer of the SAS, with a specially made recording of the Regimental March performed by the Army Band.

The day's proceeds of $5,800 went to the RSL Welfare Fund.

EDITOR

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The Presbyterian Ladies College Musical Ensemble under the baton of Sir Charles Court.
High Court finds for Defence in HIV case

The High Court has found the Department of Defence did not act unlawfully in a recent decision to discharge a serving member of the ADF diagnosed as HIV positive.

The member was discharged in accordance with Defence’s policy for the management of HIV infection in the ADF shortly after the discovery of the ailment. HIV was detected during a routine post-enlistment blood test only one month after the member had joined the ADF.

After being discharged, the member appealed to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) which found that Defence had acted unlawfully in its dismissal, finding that being free of HIV was not an inherent requirement of serving in the defence forces. However, in appeals to both the Federal Court and the High Court, the HREOC decision was overturned, maintaining Defence’s right to discharge members on the grounds of being HIV positive.

High Court Justice Michael McHugh said the requirements of employment in the ADF were not limited to the physical ability to undertake duty as the HREOC ruling had implied. “The requirement of employment [in the ADF] goes beyond the physical capacity to perform the tasks or skills [of duty].” He said: “The inherent requirements of the employment also require the employee to be able to work in a way that does not pose a risk to the health or safety of fellow employees.”

The issue now will be handed back to HREOC for further deliberation.

Courtesy ARMY NEWS

Review set to tackle ADF medals

A review of potential anomalies in medal and repatriation benefits for ADF service during the period 1955 to 1975 has been delayed. Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Scott said the reviewer advised him in December the report would be held over until early this year.

“I know of strong interest in the veteran and service communities regarding this review, so I understand their wish to see the outcomes following it as soon as possible,” he said. “I look forward to receiving the review and considering its recommendations and reasoning.”

The review is being conducted by former South Australian Supreme Court judge, naval officer and army reservist Robert Mohr and former senior naval officer R/Adm Philip Kennedy.

Areas of service being examined include the naval component of the Far East Strategic Reserve, RAAF Butterworth and ADF service in Malaysia during the period of confrontation with Indonesia.

The report also considers other ADF service in South East Asia during the specific period where prima facie evidence is presented to the review of possible anomalies.

“The extension to the reporting date will allow the review to canvass in the right amount of detail the large number of separate areas of service.”

Courtesy ARMY NEWS

Footnote: Late information as we were going to press indicates that this review has now been completed and passed on to the Government. EDITOR

Reserve Forces and Peacekeeping

The Minister for Defence, John Moore has announced that legislation is to be amended to allow reservists to be called out for a range of overseas deployments including peacekeeping.

It would appear that the possibility of call out such as this is a response to the difficulties faced by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in maintaining an adequate regular-only force in East Timor in addition to a number of other world-wide peacekeeping operations in which it is involved.

Before embarking on a policy change to involve reservists in peacekeeping, the Government would be well-advised to first consider the capability of the ADF. Changes in funding priority might be required to allow substantially regular forces to carry out peacekeeping missions.

Changes to the conditions under which reservists may be called out and employed have been long debated. Legislation, so far, has not followed. Under current legislation reservists can be called out only in DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA. For any other deployment reservists must volunteer.

There is at present no job protection afforded to reservists on return from call out, nor are there any
significant mechanisms in place to ensure continuity of earnings, mortgage protection or family support. Similarly, there are no protective or support measures in place to assist the employer who may lose a key employee for a significant period. For more than 10 years successive governments have promised effective legislation in this area, but none has acted.

Thus, before extending the duties for which reservists might be called out, it is essential that their interests and those of their families and employers be adequately protected. The long overdue legislation should now be hastened through the parliamentary process.

An extension of reserve call out beyond 'Defence of Australia' needs careful examination. While the present high level of public support for peacekeeping in East Timor is commendable, it must be questioned whether this support would be sustained by the community and employers on other peacekeeping missions. If this support is not sustained then there is a risk of further decline in reserve numbers as potential recruits weigh up the consequences of their commitment against their job prospects and the future of their families.

Reserve numbers are already below targets for a number of reasons – notably inadequate funding and equipping. Unsustainable demands on the reserve members' time, particularly those undergoing recruit training, have also been a factor.

With reductions in the number of senior Reserve officers in policy positions, it is hoped that adequate and objective information on the Reserve has been included in the ministerial briefings that have led to proposals for policy change.

When the legislation is passed enabling reservists to be called up for an expanded role, it is hoped that non-commissioned officer and officers will not be excluded from duty as occurred recently. There may have been some good reason for this, but it was never publicised.

Australia has a proud history of a citizen soldiery that has acquitted itself well in time of war since Federation. "Twice the citizen" was a term first used by Sir Winston Churchill to describe those who served in the national interest as members of the volunteer defence forces, doing so concurrently with their civilian occupations.

Let us ensure that the tradition of the citizen soldier continues into the 21st century!

P.G. WINSTANLEY

Editor's note: Lieutenant Colonel Peter Winstanley RFD (Rtd) is President of the Defence Reserves Association and a member of the RSL. The full transcript of the Minister's announcement is on-line at www.defence.gov.au

School of Military Engineering disestablished after 60 years

On the 10th December 1999 the School of Military Engineering (SME) ceased to exist and became the Mobility/Survivability Division of the Combat Arms Training Centre (CATC) which is headquartered at Puckapunyal in Victoria. A parade was held at SME Casula NSW to celebrate an institution which has served the Royal Australian Engineers, the Army and Australia in war and peace for 60 years. The School’s ex CO/CIs and RSM’s were invited as guests for the final parade. No doubt, like the rest of us they were wondering what it all meant. It will be many years before all of the elements of the old SME move to Pucka, at this stage only Operations Wing is located there. Combat Engineering, Trade and Plant courses are still at Casula, ‘lodgers’ in what was their home. Facimus et Frangimus. VALE SME.

FOOTNOTE: We understand that the School of Artillery is to be called the Support Division of CATC.... and that the School of Infantry is to be the Podiatry Division CATC.

MICK RYAN OAM President. RAE Assoc. WA

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ANZAC DAY ALBANY 2001

Albany: The Birthplace of ANZAC

by Don Meredith

Between 24 and 28 December 1914, the largest group of vessels to ever assemble in Australasia gradually arrived in beautiful King George’s Sound, Albany.

It comprised 28 Australian transports, 12 New Zealand transports and their naval escorts; HMS Minotaur a cruiser of 14,600 tons (flagship of the RN China station), HIJMS Ibuki a Japanese battle cruiser of 14,620 tons, HMAS Sydney and HMAS Melbourne both cruisers of 5,400 tons, and HMS Psyche and HMS Pyramus both light cruisers of 2,135 tons, sister ships from the New Zealand Squadron.

The City of Albany is giving enthusiastic support and has formed a local committee which is organising a week of sporting, cultural and other local festivities, with ANZAC Day as its central point. It is hoped that this will encourage visitors to come to this beautiful part of Australia to enjoy its magnificent scenery and historic import, and to visit its backdrop of the Porongurups and Stirling Range, wineries, broadacre farms and take part in the special ANZAC Day activities. We hope soon to circulate specific details, including tourism packages to encourage attendance, not only from WA but from other States and New Zealand.

The actual Services will follow the well established pattern so capably carried out over many years by Albany RSL which, with ‘Digger’ Cleak in the lead, is making an extraordinary effort for 2001. The Dawn Service will be held on the slopes of Mt Clarence, beneath the magnificent Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, which originally was erected at Port Said, Egypt, in 1932. Desecrated in the Suez crisis of 1956, its stone pedestal and remains were shipped to Australia in 1959, remodelled and recast with one copy located in Canberra and the other in Albany. The Memorial depicts an Australian horseman going to the aid of a dismounted New Zealander.

For the traditional mid-morning march and service, Navy, Army and Air Force have signified their intention of taking part, with visiting RAN vessels, ADF march participation and RAAF fly-pasts. RSL National President Maj. Gen. Peter Phillips AO MC, will take the salute and it is anticipated that other dignitaries from other States and New Zealand will attend.

It is hoped that this relatively early advice may encourage interested members and families from other centres to consider making holiday plans to include Albany.

2001 is the beginning of a new century. Bringing your children and grandchildren to Albany for the proposed activities should inspire them to nurture the marvellous ANZAC tradition which has played such a huge part in the development and growth of the country we love and to foster this spirit in future generations.
History of the Dawn Service

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day has become a solemn Australian and New Zealand tradition. It is taken for granted as part of the ANZAC ethos and few wonder how it started. Its story, as it were, is buried in a small cemetery caved out of the bush some kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton.

Almost paradoxically, one grave stands out by its very simplicity. It is covered by a protective white-washed concrete slab with a plain cement cross at its top end. No epitaph recalls even the name of the deceased. The inscription on the cross is a mere two words: 'A PRIEST'. No person would identify the grave as that of a dedicated clergyman who created the Dawn Service without the simple marker placed next to the grave only in recent times. It reads:

'Adjacent to, and on the right of this marker, lies the grave of the late Reverend Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England clergyman and padre, 44th Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force. On 25th April 1923, at Albany WA, Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of the Dawn Parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured, Australia wide, ever since'.

Reverend White was serving as one of the Padres of the earliest ANZACs to leave Australia with the 1st AIF in November 1914. The convoy was assembled in Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound at Albany. Before embarkation, at four in the morning, he conducted a service for all the men of his battalion. When White returned to Australia in 1919, he was appointed relieving rector of St John's Church in Albany. It was a strange coincidence that the starting point of the AIF convoys should now become his parish.

No doubt it must have been the memory of his first Dawn Service those many years earlier and his experiences overseas, combined with awesome cost of lives and injuries, which inspired him to honour permanently the valiant men (both living and dead) who had joined the fight for the Allied cause. "Albany," as he is quoted to have said, "was the last sight of land these ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold a service (here) at the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them." That is why on ANZAC Day 1923 he came to hold the Commemorative Dawn Service.

As the sun was rising, a man in a small dinghy cast a wreath in King George Sound while White, with a band of about 20 men gathered around him on the summit of nearby Mount Clarence, silently watched the wreath floating out to sea. He then recited the words: "As the sun rises and goeth down, we will remember them".

All present were deeply moved and the news of the ceremony soon spread throughout the country; the ceremony then was adopted by the various Returned Services communities Australia wide.

Eventually, White was transferred from Albany to serve other congregations, first in South Australia, then Broken Hill where he built a church, and still later to Forbes NSW. In his retirement from parish life, he moved to Herberton where he became Chaplain of an Anglican convent. However, soon after his arrival (on 26 September 1954) he died, to be buried so modestly and anonymously as 'A PRIEST'.

Farewell to our Patron, His Excellency the Governor, Major General Michael Jeffery AC MC and Mrs Marlena Jeffery

At a relaxed Sundowner function at ANZAC House on Tuesday, 30 November 1999, some 144 RSL members, including various dignitaries, presidents and representatives from 35 sub-branches, unit and kindred organisations and the State Executive, met to farewell His Excellency the Governor, Major General Michael Jeffery AC MC, and Mrs Marlena Jeffery.

The highlight of the function was the presentation of an inscribed memento to His Excellency and an exclusive Fine China Bell to Mrs Jeffery.

The presentations were preceded by some appropriate words of appreciation by the State President to which both His Excellency and Mrs Jeffery responded. Following the presentations and speeches His Excellency and Mrs Jeffery mingled informally with those present. A history of the fine china bell presented to Mrs Jeffery is reproduced below.

THE FINE CHINA BELL

by Francesca China Limited

This Bell is number 40 of the 150 commissioned by a former well-known city jeweller to help commemorate WA's sesquicentenary in 1979.

At that time the Francesca Factory, manufacturers of fine bone china, were celebrating their 300th anniversary, so it was suggested that the factory should make 150 for WA. However, the order was predicated on the condition that each Bell had to be spot on in every detail and photographs were sent to England of our WA wildflowers to ensure that the reproductions were accurate.

Each Bell was numbered, hand-made and painted. Some of the other recipients of the exclusive WA batch were:

• HRH Prince Phillip received one on his visit to WA, presented by the OBE Association;
• Sir Wallace Kyle, a former Governor of WA;
• Sir Charles Court on opening the Australian Jewellers' first ever International Jewellers' Conference held in Perth during the 150th Anniversary of WA;
• The Minister for the 150th anniversary, the Hon. Graeme McKinnon MLA.

Recently it was decided by the State Executive that, as we could not get Richard's Bell Tower, this one was more portable and therefore more suitable to present to Mrs Jeffery knowing how well she has served WA.

I don't know how true it is, but it has been said that if you ring this Bell late at night or in the early morning your husband will come running to attend to your demands.

STATE PRESIDENT

Ron Hatch, RSL State Executive

Margaret Fisher, President RSL Women's Auxiliary, being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Bob Raisbeck, DVA.

Mick Malone OAM, Chairman Australian SAS Association with Edwin 'Bart' Mavrick, President Australian SAS Assoc., WA Branch.
RSL Achievers 2000 - help us hit the target and win great prize

While the response to the article by Allan Hutcheson, former Snr Vice President WA Branch, on the urgent need to recruit new members to RSL, has been good, we need more members to assist if we are to meet our targets. In an effort to reinforce the urgency of this matter we are reprinting Allan's article, plus the membership form and the Terms and Conditions for the RSL Achievers 2000 competition.

Difficulties in attracting younger ex-service members from the ADF and Reserve, those currently serving and ex-national service personnel have been identified. The demography and geography of Western Australia are also hurdles to be overcome. There are 130 Sub-branches in WA - 51 in the greater metro-politan area and 79 in country and regional areas. 70% of our current memberships are in the 51 Sub-branches within the former. It is costly to visit and support country Sub-branches on a regular basis as they are spread over 2.7 million-km2. Communication and liaison has always been a huge problem. Many Sub-branches do not actively recruit and lack of support from State Branch has no doubt contributed to this.

Giving consideration to the problems mentioned, I have identified the following needs and the current committee is working towards achieving the following - some are currently before executive for budget and approval and some have already been approved. The first need was to build a committee from the State Executive and co-opted members who have the skills and willingness to work cooperatively to realise a substantial increase in membership. This has been formed and I acknowledge the hard work committee members are doing for the League. We can build as many hard-working committees as we like but, without your support, we go nowhere.

From this point we will:

• form and periodically deploy recruiting teams comprising members of the Membership and Regionalisation Committee and Veterans' Affairs Committee to assist sub-branches with recruiting in their respective areas or regions equipped with the appropriate aids;
• design and launch a public campaign through community newspapers initially with the view of expanding into community radio and TV. This is designed to reach the tens of thousands of people eligible to join the league but haven't - approx. 110,000;
• identify and appoint a suitable person as a "roving recruiter". Initially to attend ADF resettlement seminars and ADF and reserve units. It is intended that he will have later involvement with other service and ex-service organisations. (ESOs);
• formulate and implement strategies that offer incentives to members to sign up new members. This is currently underway as a trade promotion lottery, RSL Achievers 2000", offering attractive prizes (see details on page 36).
• examine and implement ways to disseminate information to members and Sub-branches that are more timely, productive and cost effective. It is hoped that this will in time involve video conferencing;
• liaise with unit and kindred organisations and other ESOs to initiate visits by State Branch committee members to talk on the benefits of double badging. This would include a host of current league priorities, other conditions and benefits for all ex-services personnel and allied veterans. Recognition for service regardless of the type of military service and reciprocal arrangements for pensions etc;
• examine services to members currently provided by the League with a view to improve, increase and publicise these services;
• promote the League as a truly egalitarian and apolitical organisation which does not discriminate with regard to gender, type of service, political persuasion or religion;
• create and issue to all Sub-branches a manual of membership administration to include all things and examples for recruiting and administering members of the League from a Sub-branch and State Branch perspective.

The WA Branch currently has only approx. 10% of the total estimated eligible members in the State. This tells me that we have not been doing everything right in the past. We must all ensure this statistic is a thing of the past and strive to send to our fellow ex-servicemen and women a message of welcome and a feeling of inclusion into the league. A 25% figure would be much more acceptable.

Sub-branch invitations for our recruiting teams or our roving recruiter are welcome and we look forward to visiting your area. Please contact State Branch to arrange detail. The greatest effort to achieve this must be concentrated at the grass roots of the league - the member assisted by the Sub-branch and the State Branch. We all know someone who has served as a regular soldier, sailor or airman, servicewoman, nurse, VAD, reservist, national serviceman, peacekeeper, peacemaker or a current unfinancial member.

Please clip the Application for Membership form opposite and enrol an ex-serviceman or woman to help sustain our organisation!! WE NEED YOUR HELP!
# APPLICATION FOR ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

## Personal Details

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## Service Details

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## Membership Agreement

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<tr>
<td>Previous Membership</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐ Date First Joined League / /</td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Sub-Branch</td>
<td>RSL Badge No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
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I AGREE To be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the League, its By-Laws, to be bound by and promote its Standing Policy and to be bound by the Rules and By-Laws of the below Branch.

I HEREBY APPLY to be admitted as an Ordinary Member of the League and a member of the

Sub-Branch Badge No. ____________________

Signature of Applicant ____________________ Date / /

## Declaration by Authorised Officer Bearer

I CERTIFY that an inspection of relevant documents reveals eligibility for membership.

(Doubtful cases should be referred to HQ)

Signature of Authorised Sub-Branch Officer ____________________ Date / /

## Payment Details

Annual membership of $27.00 is required with this form if payment before 30 June. Pro-rata payments apply after 30 June. Telephone: (08) 9325 8585 for current rates.

Amount Paid $ ___________ Receipt Number ___________

Please indicate below if you require:

- Listening Post Yes ☐ No ☐
- Raffle Book WVH Yes ☐ No ☐
- Insurance Information Yes ☐ No ☐
Terms and Conditions of Entry

1. Entrants must be financial Ordinary, Affiliate or Women’s Auxiliary Members of the WA Branch or be Life, Honorary Life, or Life Subscriber members of the said Branch.

2. This promotion is applicable to signing up new Ordinary Members of the WA Branch RSL only.

3. Members of the WA Branch Executive, Trustee, Employees of the WA Branch or any business owned or managed by the WA Branch are ineligible to enter.

4. Entrants are eligible to win one or more of the prizes.

5. Target numbers and cut off dates are - Target 1: 1,200 Members by 31 March 2000, Target 2: 3,000 Members by 30 April 2000. Target 3: 5,000 Members by 31 May 2000.

6. Only those Targets achieved will be drawn.

7. Draws will take place only if the Respective Targets are achieved no later than close of business on the Target Date.

8. Travel conditions apply to economy rates during mid-/low-season only and the travel prize cannot be converted to cash.

9. Travel for target 3 must be taken within 12 months of drawing date.

10. Entrants must be prepared to be involved in a media promotion post draw.

11. Inclusion in the draws is free and conditional upon placing your name, badge number and “RSL Achievers 2000” in block letters at the top of the new members’ application for membership form.

12. The number of entries per member is unlimited but conditional upon each entry being in relation to a different new member.

13. A new member signed up during the term of this promotion is eligible to enter on signing up another new member or members.

14. Progress reports relating to whether targets are achieved will be lodged in the West Australian public notices, Summer and Autumn Editions of The Listening Post and the monthly Sub-Branch Circular.

15. Drawing date is the Sunday of WA Branch Congress 2000.

16. Supervision will be courtesy of the Trustees of the WA Branch RSL subject to WA State Laws.

AUTHORISED BY SM SEERS OAM, STATE SECRETARY
The following article is reprinted from the 1950 edition of 'As You Were' an Australian War Memorial publication it outlines from an Australian perspective, the historical events leading up to the outbreak of hostilities. The Winter edition will feature articles profiling the events affecting each arm of the services in 1950. We also encourage readers to submit interesting reminiscences of the Korean War that are suitable for publication. EDITOR.

On 29 June 1950, four days after the emergency in Korea began, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable R.G. Menzies, announced that ships of the RAN, on occupation duties in Japanese waters, would immediately be placed at the disposal of the United Nations. Next day a further announcement stated that No. 77 Squadron, RAAF, also would be made available and the return of BCOF to Australia, which had been decided upon in May, had been postponed. Thus Australia, for the second time in 11 years, found herself committed to war against an aggressor.

Following Japan's signing of the surrender documents on 2 September 1945, Korea, which had been annexed by Japan in 1910, was occupied by the forces of the USSR and the USA. The 38th degree of north latitude, which passes through Korea about half-way up the peninsula, was fixed at the administrative boundary between the two forces. The northern zone was occupied by the Soviets, while on 8 September, American troops occupied the territory south of the 38th parallel.

The conference at which Korea's immediate future was decided took place at the Spiridonovka Palace, Moscow, from 16 to 27 December 1945. Attended by the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, the USA and the Soviet Union - Mr. Bevan, Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Molotov - the conference formulated plans for peace treaties with several European countries and policies to be followed regarding the occupation of Japan. Dealing specifically with Korea, the conference decided that, in order to re-establish Korea as an independent state, a Provisional Democratic Government would be established by an election. This government, when elected, was to 'take all the necessary steps for developing the industry, transport and agriculture of Korea, and the national culture of the Korean people'.

It soon became clear that, despite Russia's agreements at the Moscow Conference, the authorities in the northern area had decided not to collaborate in these matters. The Russian area became more and more a self-contained state, and the 38th parallel, instead of being merely a line drawn on the map for administrative convenience, became another iron curtain.

By September 1947, having been unable to hold an election, the United States placed the whole question of Korea before the General Assembly of the United Nations, which decided that an election would be held in Korea under the supervision of a Temporary Commission formed for that purpose.

The attitude of the Soviet authorities did not change, however, and the Commission, having actually been refused entry into the northern zone, was forced to report to Lake Success that it was unable to carry out its tasks in that area. With a resolution passed by 31 for, 2 against and 11 abstentions, the United Nations met this situation by authorising the Commission to conduct an election in that part of Korea still accessible to it.

It was therefore in the southern area only that an election was held on 10 May 1948, resulting in the election of a National Assembly of 200 with Dr Syngman Rhee as the first President. The Republic of Korea was formally inaugurated on 15 August, and all United States troops were withdrawn by the end of July 1949.

Meanwhile, north of the parallel, the Korean People's Democratic Republic had come into being by a separate Russian-sponsored election. Russia and other European countries then under Russian influence officially recognised the State thus created and argued that it was the only legal government in Korea. When the Soviet Union withdrew its forces by the end of 1948, it left behind a tightly-knit satellite State and a large and enthusiastic army - the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) - supported both morally and materially by the Soviet Union.

In December 1948 the United Nations appointed a second commission for Korea in another effort to bring about unification. The situation grew steadily worse, however, as the northern regime endeavoured, by means of violently abusive propaganda, by subversive activities and threatening border incidents, to destroy the southern administration.

Following another successful election in southern Korea on 30 May 1950, the Praesidium of the Peoples Supreme Assembly in the north put forward two separate proposals for the amalgamation of the North and South Assemblies into a single Legislative Assembly. An examination of the proposals disclosed objectional conditions and the schemes were rejected outright by the southern press, political parties and leaders.

Five days after the second proposal was rejected, at

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about 4am on 25 June, the NKPA launched energetic attacks at several points along the 38th parallel. This was recognised for what it was: full-scale war.

A few hours after the receipt of this ominous news, the first dramatic meeting of the Security Council adopted a resolution calling for the cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of North Koreans to the 38th parallel. After two days, during which no such action was taken, the council met again, declared that what had happened constituted a breach of the peace and-called on Member Nations for assistance. The Council had its third meeting on 30 June, when it was reported that President Truman had ordered the United States Air Force and certain ground forces into action.

Australia’s first response as a Member Nation to the Security Council’s call for support had meanwhile been announced by the Prime Minister and, during a significant one-day sitting of both Houses of Parliament on 6 July, this action was unanimously endorsed.

On 10 July Mr Menzies left Australia to visit the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States where, during a speech in the House of Representatives on 1 August, he announced that, in addition to the naval and air support already provided, Australia would raise a special force for service in Korea.

This followed the announcement in Australia on 27 July that Australian troops would serve in Korea.

Poets’ Corner

Men in Green

There were fifteen men in green,
Each with a tommy-gun,
Who leapt into my plane at dawn:
We rose to meet the sun.

We set our course towards the east,
And climbed into the day
Till the ribbed jungle underneath
Like a giant fossil lay.

We climbed towards the distant range
Where two white paws of cloud
Clutched at the shoulders of the pass;
The green men laughed aloud.

They did not fear the ape-like cloud
That climbed the mountain crest
And hung from twisted ropes of air
With thunder in its breast.

They did not fear the summer’s sun
In whose hot centre lie
A hundred hissing cannon shells
For the unwatchful eye.

And when on Dobadura’s field
We landed, each man raised
His thumb toward the open sky:
But to their right I gazed.

For fifteen men in jungle green
Rose from the kunai grass
And came towards the plane. My men
In silence watched them pass:
It seemed they looked upon themselves
In Time’s prophetic glass.

Oh, there were some leaned on a stick
And some on stretchers lay,
But few walked on their own two feet
In the early green of day.

They had not feared the ape-like cloud
That climbed the mountain crest;
They had not feared the summer’s sun
With bullets for their breast.

Their eyes were bright, their looks were dull,
Their skin had turned to clay.
Nature had met them in
And stalked them in the day.

And I think still of men in green
On the Soputa track
With fifteen spitting tommy-guns
To keep a jungle back.

DAVID CAMPBELL
Bus presented to veterans at a special service

Members of The Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans’ Association held their Remembrance Day Service at the Port Kennedy Memorial Park which was attended by a large crowd including a choir from Koorana Primary School and other young people. Veterans’ spokesman Peter Douglas said it was a moving tribute to those who died in both World Wars. The Service was enhanced by the presence of a Bugler and a Piper.

A highlight of the proceedings was the presentation of a community bus, which the Association had lobbied for with assistance from South Metropolitan MLC Simon O’Brien. The Association will manage the bus for the community, and the generous donation of $500 from BP Australia is greatly appreciated.

Mr Douglas said that the Association’s next aim is to build a community hall at the Memorial Park and a Respite Centre for veterans at Baldivis. He can be contacted on 9592 6608.

STEPHEN COOPER
Secretary TPDV

Youth to unveil obelisk as part of The Quiet Lion Tour 2000

Each year The Quiet Lion Tour down the River Kwai passes on to a younger generation the story of a great Australian. Many drew inspiration from Sir Edward Weary Dunlop in the past. Young people could find him an inspiring role model today.

We tell his story against a background which brings out the grim reality of the circumstances in which he proved himself a Homeric hero and the epitome of “old-fashioned values” such as honour, courage, compassion, self-discipline and devotion to duty.

The concept is attracting more and more support from country RSL sub-branch members who are raising money to send young people to share part of our history with men who helped make it.

On The Quiet Lion Tour 2000 the young contingent will help unveil an obelisk, designed by Vietnam veteran Dirk Arkeveld, to be erected by another Vietnam veteran, Rodd Beattie at the site of the Hintok Mountain Camp. A choir coached by Mingenew school music teacher, Roma Parker, will sing Weary’s favourite hymn A New Jerusalem.

This and all the other details of an exciting nine day tour will be the subject of a professionally-produced videotape which will tell the story of Australia in 1943, our perilous year, when only Port Moresby stood between us and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

The video will tell of the dramatic events – the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway which turned the war in the Pacific around and why the Japanese decided to build a railway to support its ill-fated “March on Delhi”.

The work, the brutality and the toll of human life on the railway will be shown on archival film and sketches, as the video camera follows those on tour. They will be filmed as they travel to the war cemeteries, the Bridge on the River Kwai, the shop from which Boonpoong smuggled medicines into the camps, the Wampo Viaduct, the Hellfire Pass and Memorial Walk Trail, the Three Pagodas Pass, and the dam built by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation.

The camera will be there as they drift down the Kwai on a houseboat, rising at 5am to take part in a most moving Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass.

Previous tours have had a big impact on young people, their friends and relatives and those who raised money to help send them.

If we can capture this impact on videotape, we will increase it tenfold by distribution of copies not only to those on the tour, but to schools, RSL sub-branches, cadet units and the general public.

This video could be the prototype for similar journeys, with similar videotapes and similar impact, to other places of Australian historical significance.

KEITH FLANAGAN

Poets’ Corner
Ship of Truth
Man with his burning soul
Has but an hour of breath
To build a ship of truth
In which his soul may sail
Sail on the sea of death
For death takes toll
Of beauty, courage, youth,
Of all but truth.
JOHN MASEFIELD
"We Made It Kid"

A very remarkable man said these words to me when a Russian boat picked us up after we had been drifting for four days in a lifeboat from the SS Induna which was sunk by a German submarine, the U376, on 30 March 1942. This man was not a crew member of the SS Induna but, like the others, was aboard the SS Ballot when she was sunk.

What I know about the SS Ballot is that she flew the Panamanian flag and had sailed from New York to Iceland, where she was to meet a convoy bound for Murmansk. She arrived in Iceland with no armament of any sort so the British put two Maritime gunners aboard her with a very old Lewis machine gun, one that had been left over from the 1914-1918 war. At that time it was all that the British Merchant ships carried as armament. These gunners were told that under no circumstances were they to lose their gun. This order they obeyed to the end.

They were to undertake the world's worst journey, the voyage to Russia. The ice in the winter made the course that the convoys had to take very hazardous. It took them close to the North Cape of Norway which brought them within the range of German bombers, the JU 88 dive-bombers and the waiting submarines, all of which were homed in by the Fokker Wulf long-range aircraft.

The SS Ballot joined convoy PQ 13 for Murmansk and, after leaving Iceland, the convoy struck very bad weather which caused the ships to get badly scattered. When the weather moderated and cleared a little, the long-range planes found the ships and homed in the destroyers for an attack. The escort, HMS Trinidad, beat this off. Then the JU 88 and high lever Fokker Wulfs attacked with bombs.

The SS Ballot suffered very near misses from a dive bomb attack by a JU 88; she lost steam and dropped astern so a lifeboat was lowered with 16 men in it. The men were picked up by a whaler, the Silja which was one of three on passage to be turned over to the Russians. Three set out but one was sunk and the other turned over with the ice.

The few ships in the convoy went north to get near the ice; the SS Induna became stuck but the other ships continued their voyage. The Silja stayed with the SS Induna and the men from the stricken SS Ballot walked over the ice to the SS Induna. The Silja had been burning everything burnable to keep going but then ran out of fuel. The SS Induna took her in tow but at about 10pm the towline broke. Induna's captain said that he could not leave them so he searched for them until around 4am. At this time he said he could not spare any more time searching and made a run for Murmansk.

At around 7.30 next morning, SS Induna was torpedoed in number 5 hold, right under the aviation sprite; this caught fire and the explosion threw the barbed wire from the hold on to the top of the deck cargo of petrol drums, thus turning them into an inferno.

As we were sent to our boat stations a few people started running through the fire. Some men at the stern jumped into the sea to get away from the flames. The last man through was from the SS Ballot; he had no shoes on and his feet were ripped open by the barbed wire. He left footsteps of blood on the iced deck. Two of those who joined us were the gunners, still carrying their Lewis gun.

The Mate lowered the lifeboat to deck level. With others I was ordered into the boat. A man came through the fire, his hair burnt off, his face badly burnt, as were his ears and hands; his jacket and trousers were still on fire. He was rolled into the boat and we beat our the fire that engulfed him.

The boat was lowered and the Mate told us to row the boat round and take others off the other side. If he had not given this order the boat would have been smashed to pieces. Before we could go alongside the submarine fired another torpedo and the ship sank with the men still aboard.

We then drifted for four days in terrible arctic winter weather. The badly burned man sat in the boat with the seas breaking over him. We covered him with a blanket and a spare coat as best we could.

The other six crewmen in the boat were of no help so the other gunner and myself did all the bailing. We tried to talk to the burnt man but he could hardly talk. His few words I took to mean that he came from America.

The seas broke over him and the his coat of ice got thicker. He never once moaned, he just sat there. A couple of times during the night as we tried to sleep we heard him say, "gunner the water is over my feet". All that he ever asked for was the occasional cigarette. He tried to move his head to indicate when I should take it out.

At dusk on the fourth day we sighted land and he asked us to turn the boat so that he could see it. "Put an oar into my hands and I can rock my body to help," he said. His hands were as thick as twice as thick as they should be, his fingers bent with the cold, his knuckles burst and covered with scabs and still this man wanted to help!

At this time we were seen by the crew of another and were picked up. As I was pulled aboard, I saw a rope being passed down to the stricken man but I don't know how they got him on to the Russian ship.

The next time I saw him was when I went to assist one of the female Russian crew with a 17 year old cabin boy named Anderson. She could not get him to lie down; I think he was frozen bent. Helping her get his jacket off. I cut it up the back and saw he was burnt black way above his waist. She asked me to keave him and I was called to have a drink.
of vodka. When you have not eaten for four days, vodka goes right down to your feet. They gave each of us in turn a drink as they only had one cup. I do not know how many I had, but I sang for them and I cannot sing and that is a fact!

A crew member took me to see the burnt man who held out his hand for me to hold and said to me as best he could, “WE MADE IT KID”. I have never forgotten those words from that wonderful man over all the years since. I was then led away from him.

His face I can never forget – burnt and frozen, he had lines where he had opened his mouth. The whites of his eyes looked as though they had frozen lumps in them. How much pain he suffered in those four days you cannot imagine. His head was one big mass of burnt and frozen flesh, his ears were just sore big lumps. But he had willed himself to live through the pain of his burns, the freezing winds and ice that had formed over him.

Next day we arrived in Murmansk and were put into a Russian hospital. I slept and when I woke up I was told Anderson had died. I went back to sleep and when I woke again I was told, “kid your Yank has died”. Did he ask for me before he died? I don’t know, but looking back I would have liked to be with him when he went to meet his Maker.

Who was he? In 1987 my wife Marian and I went to Murmansk. I saw a grave with the name Auger (from Canada) and two other graves with no ship’s name. The names were Bennet and O’Brien, but I thought Auger was my man.

Back home I met a Mr Blyth who gave me a list of the SS Induna’s crew; Auger was listed as being 35 years old. My burnt man seemed younger.

Later I met a Captain Dragg who put me in touch with a Captain Moore who gave me details of the men from the SS Ballot. The one who fits the details listed was O’Brien. But I cannot be sure.

This story is a tribute to a wonderful man who not once through his suffering in that cold weather complained. A very gallant man who wore no uniform, only the jacket and trousers of all Merchant Seamen. He would receive no medals, but he does have a British War Graves Commission grave stone. In Murmansk there is a grave of a sailor from the SS Ballot who suffered and died with great dignity. A man of whom anyone would be proud to say: “I met that man”. The sad part is that I cannot find anyone in America who knows anything about him.

These men were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Had they stayed aboard the SS Ballot they would have made it Murmansk and then safely back home because she was found and towed into Murmansk.

This moving story is an edited version of an article printed in the Largs Bay Sub-Branch magazine. The writer is Ex DEMS gunner SS Induna, Austin ‘Tich’ Byrne.

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**THE MAD GALA HS**

by George Mansford

It was the way of the Regiment. Very few were good communicators, but you didn’t have to communicate to prove the spirit of brotherhood. It was always there and always would be. The bonds were strong and even the most recent recruits embraced the mateship from the moment they donned the Regiment’s badge.

This expresses the import of the book. The author insists the book is fiction, and may be so, but one cannot escape from the realism the book displays of the courage and dedication going hand in hand with the warmth and humour of the ‘Moffs and Maccas’ – the ordinary Australian soldier.

This brilliant book is one of the best fiction war books I have read, the term ‘could not put it down’ certainly applies as one follows the lives and exploits of the main characters. It also contains some light-hearted intrigue, as we wonder who is the ‘Grey Domino’ until his identity is finally revealed in a very subtle manner.

This book is thoroughly recommended and is available direct from:- Mad Galah Distributors, PO Box 345, Gordonvale, QLD 4865. Price $26.00 including postage.

GEOFF TANNER

**Editor’s Note:** It is rare that we receive requests from RSL members to review a particular book, I received several unsolicited, individual requests from members of different arms of the service and different ages. ‘Mad as Galahs’ is written by a soldier for soldiers. It tells the story of the men of an Infantry Battalion who see action in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. The author enlisted as a private in the Australian army and retired forty years later as a Brigadier. His experiences and observations make this publication a must for those who served as infantry in the ‘Asian’ wars, and it has a wider appeal for all who enjoy a great war story.

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**BILL NEWTON**

by Mark Weate

William Ellis Newton was the only Australian airman in the Pacific War to be awarded a Victoria Cross and also the only Australian airman to receive a VC while serving with an RAAF squadron.

Born in the Melbourne suburb of St Kilda on 8 June 1919, he was decapitated by the Japanese Unit Commander Komai “... in accordance with the compassionate sentiments of the Japanese Bushido...” on 29 March, 1943.

The book traces his short life from his earliest years,
including his school days at St Kilda Park Central School where he was a classmate of Sir Zeman Cowan, who wrote the book’s foreword.

Concerned with the events in Europe, Bill enlisted in the Royal Melbourne Regiment, a volunteer militia unit, in November 1938 and became a private in the machine gun company. When Australia declared war on Germany his mother allowed him to apply to join the RAAF. Bill was informed that he should report to Parafield Aerodrome in South Australia on 5 February 1940 to enlist. Detailed reports of his service life follow until his 22 Squadron Boston bomber was shot down and crashed into the sea off the coast of Salamaua on 18 March 1943.

The author has pieced together most of the unfortunate happenings which followed during the next 11 days until Bill’s death, as well as the eventual discovery of his body, its initial burial in the Salamaua cemetery and its removal to the Lae War Cemetery in January 1946.

Much research was needed for this book which is evident by the comprehensive list of acknowledgements to many individuals, organisations and clubs and the informative epilogue and bibliography. The book also contains an index of people, units, aircraft and ships as well as a general index.

This is a well-written, interesting biography which should appeal to the general reader as well as those fascinated by wartime stories.

Published by Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus NSW 2232. The book is priced at $30 including postage.

BILL TATE

RESTORE TO SERVICE
Unit History 4 RSU-482
Maintenance Squadron
by Walter Venn

The history of No. 4 Repair and Maintenance Squadron had its beginning with its formation at RAAF Base, Laverton, Victoria in early May 1942. With the deployment of flying squadrons to the north of Australia the need arose for mobile repair and maintenance facilities to be located in the operational areas and close to the squadrons they were to support. This need was met by the creation of two new, second and third-line organisations to be known as Repair and Salvage Units (RSUs) and Aircraft Repair Depots (ARDs) respectively.

Sixteen RSUs were formed between 1939 and 1944. Eleven of these units saw service in the Papua-New Guinea and Borneo campaigns. In October of 1942 No. 4 RSU was assigned to the North-Western Area Command. It was based at Pell Field some 60 miles south of Darwin and remained there until November 1945 when the unit was moved south to RAAF Base Parkes, NSW.

This book is a well-researched and detailed history of No. 4 RSU and would be of great interest to former members of that squadron and those of the many other RSUs, ARDs and Maintenance Squadrons from that time and area.

The book, in hard-cover, is available by mail from Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus, NSW 2232. Price $30.00 inc. postage. Reviewed by GEOFF TANNER

WE WERE THE 46TH
The History of the 46th Battalion in World War I
by Ian Polanski

Apart from a little information at the Australian War Memorial, no history of the 46th Battalion has been written.

The author, frustrated by the anomaly, decided to write this history because he had relatives who had served and died with the Battalion, he felt a sense of duty to all those who served and that we as a nation remember our duty as Australians to never forget the sacrifice that these men willingly made for their country.

The history of the 46th begins with the birth of the Battalion in February 1916 in the Middle-East at Tel-El-Kebir and continues through its arrival in France in June 1916. The men’s ‘baptism’ of fire occurred in July that year when they made contact with the enemy at Fleubaix.

The book lists the names of all who served with the 46th Battalion. It also contains many excellently reproduced photographs from those times and many anecdotal stories about the men who served with the 46th.

This well-compiled history will be of great interest to the relatives of those who served with the 46th. It is available from the author, Ian Polanski, 8 Durley Court Rasmussen Queensland 4815. Price of paperback is $39.95 and a limited hard cover edition is available at $45, plus $7 postage on both. It also may be obtained from Military Bookshop, Melbourne by phoning (03) 9510 7965.

GEOFF TANNER

Words of Wisdom ~ 5th Century BC

War is an evil thing, but to submit to the dictation of other states is worse ... Freedom, if we hold fast to it, will ultimately restore our losses, but submission will mean permanent loss of all that we value... To you who call yourselves men of peace, I say: You are not safe unless you have men of action on your side.

Thucydides
East Surrey Regt. in Greece/Italy

In June 1947 I was among a small group of soldiers of the 1st/6 Battalion East Surrey Regiment, stationed in Greece, who talked about coming to Australia after demobilisation and we promised to contact each other on arrival here, but we have never been in touch since.

Two photos in my possession may jog memories. The first shows a 10-man section of the MTO alongside a truck in Athens; chalked on the truck is the date 27 June 1947. The other photo shows a few of us on a night out at a small restaurant in Rome with the wonderful Italian family where we were billeted.

I often wonder where these mates of yesteryear are now, what they are doing and of course, did they survive? If you can help I would be most grateful.

JIM NORMAN
220 Cedric Street, Balcatta 6018 Tel 94404547

Under-age enlistments

Currently I am writing an article on Australia’s boys at war. It centres on the young Australians who put up their age to enlist in the Navy, Army and RAAF during World War II and who saw active service overseas while under the age of 17. If you have any information that may help please contact:

ROGER de LISLE on (03) 9572 1803 or send details to 24 Leamington Crescent, Caulfield East, Victoria 3145

Looking for books

I am trying to find a copy of a book, now out of print, written by Bob Breen on the war in Somalia, entitled A Little Bit of Hope. My son served in Somalia and I am very keen to obtain a copy for him. I have contacted the publishers and several bookshops without luck and I hope one of your readers may have a copy that they are willing to sell.

MRS ELAINE HEDLEY
30 Shelton St Waikiki 6169

Some time ago I ran into an old army mate and he mentioned a book which covered the time we were in Borneo (1963-66) with 102 Field Battery. The title of the book is Not Like a Real War by Neadly. I hope a reader can help me find the publisher and/or a point of sale.

WILLIAM COOK
1 Carter Street, Ravenswood 6208
Ph. (08) 9537607

30 Beaufighter Squadron RAAF Memorial

Construction of a war memorial in the town of Kimbe, New Britain, PNG, is nearing completion. ANZAC Day 2000 is suggested but not confirmed as the date of the official unveiling of the memorial to honour 29 members of Australia’s No. 30 (Beaufighter), No. 22 (Boston) and No. 79 (Spitfire) RAAF squadrons who died during the 1943/44 aerial ‘Battle of New Britain’.

Despite the assistance of Australian War Graves and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, contact has not been made with any relative of 20 of the 29 whose names are to be recorded on the memorial. Since it is important that relatives should be made aware of the memorial and be given an opportunity of attending the unveiling, it would be appreciated if any person who is aware of the names and addresses of relatives of the 20 deceased airmen listed below would contact the Memorial Co-ordinator,

GEORGE ROBERTSON
189 Quarry Lane, Rockhampton QLD 4700
Phone/fax (07) 4921 2171

30 BEAUFIGHTER SQUADRON
Fl.Sgt. John Livingstone BROOKS, Wollongong NSW
Fl.Off. John James CAIN, Bendigo VIC
Fl.Sgt. William Nicholas COSGROVE
Elsternwick VIC
Fl.Sgt. William Lawrence DANIELS, Milang SA
W.Comm. Clarence Parsons GLASSCOCK
Abbottsford Point NSW
Fl.Off. Raymond Arthur KELLEY, Hamilton NSW
Fl.Sgt. Bernard Albert LE GRIFFON, Northcote VIC
Fl.Off. Gordon Albert LUCAS, Nedlands WA
Fl.Off. Edward Burford MORRIS-HADWELL
Ballarat VIC
Fl.Lt. Derrick Robert STONE, Kingsville VIC
Sgt. Donald Vivian TIBBALS, Murrumbeena VIC
Fl.Off. Harold Maurice WOODROOFE
Wagga Wagga NSW
Capt. G.(?) GILL-Army Liaison Officer attached to 30 Sqn.

22 BOSTON SQUADRON
W.Comm James Gibson EMERTON, Camberwell VIC
Pilot Off. Terence John GAWNE, Surrey Hills VIC
Fl.Off. James Bell KNIGHT, Geelong West VIC
Pilot Off. Eric George RILEY, Hurstville NSW
Fl. Sgt. Douglas George SEMPLE, Keswick SA
Fl. Sgt. Gordon Ronald THOMAS, West Croydon SA
- Lindsay Kenneth WILSON
Battalion histories

A current serving member of the army, I am in the process of writing a book which will outline the brief military history of all the battalions of the Australian Army, both current and former. I am now seeking details relating to the formation date and place, alliances and motto of each unit, and awards or citations awarded to the unit. In particular I am having difficulty finding information about the militia units between the world wars and the post World War II reorganisation. Any assistance anyone can give would be greatly appreciated.

MATTHEW ANDERSON
Phone (07) 3855 2998 or 041 123 3567.
Email - nuxa@ozemail.com.au
Post - 6 Lobelia Court Everton Hills, QLD 4053

Nurses in Vietnam

I am an ex-ARA nursing officer conducting a study on the nature of nursing work in the Vietnam war as experienced by the 43 Australian Army nurses who served at 8 Field Ambulance/1 AFH between 1967-71. I have ethical clearance from both the James Cook University and the Australian Defence Medical Ethics committees. Already I have conducted 13 interviews with nurses who served in Vietnam and would love to talk to more and offer them the opportunity of sharing their rich experiences.

NERELLE BIEDERMANN
Email Narelle.Biedermann@jcu.edu.au
School of Nursing Sciences James Cook University
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4811

ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE

The Hungarians were the first to use the rosemary bush for Remembrance. It was the chief ingredient in ‘Hungary Water’, because it is said to have cured the paralysis of Queen Elizabeth of Hungary in the 13th century. The herb was also believed to strengthen the memory, as in the old saying ‘There’s Rosemary - that’s for remembrance’.

Considered to be the emblem of fidelity between lovers rosemary was worn at weddings. But it was carried at funerals also, a sprig being presented to each mourner and cast into the grave as a ‘faithful remembrance’ of the dead.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR A MISSION!

Have you battled successfully with your computer? Do the words ‘grammar’, ‘syntax’ and ‘punctuation’ strike no fear in your heart? Can you be relied upon to regularly fight deadlines as part of an elite team?

THE LISTENING POST NEEDS YOU!

To reduce the burden on our ANZAC house staff, the typesetter and the Editor, I am seeking help to edit and process The Listening Post articles, reports and submissions direct to disk. If you think you have the skills and time to help out, take one step forward and contact me through Anne Kinnane at ANZAC House. See page 1 for phone, fax, and e-mail details.

CHRIS BROOKS Editor

*THE LISTENING POST ON TAPE*

State Secretary Shane Seers has suggested that there may be a need to assist vision impaired members by producing audio tapes of each issue. We are looking for feedback from members so we can determine the demand for such tapes.

Interested parties can contact Shane at ANZAC House 9325 9799

I’m Fine ... Thank You!!

There’s nothing the matter with me,
I’m as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I’m awfully well for the shape I’m in.
Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn’t be able to be on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I’m all right.
My memory is failing, my head’s in a spin.
But I’m awfully well for the shape I’m in.

The moral is this as my tale I unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It’s better to say “I’m fine” with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.

Author unknown
**WWII convoys from Fremantle**

I wish to point out an error in The Listening Post Summer Edition article about The Armed Forces in WA during World War II, by historian Lindsay Peet. I refer to the early convoy work by Australian warships and the statement that the limit of their escort work was the Cocos Islands.

I served on the heavy cruiser HMAS Canberra for most of 1940 and during that time we escorted convoys to Capetown, South Africa; Suez and Trincomalee, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), before being relieved by British warships. HMAS Canberra operated off the North African coast and also performed a number of escorts between Aden and Bombay. In India during a famine we took on board supplies of weevily rice and Yak meat that was well past its 'use by' date when loaded by the work party I was part of.

At this early stage of the war the British Navy was more concerned with the Atlantic convoys and containing the German Navy and U-Boats, hence there were fewer ships available for eastern waters.

D. BURNETT ex RAN

**Japanese Task Force Threat**

On Page 20 of the Summer edition an article mentioned that despite the fears of an attack on Fremantle in March 1944, there was no Japanese Task Force headed for WA. The attached piece from The History of the Letter Batteries in World War II is a full account of that force. The Mandurah Sub-Branch is building up a record of Units and other information and the article is part of information gathered. Hope this helps put the record right.

W. HOLDING
Membership Officer Mandurah Sub-Branch.

**EDITORS NOTE: The following relevant paragraphs are extracted from the article provided.**

... In the first two weeks of March 1944 a Japanese naval force comprising three heavy cruisers, Aoba, Tone and Chikuma, the light cruisers Kinu and Oi together with three destroyers passed through the Sunda Straits and headed out into the Indian Ocean with the intention of disrupting Allied shipping and attacking the port of Fremantle thus hoping to neutralise the damaging effects of the submarine patrols from that area....

This fleet sailed under radio silence undetected by the Allied long range aerial patrols. It reached as far south as a point level with Camarvon in Western Australia and about 800 kms northwest of Fremantle. The Japanese commander - Rear Admiral Sakonju - intended to close in on Fremantle from the west, shell the port and submarine facilities and then move west well out to sea and return to the Sunda Straits ...

A patrolling US submarine in Lombok Strait reported from a radar intercept the movement south of a large Japanese force and on its prediction of course and speed it was thought that an attack on Fremantle, if it materialised, would probably be on Saturday 11 March. The immediate action was to send the Submarine Tenders USS Peleus and HMS Maidstone south to Albany harbour and to send all submarines out to sea to patrol and endeavour to intercept the Japanese Task Force. The port was closed and all merchant shipping sent out to Gage Roads and Cockburn Sound. In Gage Roads HMS Sussex and HMAS Adelaide were anchored to provide anti-aircraft protection to eight loaded merchant ships anchored there. All this occurred on 7 & 8 March...

At 10 am on 9 March the Japanese fleet reached its farthest point south. The British steamer Behar saw a Japanese cruiser through a rain squall. She turned away but the Japanese cruiser Tone opened fire scoring several direct hits. Behar capsized at 10:40 am. The Japanese picked up 104 survivors. Before she sank Behar managed to broadcast a distress message which was picked up by the Japanese fleet and a nearby British vessel which reported it when it arrived at Fremantle eight days later. The reason for this delay is not known. It could have been tragic.

Rear Admiral Sakonju, believing that the position of his Task Force was now known, decided to abort the operation, turned his force around and sailed north, back to his base. In fact his most southerly position was not known until 7 March and in hindsight he could have carried out his mission with impunity.

Eighty nine of the Behar survivors were murdered on board the cruiser Tone, the rest being placed in a POW camp at Tanjong Priok. Rear Admiral Sakonju was listed as a war criminal but died before he could be brought to trial. (End of quote)
DVA Gold Card Holders: Licence Concession Request

On page 63 of the recently published Western Australian Older Road Users Booklet it states that holders of Health Care or Pensioner Concession Cards are entitled to concessions on drivers' licences and vehicle registrations. After enquiring at the Department of Transport, I was informed that I was ineligible as I do not have a service pension.

On 1 January 1999 the Federal Government granted 50,000 self-funded World War II veterans who had served in hostile areas DVA Gold Cards in recognition of their service.

It is essential for all veterans in this category to write to the WA Minister of Transport, the Hon. M. Cridde MLC, requesting the State Government re-word the concessions to include DVA Gold Card holders and grant them the same entitlements as other service and social service pensioners.

JOHN N. ROBERTS

EDITORS NOTE: The DVA issues Pensioner Concession Cards to all Service Pensioners, Age Pensioners who receive their pension through the DVA and War Widows and Widowers receiving Income Support Supplement. The PCC is proof that you receive an income and assets tested pension and you are eligible to receive certain concessions.

Note: Mr Roberts has, since writing to The Listening Post, received letters from the Hon Murray Criddle, Minister for Transport and the Director of Transport Licensing. The following paragraphs are taken from the latter:

"Under the provisions of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Licences Regulations 1975, persons in receipt of an age pension issued by either Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, are entitled to a free driver's licence. In addition, persons holding a Pensioner Concession Card or Senior's Card are entitled to receive a 50 percent reduction on the licence fee.

"In relation to your request to extend the driver licence concessions, it is advised that Transport has engaged a consultant to review vehicle and driver licence concessions. The review is currently taking place and will examine the basis for granting concessions, the appropriateness of current concessions, any difficulties which may exist in determining eligibility and any other matters relative to the administration of these concessions. The possible extension of concessions to all veterans of the First and Second World Wars has already been included in the review."

W.T. HALLIDAY
Executive Director, Licensing.
TRANSPORT

Politicians’ pay increases

As I leave 1999 behind me there are numerous golden memories; however, the one sour note amongst them is the fact that it has been seen fit by this country to penalise my Service Pension because I receive an Army disability pension from World War II.

At the same time politicians get an increase in money that makes my monthly income look pitiful. Where is the justice in that? I gave five years of my youth plus a healthy body, to put down that madman Hitler?

JOHN A. (ALEX) MASON
Canadian Army RCE Corps Troops

Illegal immigrants and the pension paradox

No one would argue that the Australian Government’s attitude towards, and treatment of, its veteran community is anything other than pretty darn good - quite possibly the best. However, it does take a very agile mind to come to grips with the political thinking that finds itself sitting comfortably with a decision that sees very illegal ‘migrants’ to this country granted a nice little pension along with all the medical care that modern society can make available, from day one of their arrival, while:-

• Very legal Allied ex-service veteran migrants are still required to serve out a 10 year residential term before being granted a Service Pension.

• Thousands of World War II Australian veterans without qualifying service and several thousand Allied veterans with qualifying service are denied a DVA Gold Card.

The card would give that little bit of an edge and a real feeling of ‘belonging’, which they deserve in the autumn of their years when their health needs are at their highest.

So fair go Minister. The principal argument behind this discrimination is one of cost to the Australian taxpayer and in 95% of cases the ex-service men and women are or have been taxpayers for the best part of their working lives. The financial argument cannot be sustained and neither for that matter can a moral one. It is high time for all Sub-Branches to provide strong support for the members of the League who are still looking for this ‘level playing field’ we are supposed to be playing on!

WILLIAM ADAMS
Australind

Your letters are welcome. Please address them to:
The Editor,
The Listening Post
PO Box Y2023
EAST ST GEORGES TERRACE. EAST PERTH 6849
I intended to focus on muscular-skeletal problems and arthritis in this issue, but there has been considerable "feed-back" about the EDA (Extreme Disablement Adjustment rate of pension) content in my last article, so I will concentrate on that instead. Many frail, aged veterans have been frustrated and disappointed that their claims have been rejected, and it is important that they are made aware of the difficulties they face.

Firstly, no offence whatsoever was intended by any of my remarks. I am frequently asked why Veteran X is in receipt of such-and-such a pension - and my stock reply is: "I don't know, and I can't comment. Every claim and every veteran has to show he/she can meet-the-rules that are in place, at the time of that application; and every case has to 'run the gauntlet' on its merits".

Please bear in mind two things: my purpose in starting this column was to inform - and I know that this is working by the number of letters and calls I get requesting SoPs and seeking advice/guidance. Secondly, my role here is primarily as Advocate to the VRB (Veterans' Review Board). At that forum, cases come under intense scrutiny. The main point I was trying to convey was to help the scores of genuine, extremely disabled, elderly veterans, whose claims for the EDA have been refused, understand the Lifestyle of 6 bench-mark and what it means. Some veterans have complained that the information given was wrong - and that the EDA is not as tough to get as I described.

As it is all predicated on a special manual known as GARP V (an acronym for Guide to the Assessment of Rates of Veterans' Pensions - Fifth Edition), I will reproduce here the parameters of Lifestyle levels 5 and 6, and allow you to make your own judgement:

**Personal Relationships:**

**CRITERIA**

FIVE: Severely affected relationships. Able to relate only to particular, or few people, eg spouse or children. These remaining relationships are strained and of low quality.

SIX: Extreme difficulty in relating to anyone, for example:
- difficulties in relating because of psychosis; or
- social interaction limited to carer(s) due to other effect of accepted conditions.

**Mobility:**

FIVE: Major impediments to mobility:
- dependent upon others, or mechanical devices such as wheelchairs;
- unable to use most forms of public transport;
- able to drive a car only in a situation of emergency and then only for a short distance.

SIX: Severe impediments to mobility:
- restricted to home and immediate vicinity, unless door to door transport and assistance from others are provided;
- unable to drive a car in any circumstances whatever.

**Recreational and Community Activities:**

FIVE: Greater reduction in the number and kind of recreational activities which can be undertaken; some assistance is needed to undertake those which are still possible, for example:
- can only visit or go out if taken to and from destination;
- finds doing a hobby or relaxing (eg stamp collecting, art & crafts, playing or listening to music, playing cards, etc) difficult to enjoy due to pain, suffering, or loss of dexterity.

SIX: Able to engage in only a very few satisfying recreational activities. Restricted to passive activities such as watching TV, listening to radio, reading or receiving visitors.

**Domestic Activities:**

FIVE: Limitation of household activity to a small range of light tasks, for example:
- watering the garden but has difficulty in weeding or pruning;
- able to do some light household activities but has difficulty bending to make beds, or in putting out the rubbish bin;
- requires assistance with grocery shopping.

SIX: Able to carry out only very limited domestic activities, usually a restricted range of indoor activities. May require supervision in carrying out such activities, for example:
- able to do very light tidying, dusting but unable to cook, or prepare meals;
- has difficulty standing to set table or wash dishes.

Every claimant has to demonstrate that he/she scores a minimum of two "5s" and two "6s" (which would then be "rounded" up to an average of "6"). I also discern that the crucial lifestyle element is the one for "Mobility" - as many of the DVA rejection letters actually cite the veteran's continued ability to drive a car as the key reason for the refusal.

* * * *

Corn Corner this time comes courtesy of the wonderful Irish comedian Hal Roach:

The newly wed Mrs Casey said to her husband Pat: "I've cooked you some cod that will melt in your mouth". Casey said, "I've told you before - you've got to let it thaw out first!"

**

Sign in Irish Chapel: We regret that the box marked 'For the Sick' must be reserved henceforth for money contributions only.

**

O'Toole went to the doctor and said: "Can you give me something for my wind?" The doctor gave him a kite.

**

Paddy O'Shea, owner of a well-known Donegal pub, had finally locked up and gone home to bed. He was awakened by his phone ringing at 2 am, and an inebriated voice said: "What time do you open in the morning?" O'Shea said: "Ten o'clock". The phone clicked. Silence. Then half-an-hour later, he was again awakened by the phone. It was the same voice again, more inebriated. "What time do you open in the morning?" O'Shea said: "It doesn’t matter what time we open in the morning; you certainly will not be served when you come in". The voice said: "Oi don’t want to get in. Oi want to get out!"

MARGOT HARNESS (War Compensation Officer)

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** B Coy 4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC)

All members of B Coy, who served in Vietnam during 1968-9 are invited to attend the first official reunion since arriving back home some 31 years ago. The reunion will be held in Adelaide from 27-30 October this year and details of functions, events, costs etc will be advised in due course. To enable us to plan further, please advise if you will be attending, ASAP.

Contact Richard 'Squirrell' Scurrrel on (08) 8264 5617 or by email at Shazzal@senet.com.au

R. BOURKE Ph: 9304 4303

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** Truscott Base

A reunion will be held at Truscott Air Base on 20 May 2000. Veterans will assemble in Kununurra on 17-18 May to be flown to Truscott for inspections/tours and a Dawn service from 18-20 May. It is expected that many people will wish to stay in Kununurra for a further few days. Veterans are to make their own way to and from Kununurra by air or vehicle. For more information regarding accommodation and other costs, please contact: HOWARD YOUNG

PO Box 1108. Kununurra 6743
Phone: (08) 9168 1653 Fax: (08) 9168 1765
email: truscott@wn.com.au

**

No. 25 (City of Perth) Squadron RAAF - Reunion

Details of the squadron’s reunion on ANZAC Day are as follows:-

Form up for March past: Refer to The West Australian 24 April

Reunion Venue: WA Fire and Rescue HQ 480 Hay Street East, Perth

Reunion Time: 1200 hrs

CONTACT: Bruce Weber. 31 Ireland Way Bassendean 6054. Phone (08) 9377 2103 Fax (08) 9377 2178 e-mail bweber@bigpond.com


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** RSL WAR VETERANS' HOMES WA Residential Aged Care Access

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

For an information sheet and application form, please phone (08) 9370 0200.
Humour in Uniform

Nicknames

Not many people get through their service careers without incurring or earning a nom-de-guerre or nickname. Most are apt or descriptive, some are obscure. One unit had a member called ‘Possum’ who had 11 or 12 children. Perhaps he got his name by sleeping during the day. Other nicknames that come to mind are:

‘Roofing Nail’ – an officer who ordered his batman to starch and iron his bush hat; ‘Rotor Button’ – who used to run around in small circles giving out a spark now and then; ‘Reindeer’ – only did something once a year; ‘Crayfish’ – had a behind full of meat and a head full of rubbish; and ‘Bluesys’ and ‘Curlyies’, ‘Tubbies’ and ‘Tanks’, all Millers were ‘Dusty’ and all ‘Dawsons’ were ‘Smoky’. ANON.

Any more howlers? Ed.

For the Honour of the Regiment

Over the centuries many brave and selfless deeds have been performed on the field of battle, resulting in honours being awarded to the regiment concerned. This is not one of them and it is doubtful if any battle honour would have been awarded anyway, such is the way in which officialdom views such actions.

The time is late 1948, the place is just outside a large German seaport in the British Zone. The seaport had an area well known for its many distractions for any virile male with time and money to spend. However, the Brigadier in charge of that part of the Zone – ever mindful of the health and welfare of the young troops under his command – had placed the area ‘Out of Bounds’. Any troops discovered within its confines by the Military Police were to be placed in custody, taken back to their units and tried by their Commanding Officer.

A long-serving private, whom we shall call Private Old Sweat, was apprehended by an MP patrol in the OOB area and justice took its course. The conversation went something like this:

“As you know, sir, I have served the Regiment, man and boy, for over 20 years and am most mindful of one’s dooty to uphold the honour of the Regiment. Sir, on the day in question I spied two young sodgers of the Regiment entering the ‘Out of Bounds’ area, probably not knowing what they were a-doing of. So I chased them to tell them the error of their ways and bring them out of that dangerous place. But I lost them, which is easily done wiv all them little streets, as you probably know, sir.

“Now sir, before I could hextricate meself from the area I was apprehended by these two fine upstanding MPs, wot was just doing their dooty. I hesplained the circumstances but they insisted on placing me hin custody. So there you have it, sir. For the honour of the Regiment, sir, I thought it better to sacrifice meself than hidentify those two young, innocent sodjers and have them wind up wiv a criminal record!”

The CO, after some deliberation, probably to get his thoughts in order, found Private OS ‘Not Guilty’. The thoughts of the MPs were not known. Honour was upheld but no mention of the incident found its way into Regimental history and no new place name found a place on the Regimental Colours. Such is life!

TERRY GILL Humour in Uniform continued next page

LEGACY

money or an article given by will to a survivor
(Oxford Reference Dictionary)

ARE YOU WRITING OR REVISING YOUR WILL?

LEGACY the body committed to making sure that dependants of ex-servicemen and women are cared for when the breadwinner is no longer there to do so, needs and appreciates your financial support. Please phone 9367 5799 to see how you can help.
Humour in Uniform continued

The Long Week-ends

When World War II ended, discipline was partly relaxed within an RAF Squadron stationed in Norfolk, England. All officers were allowed week-end passes whenever they were requested. Week-ends were soon stretched from mid-day Friday to mid-day Monday, often even longer and, of course, there were no dissenters.

The CO ruled that all officers would meet for an hour during a week-day to discuss any changes likely to benefit morale through the Squadron. During the first meeting, on a Tuesday, a flight lieutenant stood up and, “This Tuesday meeting does not meet with my approval. I mean, most of us haven’t settled in after our week-end. I don’t need to draw pictures, you only need to look around. Most of us are still, well, a bit hungover and you can’t be back to routine in a few hours!”

A voice shouted, “So when should we meet?”

“Thursday would be better,” said the flight lieutenant.

A well-built ground-staff officer in a loud voice said, “Thursday’s the day we’re tidying up and going through all the preparation ready to be off for the week-end”.

A Scottish voice called out, “So it has to be Wednesday, right?”

And the flight lieutenant said, “WHAT! and spoil both week-ends!”

JOHN NAIRD

SUB-BRANCH NEWS

BELMONT

Last year’s most important function took place in March when the Sub-Branch and the City of Belmont jointly held a service and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Sub-Branch and the centenary of the City of Belmont.

The annual awards to the Kewdale Senior High school this year included a poster entitled The Band Played Waltzing Matilda. The award is presented each year to the most outstanding year 10 student who is continuing his or her schooling the following year. The same poster was presented to a cadet of the Air Training Corps Belmont as part of the annual award.

The year concluded with a New Year’s cabaret at which members and friends welcomed in the new century. The first function for 2000 was on Australia Day at which members and friends joined to celebrate this special day. A sheep on a spit and an exhibition of boot scooting by Norma Johnson and her group were part of the festivities.

The ANZAC Service this year will take place on Sunday 16 April at the Belmont War Memorial, Faulkner Park Cloverdale, commencing at 2:00pm with the parade falling in at 1:45pm.

On ANZAC Day a Dawn Service will be held at the Sub-Branch and those attending are asked to be present at 5:45am for a 6:00am start.

The President and members wish all fellow members and their families good health in the new century.

DOT BALCOMBE
Publicity Officer

BICTON-PALMYRA

Our Sub-Branch is continuing to go from strength to strength. There have been only minor changes to the committee, which will be ably led by President Stanley Webb and Secretary Allan Meyer. Two noteworthy additions are the first two ladies, Liz Meyer and Lillian Hastie. Their presence on the committee will be most welcome.

Last year ended with two very successful functions: the Christmas dinner which catered to a full house and a New Year’s Eve party with about 80 revellers enjoying themselves well into the new year, with entertainment provided by the band ‘Friendz’.

Coming Saturday functions will include the mid-year dinner dance on 13 May: a bingo night/skit roast on 14 June; ladies’ dinner on 24 August and more mid-week race days. For bookings or further information contact the Social Director, Kevin Hastie on 9339 6401.

TREVOR PESCUD PRO

BUNBURY

Gallipoli Veteran Reaches Milestone

Sub-Branch member and Gallipoli veteran Percy Goring achieved his most recent ambition when he ‘fell in alongside Father Time’ before marching into the 21st century. Born in the closing years of the 19th century in Shoreditch, London, England, living through and taking an active part in two World Wars, Percy packed the family ‘swag’ in 1948 and with his wife and two children migrated to Australia at the tender age of 54.

After celebrating his 105th birthday in the closing days of the 20th century, Percy was determined to be here to welcome in the 21st.

Page 50
A Sapper with the East Anglian Royal Engineers, number 1426, Goring P, together with a mixed company of Engineers, Signallers and RMC personnel, made his way to Gallipoli in a converted Atlantic cattle boat, covering the last 100 yards or so to the beach squatting on top of a ‘beetle’ landing craft loaded with equipment. Percy says that on a number of occasions during his time at Gallipoli he felt that someone was looking out for him. "I should have been hit several times and wasn't and throughout my life I've often felt that when things might have gone wrong, someone was still looking after me", he said. Percy returned to Gallipoli for the 75th Anniversary of the landing and was able to stand again on the beach at Suvla Bay where he first set foot in 1915.

Although recently moving to a Bunbury hostel, Percy maintains a self-sufficiency that has sustained him through his long and eventful life. Having lived in three centuries, and still enjoying good health, Percy feels that a 110th birthday is achievable. Percy led the last ANZAC Day parade through Bunbury on his electric scooter, “because my knees aren’t as good as they were in 1915”, and intends to lead the first parade of the 21st century.

‘Percy Goring, your mates and fellow members of Bunbury Sub-Branch are proud to know you; we trust that this brave new century will live up to the high standards of service, personal sacrifice when necessary for the greater community, patriotism and mateship set by the majority of your generation through the 20th century’.

**Cadets WA**

Bunbury Sub-Branch in support of the Cadets WA Program, has awarded shields and $50 cheques to high-achieving cadets from the five cadet units in the greater Bunbury area. The award recipients were selected by the unit leaders. The cadets who received awards are: Naval Cadet AB T. Willets, TS Bunbury; Air Cadet CUO L. Carnell, 10 Flight ATC; Australind Senior High School Emergency Service Unit Cadet Paige Morley; Police Ranger Cadet Rohan Crowd and Newton Moore High School CALM Bushranger Cadet Ali Jarvey.

Sub-Branch members Max Kellowand Bill Adams attended Unit parades and award ceremonies to present the awards. Sub-Branch Office Manager Mrs Lesly Mills was invited to review the Australind Senior High School ESCU end-of-year March Out Parade.

The Cadets WA program has received good support, with input from various service groups and local industry. SIMCOA Operations are helping provide protective ‘Hard hats’ for Emergency Service cadets. Sub-Branch President Chris Mills is keen to strengthen ties with the local cadets.
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Perth WA 6000

The Services Assistance Program

units and looks forward to their participation in the ANZAC Day Services.

Welfare

Through the efforts of Welfare ‘chief’ Tom Keough, Perth-based vascular surgeon Kishore Sieunarine recently visited Bunbury and provided members and the wider community with free testing for aneurisms. This most generous offer from a specialist in his field was greatly appreciated.

The welfare team has welcomed recently retired F/O Ian Bawden to its ranks. With 21 years of service (17 years as air crew), Ian strengthens the team by bringing with him an in depth knowledge of ADF administration.

Best Wishes

The Bunbury Sub-Branch extends good wishes to all members across the State for a happy and healthy New Year and decade which, we trust, will see a growth in membership and the granting of concessions, notably DVA Gold Card and the Service Pension to all deserving veterans.

BILL ADAMS

CANNING DISTRICTS

& VICTORIA PARK

Our Sub-Branch had a very successful 1999. Early in December alterations to the kitchen and office were completed and we sincerely thank the Lotteries Commission for the financial assistance which allowed the work to be done.

Thanks to all who came to the very successful Christmas dinner, and also a special welcome to our volunteer barmaid Bev Danby.

We would like to mention past President Mr Bert Neil and his many achievements during 25 years of official and unofficial service. Bert resigned his position as Senior Vice-President at the AGM in December. A Life Member, ANZAC Day organiser, hospital visitor, owner/driver of the ‘White Limo’ for the Old Digger’s Club and Sub-Branch ‘Poppy King’, we hope Bert will still give us the benefit of his years of service, particularly in the organising of Poppy Day.

On behalf of all at the Sub-Branch and all RSL members, thank you for your long and sustained efforts. We feel sure your successor, Mr Fred Carlson, will ‘take on your mantle’ as watcher of the purse strings.

ANZAC Day March: - Assembly is at 7:45am at Canning Old Town Hall cnr. Manning Rd and Albany H/way, then to the RSL Wharf St at approximately 9:15am.

Opening Hours of our club are

Monday- Thursday 4:00pm-7:30pm; Wednesday 12 noon-3:30pm & 5:00pm-7:30pm; Friday 4:00pm-9:00pm (meals 6:00pm-8:00pm) Happy Hour 6-7pm; Saturday 12 noon-3:30pm; Sunday 11:00am-4:00pm Happy Hour 12-1:00pm. The Day Club meets Mondays 10:00am-2:00pm and the Old Diggers’ Club on Wednesday 12 noon-3:30pm (Lunch 1:00pm)

Contact Secretary Brian on 9277 1406 for further details.

Welcome to the new members of the committee for 2000 and let’s all work together for another successful year.

WENDY SCHWAB, PRO
**DARLING RANGE**

At celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of our Sub-Branch (1919-1999), State Secretary Shane Seers presented a commemorative RSL Shield to the Sub-Branch in recognition of the eight decades of dedicated service by members in Kalamunda.

The Sub-Branch is at 231 Canning Road, Kalamunda and we invite members and potential members to attend our fortnightly Friday social nights (the 14th and 28th for April), which start at 7:30pm. Phone 94545065 or 0412 909 683 for further details.

Our Club Office Bearers now are:
- President: Phill Quartermaine  RAASC; RACT & Water Transport
- Vice President: Bob Goodman  3 RAR
- Vice President & Licensee: Keith Battersby  7 RAR
- Secretary: John Esschert  Cav. Regt.
- Treasurer: Fred Smith  16th & 28th Inf

PHILL QUARTERMAINE

**ESPERANCE**

As expected our Memorial looks absolutely magnificent after its recent upgrade. Thanks to the Shire which paved the surrounds and replanted the flower beds, and the donors, suppliers and workers for their invaluable assistance. Many favourable remarks have been received from locals and tourists.

The 1800hr barbeques held before our monthly meetings are a great success. More members are arriving early to enjoy the fellowship with other members and their families. Our monthly Sunday Fellowship Socials also are proving successful, thanks to Jeff, Stan, Joe and Neville.

Other events of note include our Country Vice-President Ron Hatch attending a recent ‘productive’ meeting. Membership has almost reached the magic 100, and we are fundraising so that local ex-POW Ernie Redman can join the Quiet Lion tour to Thailand and attend the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to Weary Dunlop. Ernie and Weary served together for quite some time and were good friends. Any excess funds raised will go towards sending one or two young people on the tour.

**GERALDTON CITY**

After six years of outstanding service as Sub-Branch Secretary, Welfare/Claims officer, Club Secretary/ Treasurer and Geraldton Legacy Group Chairman, Brian Cooper moved to Perth in January. Brian’s selfless work in assisting families during funeral services; his dedicated work as Editor of *The Birdwood Bugle* and his many addresses at school ANZAC Day ceremonies will be long remembered. Brian will remain a member of this Sub-Branch, remaining on the Trust for the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial Appeal.

Serving as a machine-gun Sergeant in Korea in 1953, Brian was awarded the Military Medal for his courageous, inspirational leadership and will attend the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in Canberra in April.

There has been strong lobbying of Federal and State politicians with the aim of receiving a $200,000 grant from each tier of government, to go toward the $600,000 HMAS *Sydney II* memorial project for Geraldton’s Mt Scott. A dedication stone was erected on the site in 1998 and the project received a boost after WA Museum management went against a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry recommendation to construct the memorial at the proposed $35 million Maritime Museum in Fremantle.

Addressing the 1999 commemorative gathering at Mt Scott, State Executive member and Vietnam veteran Richard Carter said all participants in the project deserved a great deal of credit for taking up the challenge. These included Geraldton Rotary, Batavia Coast Maritime Heritage Association, the City of Geraldton and the RSL Sub-Branch. The Sub-Branch also has taken action to have part of the North-West Coastal Highway renamed the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial Highway.

State President Ken Bladen has congratulated our Sub-Branch on being the first in WA to launch the RSL Community Link Program, presenting President Charlie Britt with a plaque to mark the occasion. MHR Wilson Tuckey awarded medals to brothers Drew (12) and Ryan Bailey (8), for researching the lives of World War 1 veterans Edwin White and Jack Rollo of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Other school students are now vying for the inaugural RSL Community Link awards for researching veterans’ lives.

For the third consecutive year Poppy sales exceeded $4,000, helping The Aged Ex-Service Trust Fund and our Amelioration Funds. The Sub-Branch also donated $500 to the Australian Forces Overseas Fund to provide some Christmas cheer for the men and women of the Australian Defence Forces serving in East Timor.

PETER BARDEN, PRO

The word for this quarter is **MEMBERSHIP**

It is vital to a vibrant and effective RSL in WA!
NOLLAMARA-NORTH PERTH

Another string was added to the longbow of the Sub-Branch when it organised a display of weapons, medals and memorabilia at the Dianella shopping centre from 8 - 13 November. At 11:00am on Remembrance Day, when Graham Worth in full naval dress of a Petty Officer, sounded Last Post on the bugle, the shopping centre was brought to a respectful silence, with a few tears shed. Thanks to all who assisted at the centre and on Poppy Day.

We are pleased to announce that the Sub-Branch has approved a request for a $400 donation to help support the No. 51 Regional Cadet Unit. The AGM in December was once again well attended and the Office Bearers are: President - Keith Boxhall (for the 10th year), Vice Presidents - Ken Hawke and Barry Fotheringham, Secretary - Mark Bartlett, Treasurer - Wendy Dann, Membership - Gary Robilliard, Auditor - John Brigden, Wardens - Bill Agar, Don Graham and Geoff Wilkie. Other previous committee members were re-elected.

Thanks are extended to the Social Committee for organising the well supported bus trip, the dinners and presentation nights and to the ladies for catering when Bicton-Palmyra Sub-Branch visited us. Congratulations to the Ladies’ Darts Team and the 4A Division Men’s Team for winning their grand finals and also to Men’s Singles winner Ian Thompson and runner-up Gary Baldock.

ROSCO JONES PRO

PEMBERTON

After a concerted fundraising effort by the Sub-Branch, this ANZAC Day will finally see the dedication of the town’s War Memorial. A Dawn Service, street march and Memorial service will precede an afternoon of family entertainment. Ex-service members and families with ties to Pemberton and districts are invited to join us on the day.

We also are asking anyone with information about people from the Pemberton area who enlisted for service in World War II to please contact me because the town’s Honour Board has mysteriously ‘gone missing’ and we wish to replace it.

FRANK CAIRNS Hon. Secretary
PO Box 187 Pemberton 6260 or phone 97761545

PORT KENNEDY

We thank all who purchased tickets in our very successful boat raffle was won by ticket No. 4984 from Kenwick, 2nd No.1887 from Munster and 3rd No.11233 from West Leederville. We were asked to join Margaret River Sub-Branch for its Friday night get-together after we had finished selling the raffle tickets and we had a most enjoyable evening. As a token of our appreciation we were pleased to present Margaret River RSL with a banner to march behind in future events.

We had good attendances at our childrens and adults’ Christmas parties, and the year closed well.

The AGM resulted in no change to the main committee but some new faces in both the general and social committees. We were honoured to have the State Secretary attend our meeting when he was able to answer members’ questions.

At present we are having building plans prepared, ready for costing, so it is full steam ahead with fundraising. We hope to be ready to build later this year. The social calendar is being planned, and will start with a combined Port Kennedy/TPDV group golf day.

Don’t forget we have our Friday night raffles and social evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm each week, and our meetings are held on the last Sunday of the month at the Port Kennedy Tavern at 1:00pm in the function room. Come and join us – all are welcome.

S A MONCRIEF PRO 08 9592 1496

RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN

Our Sub-Branch was very active last year. We supported all RSL, and fundraising events and meetings and made a donation to provide crockery at Meadow Springs War Veterans’ Home.

Mrs Joan Dowson MBE OAM ensured the work performed by our Sub-Branch was recognised by having a summary of our activities since our formation (by Miss Mary Meares in 1948) included on the program of the Poppy Day lunch, which she convenes to raise money for RSL Welfare. Our sub-branch took advantage of the occasion to present the Governor’s wife, Mrs. Marlena Jeffery, with a jarrah burl fruit bowl.

At our Christmas party Ken Bladen presented Mrs Margaret Ford MBE with Life Membership of the RSL in recognition of her outstanding and loyal service since the formation of the Sub-Branch. The President, Mrs. Cecile Hinton BEM, was presented with a Certificate for 50 years of continuous service with the RSL.

CECILE HINTON
President

Mrs Margaret Ford MBE being presented with Life Membership of the RSL by State President Mr Ken Bladen.
RIVERVALE CARLISLE

In his annual report the President said we had had a reasonably good year with some setbacks such as numbers falling off at Bingo and functions. Due to the small attendances, day meetings were suspended for a time but now have resumed.

Kim Wilkie, local Federal member for Swan, attended our AGM and presented Bob Blake with an Award for his meritorious service to seniors in our community over many years. In his address to the well-attended meeting, Mr Wilkie emphasised Bob’s long and dedicated service to our Sub-Branch. The honour was richly deserved. Kim also helped at our annual election but, instead of canvassing for votes he was counting them!

Office bearers for this year are: President Les Ransome, Vice President John Cox, Treasurer Joy Harris and your scribe remains Secretary. Bob Blake has occupied many positions over the years and continues as Membership Officer. We have a strong committee with immediate Past President Len Smith and Russell Davidson and the addition of Ron Jones, Alan Miller and Jim Daly.

Our Christmas function was a huge success. Seldom has our hall seen such a large gathering. Entertainment was provided by Dick Langley and his Band. The cliche applies - a good time was had by all.

Poppy Day figures for our Sub-Branch were quite good, although down a little on last year’s. Our Sunday day meetings on the third Tuesday afternoon each month have resumed and gives members the opportunity to hear news of the RSL in general.

Our Sunday functions commenced with a barbecue on 27 February. ANZAC Day anniversary will be a joint commemoration at Faulkner Park with Belmont Sub-Branch. Bingo is attracting increased patronage and our tennis court hire is popular with tutoring of the Tiny Tots and use by other players.

WAR VETERANS’ HOMES RAFFLE


Results are as follows:

1st Prize: Dudley Thubron, Kallaroo  Ticket No. 63808
2nd Prize: Rose Linton, Kardinya  Ticket No. 16542
3rd Prize: Rolf Reher, Mullaloo.  Ticket No. 63393
4th Prize: The Adams Family, Tuart Hill  Ticket No. 73520
5th Prize: Percy White, Morley  Ticket No. 43274

Thank you to all ticket sellers and buyers for your support of this fundraising on behalf of our veterans.

Having become embroiled in the push for pokies in licensed clubs I feel the issue is a challenge and they must come. After seeing them in operation all over the world, I believe the large number of people said to be addicted to gambling is an exaggeration. This specious argument is put forward by many, especially West Australians who have no idea of the entertainment the machines provide for local people without their having to go long distances to invest a few dollars. There is little need for me to emphasise to members why we need a little extra money. as you know.

I hope all Sub-Branches and Clubs are behind the push and will lobby their local member. If every member of every licensed club does, victory surely will be ours.

TOM GRIFFITH
Hon Secretary. Phone and fax: 931 8738

SCARBOROUGH

Welcome to 2000 to all ex-service people in the Scarborough area. We are off to a good start for the year with some new members and a new team of officer bearers:

President M. L. Till; V/Pres G. F. Harvey; V/Pres A. J. Snelling; Secretary Doug Piggott; Treasurer Dudley Docking; Publicity Officer Gordon Harvey; Committee Members, W. C. Evans, R Bloor, A. J. White, K. D. Ireland, W. L. Richards and K. G. Hoskins.

ANZAC Day plans have been made and this year promises to be even better at our Wall of Remembrance service, followed by an afternoon tea. Visitors are most welcome to join us.

Members and intending members are reminded of our meetings at 2:00pm on the second Monday of each month at the Doubleview Bowling Club (Shearn Crescent), where a warm welcome awaits you. Contact Secretary Doug Piggott on 9446 1331 so that he can watch out for your arrival.

Finally, it may not be the amount we do, but the spirit in which the act is performed that counts.

On February 14, presentations were made to a number of our members by Ross O’Connor, Junior Vice President on the RSL State Executive.

The Australia Day Medallion was awarded to Mr Douglas V Piggott, Mrs Dorothy Devany was awarded Life Membership and a 50 Year Service Certificate was awarded to Mr Noel Wright.

We congratulate you all and thank you for your efforts on behalf of our Sub-Branch.

GORDON F HARVEY
Senior Vice President Ph: 9446 1904

The Listening Post - Autumn 2000
The State President and members of the State Executive extend a welcome to new members, re-enlistments and transferes to the League in WA. Their names are listed by Sub-Branch.

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WA RSL Bowls

Section president Les Fynmore reports on the 32nd National RSL Bowls Carnival that was held in Brisbane from 26 December 1999 to 6 January 2000:

“A party of 44 members and partners travelled by air and road to enjoy our annual get-together, and to renew longstanding friendships with interstate members. Unfortunately persistent heavy rain marred the opening ceremony but the organisers arranged a successful indoor Remembrance Service and a team photo session at the Pine Rivers RSL Club.

“The following day Pine Rivers Bowling Club was the venue for the Interstate round-robin matches involving the Jack Hamilton VC Trophy and the Dr Sydney Krantz Memorial Trophy. I'm very happy to report that WA won the prestigious Krantz trophy. It had been 21 long years since our previous success and a happy team of Dudley Docking (SKIP), Jim McCall, Les Fynmore and Max O'Loughlin with reserves Les Webb and Fred Birnie were duly presented with their winners' medals.

In the last game of the five game tournament, WA with a one game loss (by one shot) had to defeat the previously unbeaten NSW. History now shows that WA won by 6 shots to win overall. In the Jack Hamilton 'Test Series' the best performed WA rink was skipped by Jim Lamont with Gil Warman, Fred Birnie, George Briars and Jim Middleton with three wins from five games. The event was won by QLD from NSW.

“The Sir Arthur Lee National Fours were held at both Pine Rivers and Sandgate Bowling Clubs. WA teams performed modestly and the event was won by a Queensland team. While the men bowled, the ladies enjoyed sightseeing tours including Mt Tambourine and Sanctuary Cove and visits to friends and relations.

“All members of the touring party thoroughly enjoyed the experience in Brisbane and extend their thanks to our tour organisers.”

The RSL Championship Triples held at Doubleview Bowling Club on 10 December was won by Keith Dhu (SKIP) with Gil Warman and Neil Davidson from Ron Gamble (SKIP), Bill Brown and Trevor Lowry. Results of the 1999 RSL Bowls Raffle are: 1st - Neil Davis, 2nd - Doug Lind, 3rd - Keith Dhu, 4th - Colin McNeil and 5th - Des Griffith.

All bowlers are reminded to get their entries in for forthcoming events!

GRAHAM DICK Publicity Officer 9447 2536

The Listening Post - Autumn 2000
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH
President: Audrey Mantle, 30 Mabeena Place, Ocean Reef 6027; Ph: 9300 4749. Correspondence to the Secretary: Eunice Thompson JP, 20 Criterium Place, Middle Swan; Ph/fax: 9274 8767, Mob: 0407 355 244, email:jethom@iinet.net.au Meetings 10.30am 4th Thurs monthly, ANZAC House.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA BRANCH)
President: Bob Smith, 14 Dundee Crt, Duncraig; Ph: 9448 5023. Correspondence to Secretary: Barry Long, 6 Hazelteen Ct, Yankeep 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 NAVY IN VIETNAM VETERANS’ WELFARE ASSOC OF WA (INC)
President: China Hammal; PO Box 69, North Fremantle 6159 Ph: 9434 6247, fax: 9434 6248. Secretary: Ronald Rowe, 20 Nethercott St, Huntingdale; Ph: 9490 3625. Correspondence to PO Box 69, North Fremantle 6159. Meetings: Bi-Monthly, 3rd Tues (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct) 6.30pm Hickey’s Cinecentre Tavern, Cnr Murray & Barrack Streets, Perth.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOC WA BRANCH (INC)
President: Edwin A (Bart) Mavrick, 9 Panamuna Dr, Falcon; Ph: 9534 4018. Secretary: Reg Davies JP, 107 Rochester Circle, Balga; Ph: 9247 2480. Correspondence to The House No 6 Battery Rd, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne 6010. Meetings: 6pm 3rd Tues months, The House (as above); AGM August.

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

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOC WA (INC)
President: Elsie Solly AM, 7a Travencore St., Maylands; Ph: 9272 3734. Correspondence to: Joy Tufnell, 1A Swan Rd, Attadale 6156; Ph: 9330 3945; Meetings: 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: 11am 4th Mon (if holiday – Tues) monthly Feb to Nov, Belmont RSL Hall, Leake St.

BLINDED SOLDIERS OF ST DUNSTANS WA
President: WA Walters, Retirement Village, 3rd Ave, Mandurah; Ph: 9535 3602. Correspondence to Secretary: Mrs P Dean, 31 Lamond St, Melville 6156; Ph: 9330 5458. Meetings: 1.45pm 2nd Tues in Feb, June, Aug and Oct (AGM Aug), Red Cross House, 110 Goderich St., East Perth.

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

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA POLICE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)

CATALINA CLUB OF WA
President: David Rubery, 70 Fifth Avenue, Shoalwater 6168; Ph: 9528 4697. Secretary: Harvey Hodgekiss, 66 Caswton 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: Lt Col P.G. Winstanley RFD (Rtd.), 55 Jeans Rd, Karrinyup; Ph: 9341 6883. Secretary: Maj. Marie Fenton, 4 Harbour Crt Safety Bay 6169; Ph: 9528 6860. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Mon, 13 Infantry Brigr Conference Rm; AGM 1st Mon April.

DIGGERS CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
President: A Swanson, 288 Blair St Bunbury 6231. Secretary: Mr K N Hughes, 1 Latour St, Australind. Correspondence to PO Box 2254, Bunbury 6231. Phone enquiries to 9797 1743.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: Russel Calver, 18A Dunsborough St, North Fremantle 6159; Ph: 9434 6974. Secretary: Graham Law, 50 Jason Crt, Bicton 6163; Ph: 9797 8724. Meetings: 4pm 3rd Tues monthly, ANZAC House. AGM 1st Thurs of Nov.

DIGEST OF RSL NEWS (INC)

DIGEST OF RSL NEWS (INC)

DIGEST OF RSL NEWS (INC)
EX-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S LAND ARMY (AWLA)
President: Phyl Ptolomy, ‘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-ENGINEERS ASSOC
President: F. Lodge, 67 Woodall St, Balcatta; Ph: 9349 7405. Correspondence to Secretary: Reg Kidd, 257 Holmes Rd, Forrestfield 6058; Ph: 9453 2393. Meetings: AGM mid-April; Christmas last Sun Nov.

EX-POW ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Arthur Leggett. Correspondence to Secretary: Ruth James, 7b Wenden Pl, Willetton 6155; Ph: 9457 8727. Meetings: 1pm 1st Wed monthly, ANZAC House; AGM 1pm 1st Wed March.

EXTRA-DISABLED WAR VETERANS ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA
President: John Wade; Ph: 9410 2934. Correspondence to Secretary: Alan Balcombe, PO Box 2339 Malaga 6944; Ph: 9375 2709. Committee meetings 4th Wed each month at TPI Village, 80 Henley St, Como. All welcome. New memberships invited.

EX-WRANS ASSOC OF WA
President: Mary Briety, 8/8 Lewinton Gardens, Bibra Lake 6163; Ph: 9417 5342. Correspondence to Secretary: Rena 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: 9582 3814. Meetings: 1st Mon monthly, except Jan.

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

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

GREEK AUSTRALIAN RETURNED SERVICEMEN’S LEAGUE
President: Greg Theodosiadis, 69 Beamish Rd, Brentwood 6153; Ph: 9364 7461. Secretary: Steolios Costandinoú, 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 quartery (from March), Naval Association HQ, 71 West Pde, East Perth.

HMAS BATAAN 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 Tiferia 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: Trevor Cangemi, 29 Dirk Hartog Rd, Bull Creek, 6149; Ph: 9332 7721. Secretary: Clyde Goddard, 80 Derby Rd, Shenton Park 6008; Ph: 9381 8705. AGM and Annual Reunion held 2nd Sunday in Feb; social and commemorative functions held about every six months each year. Monthly luncheons held at ANZAC House, last Thurs each month from noon. Further information please contact either of the above.

HMAS WARRAMUNGA VETERANS’ ASSOC
Correspondence to: Tom Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont 6010; Ph: 9384 3042. Treasurer: A. Johnson; Ph: 9305 1573.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH INC)
President: KJ Emberson. 48 Fleetwood Ct, 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.

LEGACY – FREMANTLE

MAIRED & LIMBESS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOC OF WA (INC)
President: Brian Wilson. 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, Memorial Hse.

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

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, Gnarabup; Ph: 9405 1598. Correspondence to Secretary: Dorothy Higgins, 69 Spigl Wy, Bateman 6150; Ph: 9332 5723. Meetings: Committee – 1st Mon bi-monthly (general – 10am April & Sept) AGM – 10.30am last Mon July.

NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS’ ASSOC (AUSTRALIA) INC
President: G. Chapman, 18 Zelkova Way, Parkwood 6147; Ph: 9457 0482. Secretary: John Hully, 9a Glover Pl, Huntingdale 6110; Ph: 9398 5933. All correspondence to NMBVA (WA), PO Box 1117, Canning Vale 6970.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN’S ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Alan Johns, PO Box 829, Mandurah 6210; Ph/fax: 9581 6026. A/Secretary: Des Casey, 5 Johnston Way, Padbury, 6025; Ph: 9307 2070. Mail to: PO Box 829, Mandurah 6210.
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.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) SECTION INC.
President: Cdre Bob Trotter (Rtd) PO Box 136 Cottesloe 6911. Ph: 9385 2687. Secretary Tom Oakley, 43 Strickland St, Mt Claremont; Ph: 9227 8143, a/h 9384 3042. Correspondence to: GPO Box 8289, Perth Business Centre, Aberdeen St, East Perth 6849.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOC IN AUS
President: Ernst Baints, 154 Wood St, Inglewood; Ph: 9271 1524. Secretary: Kathryn Moore. Correspondence to PO Box 311, Inglewood 6932. Meetings: 11am 1st Tues, Nollamara/North Perth Sub-Branch, 68 Sylvia St, Nollamara 6061; AGM: 1pm within last week in November.

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

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOC WA BRANCH
President: Tom Hampton, 61 Gairloch St, Applecross 6153; Ph: 9364 2335. Correspondence to Secretary: M.J. Rinaldi, 35 Weaponess Rd, Scarborough 6019; Ph: 9341 6151. Meetings: Bi-monthly, 1st Tues Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, at ANZAC House at 1.00pm.

PEGASUS (AIRBORNE FORCES) ASSOC OF WA (INC)
President: Patrick Ward, 10 Bonanza Court, Huntingdale; Ph: 9490 5348. Correspondence to Secretary: Michael Coyle OAM, 34 Tern Loop, Yangiebup 6164; Ph: 9417 2570. Meetings: 12 noon, 1st Wed monthly, ANZAC Club; AGM Feb.

PERTH LEGACY INCORPORATED
President: Eric Watts; Secretary: Gerald B. Haddon. Contact at Legacy House, 64 Mill Point 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 5559. Correspondence to 33 Eighth Ave, Maylands 6051.

RAAF ASSOC AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION SQUADRONS BRANCH
President: Ron Lopaten; Ph: 9353 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 Friday of the month at 1.30pm.

RAAF 487-483 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, Bull Creek.

RAAF VIETNAM VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Chris Rampant, 8 Doon Way, Hamersley; Phone 9343 0898, email: cmapant@inet.net.au. Correspondence to Secretary, Peter Robinson, 2 Calbourne Way, Kingsley 6026. Ph/fax: 9409 7299, email: rob7299@ois.net.au Meeting TBA contact Secretary.

RAEME ASSOCIATION OF WA
President John Klein, Ph: 9279 3080; Secretary John Curtis, Ph: 9277 4525. Correspondence to PO Box 186, Bayswater 6053 or e-mail: curtisj@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.

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

RAE MIEN VETERANS ASSOC
President: Don Horsley; Ph: 9306 2946. Secretary: Garry Whykes; Ph: 9276 1920. Correspond to: 33 Kanimbla Wy, Morley 6062.

RACT/RAASC/RAE(T) ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: Hon. Col Wayne Tarr RFD ED. Secretary: R.E. Doust, 3 Athel Road, Woodlands 6018; Ph: 9446 1622. Correspondence to: PO Box 236, North Perth 6906. Meetings: bi-monthly, last Wed (from Jan) at 5.30pm, Seaview Golf Club, Cottesloe. AGM: 1st Fri in Aug at 6pm.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOC (WA BRANCH INC.)
President: Ron Hatch, 2/326 Stirling Hwy, Claremont; Ph: 9384 7573. 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: Chris Rampant, Ph/fax: 9343 0898. Secretary: Brian F. Cooper JP OAM; Ph/fax: 9409 6577. Correspondence to Peter Robinson, PO Box 14, Hillarys 6025. Meetings: 1st Wed monthly at 2pm at Victoria League, Onslow Rd, Shenton Park.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOC, 1210 BRANCH WA
President: Maurice McFadyen, 161B Gibson Ave, Padbury 6025; 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 Robert L. Bunney, Bull Creek Dr, Bull Creek 6149; Ph: 9311 4444 (w). Meetings: Air Force Memorial Estate, 3rd Tues.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOC WA DIVISION INC. – BULLCREEK BRANCH
President: Ken Stewart; Ph: 9362 2246. Secretary: Ken Haines; Ph: 9364 1286. 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. For meetings times please ring Secretary.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOC WA BRANCH
President: Olga Greig, 9 Napier St Morley. Correspondence to Secretary: Helen Birch, 82 Florence Rd, Nedlands 6009; Ph: 9386 2396. Meetings: quarterly (contact Secretary).

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDINANCE CORPS ASSOC WA (INC)
President/Secretary: Col Warren Evans, 16 Lorrimah Pl,

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC (WA)
President/Correspondence to: John Hobbs, 10 Edgar Wy, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 3568. Secretary/Treasurer R.J. Shurman, 40 Carlyle Cres Duncraig 6023; Ph: 9447 1423. 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 Cte, 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 DIVER’S ASSOC WA CHAPTER
President: 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/- Ausmed Four HMAS Stirling, Rockingham 6958. Meeting: ANZAC Day (AGM) 1300hrs, Navy Club, High St, Fremantle.

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

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

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

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: Eric True; 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, Koondooloo 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 Oakdale 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 3331. Correspondence to Secretary: Vivienne Holmes, 11 Doonian Rd, Nedlands 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 26 Feb 1999.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION FREMANTLE (WA) BRANCH
President: David Wiseman; 7 Andros Rd, Safety Bay; Ph: 9592 1458. Correspondence to Secretary: Frank Cooke-Willis, 1/48 Solomon St Palmyra 6157.; Ph: 9339 5573. Meetings: 1st Tues monthly (except Jan), at 2pm at Navy Club (Inc), 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 Whittfords 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 Pace, 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. Georges Tce, Perth 6000. Includes Services Joblink, Cypress Cottage, Pension Assistance.

THE SPITFIRE GROUP
Organiser: Eric Carpenter; Ph: 9342 2779. Correspondence to: 21 Keemore Dr, Balga 6061. Luncheon meetings, ANZAC House, 4th Thurs of Jan, March, May, July, Sept, and Nov at 1200 hours. All ex-Spitfire Squadron members are welcome.

THIRTYNINERS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA
President: JP Hall, A3/ Heliam Grv, Booragoon; Ph: 9364 7776. Correspondence to Secretary: Mrs F.E. Johnson OAM, 38 Renwick St, South Perth 6151; Ph: 9367 5949. Meetings: 12pm 4th Wed bi-monthly from March, ANZAC House.

TOTA LLY AND PARTIALLY DISABLED VETERANS OF WA
President: Brian Bremner, 62 Teranaca Gardens, Mandurah: 6210; Ph: 9534 9202. Correspondence to Secretary: Jack Le Cras, 10 Kenton Court, Kingsley 6062; Ph: 9409 1014.

TRIBAL CLASS DESTROYERS ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Bryan Brennan, 62 Teranaca Gardens, Mandurah: 6210; Ph: 9534 9202. Correspondence to Secretary: Jack Le Cras, 10 Kenton Court, Kingsley 6062; Ph: 9409 1014.

UNITED KINGDOM-COMBINED EX-SERVICES FEDERATION
President: Gordon Norton, 39/1322 Cockburn Rd, Munster, 6166. All correspondence to the Secretary, Mike Pearson, 19/196 St Kilda Rd, Rivervale 6103; Ph: 9277 3741. Meetings: quarterly.

VA & AAMWS (ASSOC)
President: Glyn Cody, 138A Kaprrinup 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.

VETERANS' LEGION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Jim de Turf, Ph: 9401 9086; Secretary, Ron Ryan, Ph: 9409 6271. Correspondence to PO Box 770, Hillarys 6923. Meetings are held monthly at Whitfords Tavern, Hillarys. AGM held Sept yearly. Calendar of meetings from Secretary.

VIETNAM LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VETERANS' ASSOC (WA) INC.
President: R.C. (China) Hammad, 18 Paddington Ct, Bibra Lake; Ph: 9434 6247. Correspondence to Sec: Ronald Rowe, 20 Nethercott St, Huntingdale 6110; Ph: 9490 3625. Meetings: 3rd Tues every 2nd month, Victoria Cross Room, ANZAC House.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOC OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Rob Cox; Ph: 9455 5314 (h) 0418 928 621 (mob). Correspondence to Secretary: PO Box 528, Willaton 6955; Office: 38 Kalgoolie St, Mt Hawthorn 6016; Ph/fax 9443 3759. Meetings: quarterly - dates to be confirmed with Secretary.

VIETNAM VETERANS MOTOR CYCLE CLUB (WA) INC.
President: John Lewis, Ph: 9247 3769. Secretary: Christopher A. Bruce; Ph/fax: 9440 3535. All correspondence to Secretary, PO Box 1442 Wangara 6065. Meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Mon each month at VVMC Clubhouse, Nollamara. AGM Oct each year.

WA DIVISION WILD GEESE INTERNATIONAL (INC)
CO: Doug Whitworth, 5 Penelope Pl, Innaloo 6018; Ph: 9446 2613; Sec: Ruth Lanigan, 37 Gossmare St Mirrabooka 6061; Tel: 9342 7038. Mail to CO. Meetings Bi-monthly: 2nd Tues at 12 noon. AGM 3rd Sat in Aug. 12 noon, Golden Bay Hall. CB Radio sessions Mon at 7.30pm & Wed at 8pm on ch. 28 LSB.

WA RSL BOWLS SECTION
President: Les Fynmore, 2/42 Reynolds Rd, Mt Pleasant; 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 Jean James, 206 Cedric St, Balcatta 6021; Ph: 9349 8262. 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: 9311 4279. Meetings: 10.30am 1st Fri each month (except Jan), Memorial House, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bullcreek.

WAR VETERANS EXTREMELY DISABLED SOCIETY INC
President: Eric Hammond, 7 Moffat Pl, Warwick 6024; Ph: 9448 2314. Secretary Treasurer: Aurelie Bergin, PO Box 130 Hillarys 6923; Ph: 9402 2043. Meetings: 1am 1st Wed bi-monthly at the Cityplace Community Centre, Perth Railway Station. Next meeting Jan 5, 2000.

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

WRAAF BRANCH - RAAF ASSOCIATION
President: Judy Bland, 2 Graphic Ct, Beldon; Ph: 9401 8296. Secretary: Eileen Southern; Ph: 9311 4382. Correspondence: c/- RAAF, Bullcreek Dr, Bullcreek 6149. Meetings: 7.30pm 1st Tues monthly, Meg Olive Room, RAAF Association, Bullcreek.

Z SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.
President: Bob Long, 16 Beechboro Rd, Bayswater 6053; Ph: 9271 5766. Correspondence to Secretary: Lt Col Ted Dubberlin ED RL JP, 2/42A 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: 9333 7654. Secretary: Lou Pola; Ph: 9446 2784. Correspondence to 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.

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: R.D. Darrington, 151 Koondoola Ave Koondoola 6064; Ph: 9342 8032. 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 Macleod Rd, Applecross; Ph: 9364 5649. Secretary: Merv Smith, 3/7 Luffingham St, Melville; Ph: 9317 1530. Meetings: bi-monthly from Feb

2/3RD FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Pres/Sec: W.S.T. Stacy, 3 Juli Ct, Kardinya 6163; Ph: 9337 6227. Meetings: 10.30am 2nd Wed monthly (AGM 11am May) ANZAC House.
2/3RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION
President: KE Eckerman, 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 Cooba Pl, Duncraig; Ph: 9447 4473. Correspondence to Secretary: Peter Kennedy, 2A Onslow Rd, Shenton Park 6008; Ph: 9381 9335. Meetings: 11am 2nd Tues monthly except Jan (AGM Aug), Pure Steel Room Gloucester Park.

2/7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOC WA SEC.
President: Keith Fruin, 2/74 McCallum St, Ardross; Ph: 9364 7160. Correspondence to Secretary: Leo Duffy, 19 Richards Cres, Craigie 6025; Ph: 9307 1794. Reunion after ANZAC Day March and Service.

2/7TH FIELD AMBULANCE
President/Secretary: Hal Finkelstein, 15 Jukes Wy, Glendalough 6016; 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 3rd Tues March at 10am.

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: D.K. (Keith) Norrish, 6 Magnolia Way, Forrestfield 6058; Ph: 9453 D101 Correspondence to Secretary: Russell Mehan, 19 Sandstone Place, Marmion 6020; Ph: 9246 0035. Meetings: 10.30am 1st Wed monthly, ANZAC House. Editor Pigeon Post: Keith Norrish as above; Ph: 9453 2001; Assistant Editor: Ian Darrock, 9A Silkyoak Pl, Morley; Ph: 9372 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 ASSOCIATION WA
President: Collin Savage, RSL WWH, Flat 18, 16 Freedman Rd, Menora; Ph: 9371 6327. Corres. to Sec: Colin Edmiston, 3/456 Main St, Balcatta 6021; Ph: 9349 0799. AGM: April 25 at 2pm.

2/43RD BATTALION ASSOC WA DIVISION
President: Eric Treloar, 2 Allison Rd, Attadale; Ph: 9330 4764. Secretary: Wally Hughes, 20 Aberer 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 RAE 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 Crudin, 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.

16TH BATTALION, THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WA ASSOC
President: Bob Street, 24 Piercy Way, Kardinya 6163; Ph: 9337 5203. Correspondence to Secretary: James Richardson, 6 Isaac St, Melville 6156; Ph: 9330 5405. Meetings: members advised by letter as required.

22ND CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON RAE EX-MEMBERS ASSOC
President: Ron Dupuy, 21 Atta St, Balcatta 6021; Ph: 9344 5841 (mobile 0412 908 381). Correspondence to Secretary, Neville Clark, 26 Linthorne Way, Balga 6061; Ph: 9342 5808. Annual reunion early April.

25 SQUADRON
President: AJ Ferrier, 15 Albermarle Way, High Wycombe 6057; Ph: 9454 8260. Correspondence to Secretary, 25 Sqn. RAAFA, Bull Creek Dr, Bull Creek 6149. Secretary: Suzanne Hains, Ph: 9379 0472. Meetings: 2nd Monday monthly, 10.30am, AFA Conference Room.

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

44TH BATTALION (AIF) ASSOC
President: David Atherden. Address for correspondence: 12/71 Corbel St, Shelley 6148. Meetings: ANZAC Day; AGM: pre-reunion meeting held 1st & 2nd Fri Nov.

48TH & 2/48TH BATTALION ASSOC
President: Don Spencer, 6 Killara Wy, Craigie; Ph: 9401 5744. Ph: 9457 4693. Correspondence to Secretary: Brian Corboy, 11A Ventnor Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153; Ph: 9364 7829. Meetings: 11.30am 3rd Mon monthly, Carlton Hotel.

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

UNIT ASSOCIATION DETAILS - PLEASE NOTE:
Unit Association details for inclusion in this column are limited to the President’s and Secretary’s names, addresses (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
The deaths of the following RSL Members (WA Branch) were recorded at ANZAC House between 2 November 1999 and 31 January 2000.

WX15161 Adkin, John W., Gascoyne, 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
WX12013 Allan, William G., Wembley-Floreat Z Special
WX40618 Anderson, Steven A., City of Subiaco, 17 AOD
WX36182 Bain, Kenneth R., Albany, 13 Bde
45772 Baker, Dudley, City of Rockingham
WX25926 Banks, Harry L., City of Perth, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
53460 Barber, Robert H., City of Cockburn
WX15376 Barndon, Albert V., Geraldton City, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
38232 Bell, Jim, Denmark, 2/3 Fd Regt
WX16567 Berryman, Fred H., Busselton, RAEME
F5357 Bettsworth, William A., Murray, RAN
5410978 Bonavita, Antonio, City of Cockburn, HQ 1 ATF
WX27644 Bridges, Bruce E., Wembley-Floreat, 11 Aust Inf Bn
R48092 Buckeridge, George P., Lancelin/Coastal Dist
427690 Bullock, T.D., Moora, RAAF
WX28370 Burges, Samuel P., City of Rockingham, 2/10 Cdo
WX28313 Burnett, E.J., Three Springs-Arriino, 2/10 Cdo
WX15160 Cain, Norris W., Mandurah, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
SSX15205 Carter A.H., Belmont, RNT
SSX32955 Catherall W.F., Bedford-Morley, RN
415302 Chadwick, Frederick, Narrogin, RAAF
406828 Connell, William J., Bunbury, RAAF
WX9842 Connor, J.J., Applecross, 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
38737 Counsell, Mervyn, Mandurah, RAAF
WX36928 Cream, Francis W., Geraldton City, 11 Aust Inf Bn
R29575 Dempster, J.P., Dongara, RAAF
WX40433 Deschamps, William C., Belvedere, 42 Aust Inf Bn
PM2966 Dunkley, Keith, Manning, RANR
SX16879 Durin, John A., Esperance, 113 Bde Wksp
R55096 Evans, Arthur F., City of Perth, RAN
WX23179 Gilbert, C.H.N., Manning, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn
WX25331 Gillespie, Colin C., Mount Hawthorn, 2/7 Fd Regt
83965 Graham, Peter R., Bencubbin, RAAF
WX40828 Grigo, Roy E., City of Rockingham, 2/6 AASC
WX40092, Grocock, Arthur J., Busselton, 7 AOD
WX87441 Hamilton, Leslie J., Como, 2/8 Fd Engs
F5/269 Hammond, Irene M., City of Rockingham, Swan Bks
F45471, Hart, Archdeacon F., Harvey 6 Bde
WX115431 Higgins, Ronald J., Mandurah
WX16454 Hoffman, Robert J., City of Perth, 9th Div. Wks
F5456 Howat, Wallace H., Wembley-Floreat
52770 Jones, Robert B., Bicton-Palmyra, 5 Fd Syv Sqn
WXF3306 Joubert, Eileen V., Returned Sisters, 2/3 AGH
2609106 Killrock, Frederick A., Northam, RNNR
2127217 Kruckenberg, T.A.M., Harvey
5/498 Larsen, R.N., City of Perth, RAASC
WX25025 Lee, Frederick A., Belmont, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
WX25507 Little, William F., Kelmscott-Roleystone, 2/11 Aust
Fd Regt
WX7735 Lyons, Albert M., Boulder, 12 AASC
F51997 MacLeod, Joan B., Returned Sisters, RAANC
WX32771 McArthur, Douglas, Nedlands, 1 Aust Para Bn
WX46377 McDonald, A.M., Esperance, 9 Div Cav Regt
WX38637 McKay, Charles A., Bellevue, BCOF Dent Unit
WX4795 McRostie, P.R., Nedlands, 2/7 Fd Amb
85777 McGougan, James M., Busselton, 10 SD
WX42030 McKenzie, C.R., Kalgoorlie, 4 Aust Inf Bn
46829 Miller, William H., Murray, RAAF
13049 Moore, Frederick G., Applecross, 3 GTS
WX7747 Morgan, James, City of Rockingham, 2/3 MG Bn
WX1705 Morris, D.H., Wembley-Floreat, 2/3 Fd Regt
1/56901 Normoyle, Anthony, North Beach
NZ21543 O'Cairn, Alfred G., North Beach, RNZAF
WX2775 O'Meagher, J.H., Darling Range, 2/3 Forest Coy
44138 O'Neill, P.T., Narrogin, RAAF
WX29812 O'Sullivan, Lionel J., Eastern Regional, 16 Aust Inf Bn
DMX171221 Oldfield, Harry, Yokine-Joondanna, RAN
R330577 Osmond, Patrick J., Kalgoorlie, RAN
WX056721 Parry, Jean P., City of Perth
81038 Paust, Reginald C., Wembley-Floreat, RAAF
WX27807 Pratt, Christopher W., Osborne Park, 11 Aust Inf Bn
WX4527 Pritchard, E.L., Rivervale-Carlisle, 2/35 Sup Bn
WX37810 Proctor, Edmund J., Denmark
WX22581 Randall, Alfred S., Bedford-Morley, 1 RAR
WX30772 Reddall, A.G., Rivervale-Carlisle, 1 ABDF
WX14803 Reeves, Eric C., Busselton, 11 Aust Div
43927 Robertson, William A., Nollamara-N/P, 11 Aust Inf Bn
53297 Riddell, James W., Northam, 2/3 MG Bn
416899, Stirling, L.G., Northampton, RAAF
WX39029 Thompson, R.W., Kondinin, 15 Int Sec
K20 Thompson, Rose M., City of Perth, WMS ATS
3272 Thompson, Sydney G., City of Perth, Palestine Police
WX8009 Toovey, Alfred G., Northam, 2/3 AFR
WX28440 Turner, A.F., Wagen, 42 L C Coy
RDA196 Van Den Dries, F.J., Gosnells, Royal Dutch Army
WX13504 Venables, Allan S., Harvey, 2/1 AAWS
NX145446 Walton, John J., Kwinana, 2/12 Aust Inf Bn
167364 Washington, Graham H., Darling Range
2087320 West, Phyllis O., Kwinana, RAF
WX28771 Westerberg, Albert C., Albany, Forts (Albany 3 Aust
R03601 White, Elsie M., Ex-Service Women, WAAAF
NX157296 Wilkins, William J., City of Cockburn, BBCAV
F5356 Williams, Reginald C., Nollamara-North Perth, RAN
WX34252 Wilson, Stanley J., Applecross, 2/1 Med Stores
WX22931 Woods, Eric T., Vic Park & Viet Vets, 21 Aust AOD
WX25683 Wooler, F.C.E., City of Rockingham, 2/2 Fd Amb
MM001 Wright, William E., Dongara, MN

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The Listening Post - Autumn 2000
KAMBO'S  RETRAVISION

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE RSL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Prop: Allan Kambouris, ex-serviceman, W02 Artillery 3rd Australian Field Regiment. Member of Bedford Morely Sub-Branch

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YOUR FREE HOLLYWOOD TOUR STARTS HERE

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.